

Habit

David Campbell

Habit

For Soprano and Piano

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Performance Time:

20'30"

Aftermath

So much more than emptiness, it's something had but something lost. More than darkness, it's a phantom light. Absent shadows cast long across my skull. Those dark, creeping voices whisper haunting tones: *You will never feel that light again.*

Fantasy

I long to forget. To be not just heart-numb but brain-numb. I would scratch the gray matter from my mind for that sort of permanent peace. But the memories will not let me. Each failure loads a brick on my back, and I slump and I sag, and strain at the burden. But then I feel it—that tiny spark, deep down. The beginning of expectation, the frail first fledgling of hope. And I can see it: no longer absence but something glorious in the distance! I am not in so deep. No I am not so lost. And I remember—before darkness closed my eyes—how it was to feel the sun on my face. What it was like to laugh and sing.

Seduction

The other is a saccharine poison pretending to be sweet. But oh how sweet it seems! How it makes my pulse race. My stomach lurch with hunger. I can almost feel it again. Like the first time, remember? Its silken fingertips so eagerly massaged my brain. Fingernails scratched my veins, breathed whispered seething love in my ear. Septic hands caressed my ticklish goose-bumped skin. Remember how it feels? Like a soothing dip in a warm bath. Like a long drawn out sigh. I don't have to do it. I don't. But what if I did it? Just a little.

The Want

No. No! Resist! I can resist. I can endure a small short pain, a moment. But it is a ruthless being. So difficult to conquer. So merciless. So unyielding. Cruel. Heartless. It's million minions invade my body, scorching, scratching, screaming, racing, railing, reaming through my nerves all the way to the tender tips. Tiny fingers string spider-silk around my neck. Pitter-patter feet scramble through my blood. Unravel my tendons. Teeth gnaw my muscles. Eat my brains. Burning mouths devour my matter through and through. Scrape, scrape, scrape. Chew, chew, chew. Hollow me out. I am hollow. A husk. Filled with only want. The want. I want. I want. Oh, how I want it!

Sacrament

Where is the choice? Forgotten. Because I can see it. The only. The relief. The cure. In that lovely corner of my mind I am master now. Because the moment is set. But the where, the how? That is mine. That is my victory. I welcome its embrace. I am home. Its serenade sounds like rapture in my ears. And I feel calm. And I feel clean. And whole. And bright And beautiful, so beautiful. And the world is at peace. And my mind is at peace. There are no more hidden corners of despair. No darkness to weigh me down.

Mourning The Morning

Blackness—a pinprick—like an inkblot in water. It spreads. See how it spreads. My stomach tightens and I know. My deliverance has the breadth of creation, but the span of a heartbeat. Dread. Like an itch on the back of my spine. The scrape of a voice inside my mind. My happiness is not happiness, but a straw-frame tower built of blinders to my suffering. I can no longer hide from the darkened rays of misery streaming through the breaks. I am left standing naked with nothing but grease and grime on my skin.

—Jenny Matthews

1. Aftermath

Fitfully ♩=80 (poco rubato)

Soprano

p < *mp* > *p* *subito p*

So much more, more than emp - ti-ness

Piano

pp r.h. sempre legato

Ped.

Soprano

(longingly) ----- (bitterly)

It's some - thing had but some - thing lost.

Pno.

Soprano

sfz > *mp*

More than dark-ness It's a phan - tom.

Pno.

mp *p*

8^{vb}

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12 *mf* *mp*

Soprano

light, ab - sent shad-ows cast long a - cross my

Pno.

mp

16 *f* *p*

Soprano

skull. Those dark creep-ing

Pno.

mf *pp cresc.*

20 *ff* *mp*

Soprano

voi - ces whis-per haunt-ing tones, whis - per:

Pno.

(l.h.) *f dim.*

rit. poco a poco (to end) *(maliciously, whisper-like taunting)*
pp

Soprano

24

You will ne - ver

Pno.

pp

8^{vb}

Soprano

28

ne - ver

Pno.

