

GHOST SONGS

POEMS BY
CHARLES SIMIC

Set to music by
ALDEN JENKS

© 2004

1. Night Picnic
2. Ghosts
3. Shadow Publishing Company

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NIGHT PICNIC

MUSIC by ALDEN JENKS
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1 $\text{♩} = 84$

There was the sky star-less and

pp rustling

Ad. una corda

3

bright home of ev-ry one of our

Ad.

Ad.

11 (a tempo) $\text{♩} = 84$

and you like ³ a late ³ door to

(a tempo) $\text{♩} = 84$

poco cresc...

13

door sales man with on - ly your

f

15

own beat - ing heart in the palm of your out - stretched hand

p

6

3

3

6

3

20. * 20. *

18

Slower $\text{♩} = 62$

rit

All

p

6

6

6

beginning much slower

slight accel... (♩ = 42)

rit. (♩ = 40)

21 (♩ = 36)

things are im - bued with God's be - ing She said

Measures 21-24: Vocal line in 3/4 time. Measure 21 starts with a triplet of eighth notes (F#, G, A). Measures 22-23 continue with triplets of eighth notes (B, C, D) and (E, F, G). Measure 24 has a triplet of eighth notes (A, B, C). Dynamics include *pp* and *rit.*

beginning much slower (♩ = 36)

slight accel... (♩ = 42)

rit. (♩ = 40)

Measures 21-24: Piano accompaniment in 3/4 time. The right hand features triplets of eighth notes (F#, G, A) and (B, C, D) in measures 21-23, and a triplet of eighth notes (E, F, G) in measure 24. The left hand has a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamics include *pp* and *rit.*

Recit. (ad lib. but somewhat faster)

23

in hushed tones as if his ghost might o - ver - hear

Measures 23-26: Vocal line in 4/4 time. Measure 23 has a triplet of eighth notes (F#, G, A). Measures 24-25 have triplets of eighth notes (B, C, D) and (E, F, G). Measure 26 has a triplet of eighth notes (A, B, C). Dynamics include *pp*, *lontano*, and *rit.*

25

(♩ = 38)

us. The dark woods a - round us our fac - es which

The first system of music features a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 38. The lyrics are "us. The dark woods a - round us our fac - es which". The piano accompaniment includes several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over the notes) and a fermata over a measure.

(♩ = 38)

The second system continues the musical piece. It features the same vocal and piano staves. The tempo remains quarter note = 38. The piano accompaniment continues with triplet markings and a fermata. The lyrics "us. The dark woods a - round us our fac - es which" are positioned above the vocal line.

28

faster ♩ = 46

rit..... to ♩ = 38

we can - not see.

The third system of music features a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 46, with the instruction "faster". The lyrics are "we can - not see.". The system concludes with a ritardando instruction "rit..... to ♩ = 38".

faster ♩ = 46

rit..... to ♩ = 38

The fourth system continues the musical piece. It features the same vocal and piano staves. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 46, with the instruction "faster". The piano accompaniment includes triplet markings and a fermata. The lyrics "we can - not see." are positioned above the vocal line. The system concludes with a ritardando instruction "rit..... to ♩ = 38".

31

rit.....

e - ven this bread this bread we are eat

p

rit.....

rit. *rit.* *rit.* *rit.* *rit.* *rit.* *rit.*

33

molto

Recit. (ad lib.)
(♩ = 54)

ing. You were mull - ing o - ver the par - tic - u - lars of your

molto

pp

rit.

36

cos - mic in - sig - nif - i - cance be - tween slow sips of red

27 faster ♩ = 58

wine. In the en - su - ing qui - et

faster ♩ = 58

sotto voce

pp *red.* *una corda sempre.*

accel... (♩ = 60)

(with rising agitation...)

39

you could hear her small sharp teeth

accel... (♩ = 60)

stealthy

Red. tre corde

Red. Red.

(♩ = 66)

cresc.....

41

chew - ing chew - ing the the crust

(♩ = 66)

Red.

Red.

Red.

Red.

Red.

Red.

Red.

13

ff

the crust.

tutta forza

14

allarg.....
(♩=62)

dim.....

f

mf

mp

Drugged, langorous

*In a kind of
ecstasy...*

48 ♩ = 30

Musical score for measures 48-50. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The lyrics are "And then" followed by a rest, then "fin - al - ly she". The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a 6/8 time signature. The music is marked with *And.* (Andante) and includes dynamic markings *And.* and *And.* in the piano part.

51 ♩ = ♩ = 44

Musical score for measures 51-54. The vocal line (treble clef) has lyrics "moist - ened her lips." with a *(breve)* marking over the word "her". The piano accompaniment (grand staff) is in 4/4 time. It features dynamic markings *p*, *sfz*, *pp*, and *ppp*. The piano part includes a *(breve)* marking and a *(sotto voce)* instruction. The score concludes with a double bar line.

(sotto voce)