

Beyond Duality

Song Cycle on the Texts of Rumi

The Human Form

music by Michael Stephens
text by Mevlâna Jalâluddîn Rumi

Soprano

$\text{♩} = 60$

5

p *mp*

Hu - man the hu - man form The hu - man form is just a

10

mf

ghost made from dis - trac - tion dis - trac - tion and pain

14

f

some-times pure light pure light some-times cruel

19

mf *mp*

try - ing wild - ly to o - pen this i - mage held tight - ly

23

p

with - in it - self.

Water From Your Spring

Soprano

$\bullet = 108$

3 4

10 *p* *mp*
What was in was in that can - dle's light that

16 *mf*
o - pened and con - sumed me con - sumed me so quick - ly?

22 *f*
Come back, come back, my

27
friend!

32 *p*
The

38
form of our love is not a cre - a - ted form.

43
No - thing no - thing can

48
no - thing can help me but that beau - ty.

56 *pp*
There was a dawn I re -

Water From Your Spring

62 $\text{♩} = 72$
meno mosso

mem - - - ber

69 *p*

There was a dawn I re - mem - ber when

74

my soul heard some - thing my soul heard some - thing from your soul.

79 *mf*

I drank wa - ter wa - ter I drank

84 *mp*

wa - ter from your spring wa - ter from your spring

88 *mp*

and I felt the cur - rent take me.

93 $\text{♩} = 96$ *p*

and I felt the cur - rent take me.

98

13 2 4 4

122 *morendo*

12 9 12 9

Birdwings

Soprano $\text{♩} = 56$

15 *p* *gliss.*

Your grief your grief for what you've lost

22 *mp*

your grief lifts a mir-ror up to where you're brave - ly wor-king

27 $\text{♩} = 64$ *mf*

Ex-pec-ting the worst, you look, but in - stead, here's the

36 *f* *gliss.*

joy - ful face you've been long - ing to see.

44 *f*

Your hand o - pens and clo-ses and o-pens and clo-ses.

51 *p*

If it were al-ways a fist or al-ways stretched o - pen,

59 $\text{♩} = 56$ *rubato p*

you would be par - a - lyzed. Your deep - est pre-sence is in

65

ev - 'ry small con - trac - ting and ex - pand - ing, the two as

69

beaut - i - ful - ly bal - anced as bird - wings.

Don't Say Yes or No

Soprano

$\text{♩} = 124$

f

The fi-re of

10 *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

Hell the fi-re is just an a-tom an a-tom of God's

14

wrath The fi-re of Hell

19 *mp* *f*

the fi-re is just a whip He wields to men-ace the e-vil.

23 *mp*

Yes, God's wrath is fi-er-y all

31 $\text{♩} = 62$ *mf*

pow-er-ful and all-de-vour-ing but the fresh-ness of His mer-cy trans-

36 *p*

cends it. Have you seen be-yond du-al-i-ty

42

What is be-fore? What is be-hind?

Don't Say Yes or No

48 *mp*
How could a clay bird soar in - to the heav - en of vi - sion? -

52 *mf*
The high - est place it can soar is still on - ly air, for its

56
or - i - gin re - mains sen - su - al - i - ty and de - sire.

61
Stay, then, a - stoun - ded and be - wil - dered. Don't say

64 *rubato*
"yes" or "no." Then mer - cy can

68 *rit.* *a tempo*
stretch out Its hands to help you

76

82 *mf*
How could you be - gin to un - der - stand His mi - ra - cles?

87
If you say "yes" glib - ly you would be ly - ing

Don't Say Yes or No

90 *f*
and if you say "no," that "no" will be - head you and force sev -

93 *p*
er - i - ty to slam shut the win - dow of your soul.

100
So stay in be - wil - der - ment in

105 *mp*
won - der So God's suc - cor can run to you from ev - 'ry

109 *♩ = 104*
side and di - rec - tion.

120 *mf* *cresc.* *f*
When you are real - ly be - wild - ered mad - dened and an -

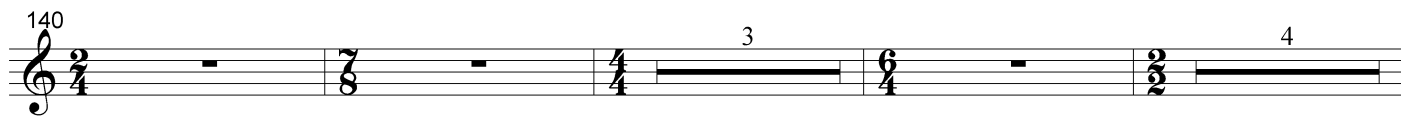
124 *cresc.*
nih - i - lat - ed Then your whole be - ing prays with - out words

128 *ff*
Then your whole be - ing prays "Guide me!"

132 *p* *♩ = 124*
"Guide me!"

Don't Say Yes or No

140



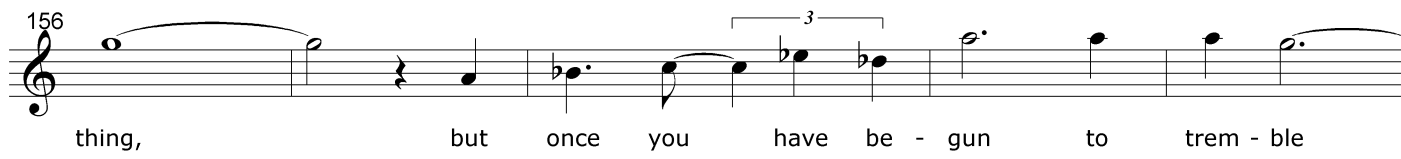
3 4

150 *mp*



The wrath of God is ter - ri - ble, more ter - ri - ble than a - ny -

156



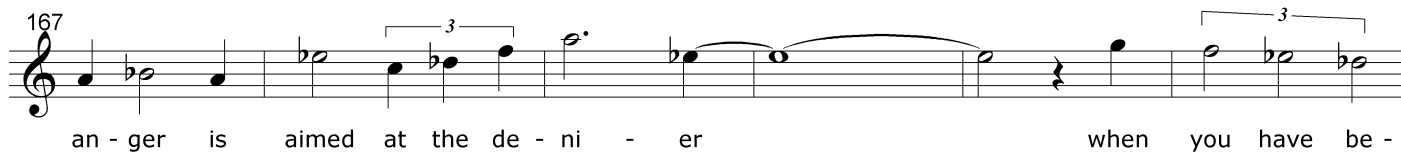
thing, but once you have be - gun to trem - ble

161



it starts to sof - ten.

167



an - ger is aimed at the de - ni - er when you have be -

173



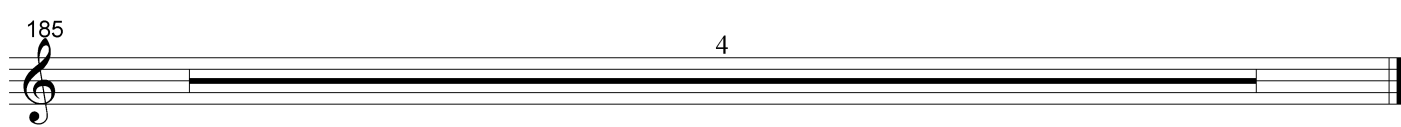
come hum - ble you will come to know it as gen - tle -

179



ness as mer - cy

185



4