(l.h.)

(8) -

8^{vb}

Soprano

31

(maliciously) ----- *(hauntedly)* $(\text{♩} = 30)$

ne - ver feel that light a - gain.

Pno.

(8) -

attacca

2. Fantasy

Dancingly ♩=268

34 *mp*

Soprano

I long to for - get_____ to

Pno. *mp*

pedal throughout

37 *mf*

Soprano

be not just heart_____ numb_____ Not_____ just_____

Pno.

40 *mp*

Soprano

heart - numb but_____ brain_____ numb

Pno. *mp*

43

Soprano

Pno.

45 *mp*

Soprano

I _____ would scratch the grey _____ mat - ter from my mind _____

Pno.

mp _____ *mf*

47

Soprano

_____ I would scratch the grey ma - tter from my mind

Pno.

mp *mf*

49 *mp* *f*

Soprano

for__ that sort__ of sim - ple__ peace__

Pno.

p

51 *mp*

Soprano

— That sim - ple__ per - ma - nent

Pno.

f *p*

53 *poco rit.*

Soprano

peace.

Pno.

mp

Grimly $\text{♩}=40$ *sotto voce* $\text{♩}=100$ ($\text{♩}=50$)

p *mf* *p subito* *f > p* *mp*

Soprano 55 *p* *mf* *p subito* *f > p* *mp*

But the me-mo-ries will not____ let me Each fail-ure loads a

Pno. *p* *pp* *p*

Red. _____

$\text{♩}=40$ $\text{♩}=100$ $\text{♩}=40$ **Agitatedly**

(spitefully) **accel.**

Soprano 59 *mp* *p*

brick on my back and I slump and I sag and strain at the bur-den

Pno. *mp* *p*

Red. _____

Suddenly Delicate $\text{♩}=56$ **rit.**

Soprano 61

Pno. *ff* *pp subito*

Red. _____

With Building Enthusiasm $\text{♩} = 45$

accel. *poco a poco* (to m. 77)

63

Soprano

p *mp* *p*

but then I feel it, that ti-ny ti - ny spark deep down The beg

Pno.

pp *p* *mp* *p* *pp*

67

Soprano

mp *mf*

in-ing of ex - pec - ta - tion The frail first fledg-ling of hope. And I can

Pno.

p *mp* *mf*

71

Soprano

f

see it, no lon - ger ab-sence but some-thing glo - ri - ous

Pno.

mp *mf* *più f*

Ped.

Triumphantly $\text{♩}=144$
rit.

ff

74

Soprano

in the dis - - - - tance.

Pno.

Subdued $\text{♩}=46$ **poco rit.** $\text{♩}=40$

mp **p** **mf** **pp** **p**

79

Soprano

I am not not in so deep No I am not so lost.

Pno.

p **pp** **mp** **ppp** **pp** **sfz**

Ped. Ped.

With Subdued Nostalgia $\text{♩}=260$

84

Soprano

And I re - mem - ber be-

lunga

Pno.

pp **mp** **p**

pedal throughout

87 *mf*

Soprano

fore dark-ness closed my eyes_____ How it was to feel

Pno.

mf

90 *mp*

Soprano

the sun_____ on my face_____

Pno.

p

93 *mp*

Soprano

what it_____ was like to laugh, and laugh and sing_____

Pno.

mp

96 *mp* *mf*

Soprano

la, la, la, la, ha, ha, la, la, la, la, la, la,

Pno.

mp *mf*

98

Soprano

la, la, la, la, la, la, la.

Pno.

100 *rit.* *p*

Soprano

mm mm

Pno.

p

3. Seduction

12

103 $\text{♩}=68$ **Fiercely** *mp*

Soprano

Pno.

f

Ped.

The

107 *(like a warning siren)* **rit.** **A tempo** $\text{♩}=68$

Soprano

Pno.

pp *f*

o - ther is a sacch - rine poi-son pre-ten - ing to be sweet____

110 *(hungrily)* *f* *mf* *f*

Soprano

Pno.

mf *f* *mp* *f*

but, oh how sweet,____ how____sweet it seems____

114

Soprano

p

How — it makes my

Pno.

mp *p*

Red.

