

KOSTAS REKLEITIS

FORGIVE THE BRIAR

Op. 61

FOR NARRATOR, FLUTE, VIBRAPHONE, AND SUSP. CYMBAL

THREE POEMS BY

NATALIE J. GRAHAM

I THE FIRST HIKE
II BLACK WILLOW
III FORGIVE THE BRIAR

SANTA MONICA
NOVEMBER 2019

A poem by Natalie J Graham

I. THE FIRST HIKE

Kostas Rekleitis

Moderato (♩ = c. 108)

Flute

Vibraphone
Sus. cymbals

[flute stops, short silence for all] I carry the water up the slanted, cracked path.

11
Fl.

[flute stops, short silence for all]

A surprise of milky quartz, dandelions, and a hill of white clovers collapse together in memory.

dolce

[flute stops, short silence for all]

I consider my breath in the mountain air. She calls me *romantic* in a bad way.

Vib. S.C.

18
Fl.

[vibraphone stops, short silence for all]

Water from the ephemeral lake may hide under the rocked soil.

[flute stops, short silence for all]

She clamps a husk of bark around my wrist. Her boots chomp the black oak leaves flooding the trail.

Last fall's fallen leaves is redundant. She gives every scatter of rumpled things a name.

Vib. S.C.

27
Fl.

[Voice enters short after vibraphone]

Gentle Jeffrey- she points at a pinecone I'd stamped flat-only becomes dominant in the worsening climate. You know naturalists call bad soil, stressful?

[Voice enters after flute's few phrases]

A tornado of flies An empty fire pit.

Vib. S.C.

36
Fl.

I sit on a slab of twinkling rock, clak broken quartz in my hand like dice,

huff the thin air.

Vib. S.C.

II. Black Willow

A poem by Natalie J Graham

Kostas Rekleitis

Flute *mf* *legato* *p* [Flute stops, short silence for all]

Vibraphone Sus. cymbals *ppp* *mf*

7 Flute *mf* *f* *flutter tone* *f* *mf*

Vib. S.C. *mf* *f*

14 Flute *mf* *pp* *mf* *p* [Flute stops, short silence for all]

Vib. S.C. *ppp* *f*

18 Flute *f* *p* [Voice enters after 2-3 percussion patterns] *p* *mf* [Short silence for all]

Vib. S.C. *p* *mf* [Repeat 8-12 times, brush scrape and hits, there is room for improvisation] [Hits, until end or words]

24 Flute *mf* *rit.*

Vib. S.C. [Voice enters soon after flute] *The red-winged blackbird builds nests in willow branches. Abandons, rebuilds, abandons. Rebuilds to keep young from nursing flies with blood.*

III. FORGIVE THE BRIAR

After *Le Spectre de la Rose*

Kostas Rekleitis

Moderato ♩ = 116

Flute *pp* *mf* [Short silence for all] *f*

Vibraphone Sus. cymbals *ppp* *mf* L.V. *f*

The blackberry has a ghost in its stem, *mf* [A short flute phrase] [Short silence for all] an urge in its throat

Vibraphone

Fl. *mf* [Voice starts soon after flute entry] its pith and vessels lean with yearn to flower.

Vib. S.C. *mf* x2 *mf*

Fl. Flute follows the voice (no measures) and plays short phrases on specific underlined words *mf-f* *f*

[Short silence for all] Cymbals *pp* A bramble of twine, will not cut me anymore than another thing, and with this thorn, each drupelet swells with stone and sweet. *f* *pp*

Fl. *mf* *p_{sub}* *mf* *p*

Vib. S.C. *ppp* *mf* L.V. *f* [Short silence for all]

I forgive the briar its thorn, the cactus, bristle and spine, [Short silence for all] Vibraphone

37

Fl. *mf*

Vib. S.C. *mf* x2

45 **Faster** ♩ = c. 136

Fl. *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

[Music gets faster]

Vib. S.C. *mf* *mf*

52 **Moderato** ♩ = 116

Fl. *f* *mf*

[End of fast passage, Short silence for all] [Voice starts bit after vibraphone]

tune my mouth's water-song against the honeyed splinter, carve a haven inside, see with the eyes I have,

Vib. S.C. *f* *mf*

59 *mf* *p*

balance a dark limb between the sky and ground, the ragged leaf's margin, a cover, the static trees buzzing. Ants scatter and panic, shuffle their dead through the dirt, hunt out escape from the tumbling rain.

Vib. S.C. *mf* *p*

67 *p* *mf* *p*

Vib. S.C. *mf* *p*