118

Soprano

mp

pulse — race my sto — — — — mach lurch with

Pno.

mp *p*

Red.

121

Soprano

mp

hun-ger I can al - most feel — — — — it a - gain like the

Pno.

mf *mp*

Red.

124

Soprano

first time, the first time re - mem - - -

Pno.

127

Soprano

ber?

Pno.

rit.

f

mf

Lasciviously ♩=50

129

Soprano

It's sil - ken, sil - - ken fin - ger - tips ma -

Pno.

fff

p subito

133

Soprano

ssaged, so ea-ger-ly mas-saged my brain. fin-ger - nails scratched my

Pno.

f *p* *f*

pp *ff* *p* *f*

140

Soprano

veins Breathed whis - pered seeth-ing love in my

Pno.

p

144

Soprano

ear Sep - tic hands ca-ressed, ca-

Pno.

accel. *cresc. poco a poco*

cresc. poco a poco

simile

149

Soprano

ressed my tick - lish goose bumped skin re - mem - ber how it

Pno.

(♩=66)

rall.

Blissfully ♩=50

154

Soprano

feels, re-mem - ber how it feels _____ Like a

Pno.

pp subito

pp subito

Ped.

160

Soprano

sooth - ing dip, a dip in a warm bath

Pno.

p

164 **accel.**

Soprano

like a long drawn

Pno.

168 **mp** ♩=68

Soprano

out sigh.

Pno.

8^{vb}

172 **rit.** **Hesitantly** ♩=60 **p** **pp**

Soprano

I don't have to do it. I

Pno.

mp **p** **mp**

176

Soprano

don't, but what if, what if I did

mp *mf*

Pno.

pp

180

Soprano

it just a lit - tle?

pp *mp* *pp*

Pno.

pp

4. The Want

Aggressively ♩=120

184

Soprano

p

No

Pno.

pp *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

8^{vb}

188

Soprano

mf *mp* *pp*

No, no, no! I can re - sist.

Pno.

p *mp* *p* *pp* *pp*

(8)

191

Soprano

p

I can, en - dure a small short

Pno.

pp *p*

(8)

195 *f*

Soprano

pain a mo - - ment

Pno.

mf *mf* *8vb*

(8) Ped. Ped.

198 *mp*

Soprano

But, it is a

Pno.

p

(8)

200 *mf*

Soprano

ruth - less being so diff - i - cult to conq uer,

Pno.

mp *mf*

(8)

202

Soprano

Pno.

So

Red.

205

Soprano

Pno.

merc - i - less, so un - yield - ing

f

208

Soprano

Pno.

cruel heart - less

211

Soprano

p

Its mill - ion mill - ion min -

Pno.

pp

simile

214

Soprano

mp

ions

Pno.

p

p

216

Soprano

p

in

Pno.

218 *mf*

Soprano

vade in - - vade my bo dy

Pno.

mp

Ped.

221

Soprano

scorch-ingscratching scream - ing rac - ing rail - ing ream - ing through my

Pno.

mf

f

223 *ff*

Soprano

nerves

Pno.

225

mp *p*

Soprano

all the way to the ten der tips

Pno.

mp

228

Soprano

Pno.

pp

8va

Heavy pedal (hold down as much as possible)

231 (with a mix of pleasure and distress)

p

3

Soprano

Ti - - ny fin - - gers spin spi - der

Pno.

(8)

234

Soprano

silk a - - - round a -

Pno.

(8)

236

Soprano

- round my neck

Pno.

(8)

239 *mp*

Soprano

pit-ter pit-ter pat-ter pit-ter pat-ter pit-ter pit-ter pat-ter pit-ter pit-ter pat-ter feet

Pno.

(8)

p

241

Soprano

p *mp*

scram - ble through my blood

Pno.

243

Soprano

mp

un - ra - vel my ten - dons

Pno.

245

Soprano

poco rit. **poco accel.**

Pno.

With Growing Horror and Joy ♩=120

248

Soprano *mp* *cresc. poco a poco (to m. 303)*

Teeth

Pno. *pp*

Ped. *simile*

251

Soprano

gnaw my musc - les, eat my

Pno.

8^{vb}
(both hands)

254

Soprano

brains, Burn - ing mouths de -

Pno.

(8)
Ped. *simile*

257

Soprano

vour my mat - ter through and

Pno.

(8)

Ped.

$\text{♩} = 120$ With Ferocious Ardor

260

Soprano

through scrape, scrape, scrape Chew, chew, chew,

Pno.

(8)

simile

263

Soprano

ff

chew!

Pno.

f *mp*

(8)

Ped.

265

Soprano

fff *mp*

Hollow me out—

Pno.

(8)

268

Faster and More Desperately ♩=140

Soprano

p *mp*

I am hol-low; a husk— filled with on-ly want,— on-

Pno.

pp *p*

Red. simile

272

Soprano

mf *mf* *mf* *mf* *f*

ly want. The want, I want, I want, I want. Oh, how I want it!

Pno.

mf *f*

8^{vb}

5. Sacrament

Submissively $\text{♩}=40$

275

Soprano *pp* *3* *3* *3*

Where is the choice? — For - got-ten, for - got ten..

Pno. *pp* *legato*

279

Soprano *poco rubato* *poco accel.* *Poco più mosso* $\text{♩}=46$ *pp* *3* *3*

be-cause I can see it — the on - ly — the re - lief — the cure In

Pno. *3* *3* *3* *3*

$\text{♩}=60$ *molto accel.* $\text{♩}=70$

283

Soprano *3* *3* *3* *3* *3*

— that love - ly — love - - ly — love-ly cor - ner of my

Pno. *pp* *3* *3* *3* *3*

Becoming More and More Rhapsodic ♩=80

287 **rit.** *p* *cresc. (to m. 297)* poco a poco **accel. (to m. 303)**

Soprano

mind I am mas - ter now Be-cause the

Pno.

cresc. (to m. 337)

p

Ped.

291

Soprano

mo - ment is set but the where? the how?

Pno.

simile

295 *mf*

Soprano

That is mine. Yes that is my vic - to-ry

Pno.

mf

299 *mf*

Soprano

I wel - - - come

Pno. *mp* *mf*

302 $\text{♩} = 120$ (inserting the syringe)

Soprano

its em - brace

Pno.

Red.

rit. 306 *mp*

Soprano

I wel - come

Pno.

♩=70 Ecstatically

311 *p* *pp* (freely, with rubato to m. 365)

Soprano

I, I am home. Its

Pno. *pp*

simile

316 *pp*

Soprano

se - ra - nade sounds like rap - ture in my ears.

Pno.

321 *p* *cresc.* *accel.*

Soprano

and I feel calm And I feel clean and

Pno. *p*

Magestically $\text{♩}=45$

34

326

Soprano

whole and bright and beau - - - - ti -

Pno.

mf

accel.

mf

Red.

330

Soprano

ful, so beau - ti - ful and the world the world is at

Pno.

rit.

$\text{♩}=40$

accel.

rit.

p

simile

334

Soprano

peace_

peace_ and my

Pno.

$\text{♩}=40$

poco a poco accel. (to m. 344)

mp

p

337

Soprano

mind is at peace. There are no more hid -

Pno.

340

Soprano

- den cor - ners of de - spair.

Pno.

343

Growing Less and Less Convinced ♩=90

Soprano

No dark - - - ness

Pno.

Ped.

346

Soprano

to weigh me down

Pno.

simile

350

Soprano

p

No dark - - - -

Pno.

354

Soprano

poco a poco rit. (to end)

- - - ness

Pno.

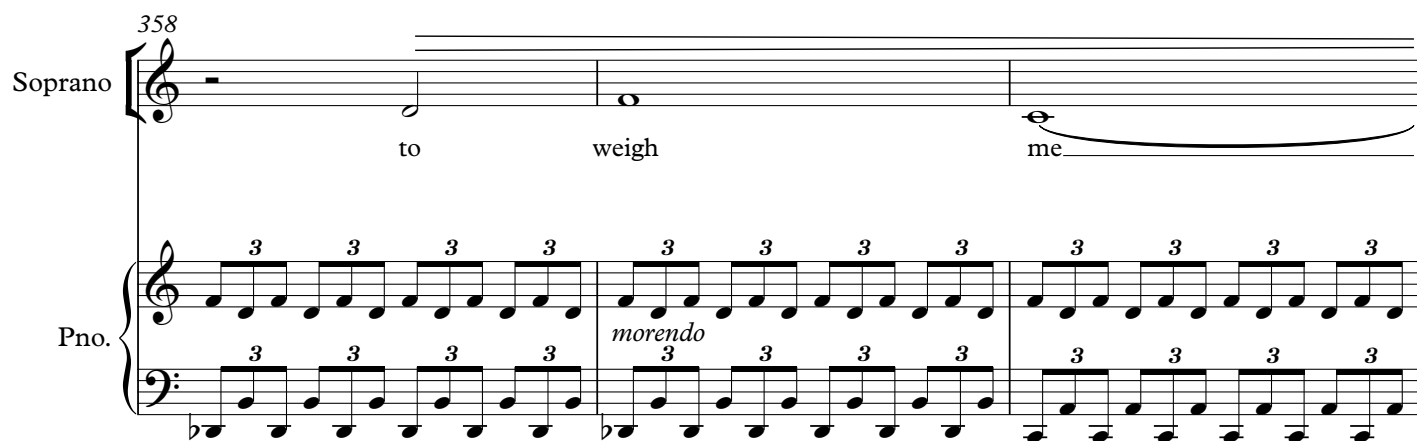
358

Soprano

to weigh me

Pno.

morendo



361

Soprano

pp

down

Pno.



364

Soprano

Pno.



6. Mourning the Morning

Mortified $\text{♩}=50$
poco accel.

367 *p*

Soprano

Black-ness, a pin prick like an ink-blot in wa - ter it

Pno. *pp* very connected with no discernable accent on down-beats.

Light pedal if needed to make more connected

371 *mf* *mp* *mp*

Soprano

spreads. See how it spreads. My sto-mach tigh-tens and I

Pno. *mp* *p*

375 *mf* *mp*

Soprano

know, My de-li-ve-rance had the breadth of cre-a-tion but the

Pno. *mf* *mp*

poco a poco accel. (to m.394)

378 *mf*

Soprano

span of a heart-beat Dread, like an itch on the back of my spine The

Pno.

8^{vb}

381 *f* (becoming more and more agitated) *mf*

Soprano

scrape of a voice in - side my mind. My happ - i - ness is not happ - i - ness, but

Pno.

(8)

386 *f* *ff*

Soprano

a straw framed to-wer built of blind - ers to my suff - er -

Pno.

(8)

(♩=135)

40

(becoming a scream)

(screaming)

Soprano

390

ing to my suf-fer-ing, my suf-fer ing!—

Pno.

lunga

lunga

lunga

(8)..... Ped.

(let sound mass clear naturally from piano)

♩=40 Freely, Detached, Overcome
p

Soprano

395

I can no lon-ger hide from the dark-ened rays of mis-e-ry—

Pno.

pp

8^{vb}...

Mournfully (freely)

Soprano

398

Stream-ing through the breaks. I

Pno.

p

mp

401 *pp* *p* *p* *p*

Soprano

am left stand ing Na - ked Na - ked with

Pno. *pp* *pp*

Ped. *pp*

405

Soprano

no-thing but grease and grime and grease and grease and grime on my skin

Pno.

Ped.

half-spoken

408

Soprano

Pno. *pp* *ppp* *pppp*

Ped.