

UNFINISHED LIST OF
THE THINGS I LOVE
for Mezzo-Soprano and Piano

Derek M. Jenkins

PERUSAL COPY

written for my good friends and colleagues

Jennifer Weiman

and

Jordan Voth

commissioned by

The Music Teachers National Association

and

The Missouri Music Teachers Association

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*“Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind,
And therefore is winged Cupid painted blind.”*

William Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream

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Duration:

about 9'30"

Program Notes:

The poems used here in these five songs for mezzo-soprano and piano were written especially for use in this song cycle. I became close friends with Jennifer Weinman and Jordan Voth, a husband and wife pair of musicians, while Jordan and I were in graduate school together. The poet, Daniel Weller, is a friend of theirs from their undergraduate studies, and therefore this piece truly is a collaboration amongst friends.

The five poems are unified in their evocative imagery that depicts various facets of love.

I. Unfinished

Unfinished list
Of the things
I love most:

White apple
Of the moon,
Fresh mint

And fish.

III. Untitled

Your voice

Raw honey
As it filters
Like a golden flame
Through dawn.

Sound that surrounds me
When the rest of the world runs empty.

Raspy, succulent, as deep
As the neck of a flower.

II. Love

Glaciers, shells, pine needles.

Like the shadow
Of a feather
Flying through the earth

You land in my hands:

A pale, luminous leaf.

IV. Autumn Sonnet

I ask little of light, soil, the night sky,
That each is a kind of compass that's fine.
That each leads me to you a miracle.
I do not need much: just this life, to die
Having loved insatiably, against my
Nature, having given everything up
And having never lost a thing, to fill
My life and your life simply, like a cup.
The air still wandering in its old age
Will be plenty to guide me when I must
Leave the globe of the body and return
Like a calm star to my cradle of dust:

For it is where our love was born, first leaf
In the light, when there was no pain, no grief.

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V. Even the Little Things

Even the little things
I was sure would linger

Have passed submerging
Themselves in the crisp
Flower of time...

So many drops
Of dew.

Performance Notes:

- The damper pedal should be used freely and at the performer's discretion, except where explicitly notated.
- An arrow after a pedal indication means to continue holding the pedal until the release is designated.
- The indication "light pedal" in Mvt. II is akin to feather pedaling. The notes in these runs should bleed together but not allowed to become muddy.
- The sostenuto pedal is utilized in the fourth movement to catch the bass notes, in order for the performer to still use the damper pedal for articulating the changes in the higher, arpeggiated line.
- Movement IV and Movement V are to be performed *attacca*.
- The ottava starting in m. 78 of Movement V is only for the arpeggiated line, not the chord on the downbeat. The downbeat should still be played *loco*.

Contact:

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UNFINISHED LIST OF THE THINGS I LOVE

for Mezzo-Soprano and Piano

Daniel Weller (b. 1990)

Derek M. Jenkins (b. 1986)
Kansas City, MO - Summer/Fall 2016

I. UNFINISHED

slow; evocative (♩ = 56)

p

Un - fin - ished

escalating slightly

list Of the things I love most: White ap - ple Of the moon, Fresh

like the beginning

mint And fish.

I. UNFINISHED

14 molto rit. al fine

Musical score for 'I. UNFINISHED'. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics 'like a dying music box'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands. Dynamics include *pp* and *ppp*. The tempo is marked 'molto rit. al fine'. The score is in 3/4 time and ends with a double bar line.

II. LOVE

slow; pining, as if recalling a memory (♩ = 56)

pp

Musical score for 'II. LOVE'. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics 'Gla - ciers, _____'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands. Dynamics include *pp*. The tempo is marked 'slow; pining, as if recalling a memory (♩ = 56)'. The score is in 4/4 time.

Gla - ciers, _____

Musical score for 'II. LOVE' (continued). It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics 'shells, _____ pine nee - dles _____'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands. Dynamics include *p*, *pp*, *pp*, *mp*, and *pp*. The tempo is marked 'slow; pining, as if recalling a memory (♩ = 56)'. The score is in 3/4 time.

shells, _____ pine nee - dles _____

light pedal

II. LOVE

p *mf* *p*

9

Like the shad - ow Of a feath - er Fly - ing through the earth

mf *p* *pp*

ord.

pp *mp* *pp*

12

You land in my hands:

mp *pp*

sim.

pp *p* *ppp*

16

A pale, lu - mi - nous leaf.

III. UNTITLED

swing; sultry, smoky (♩ = 86)

p *mf* *pp* *mf*

Your voice Raw honey

5 *p* *mf*

As it filters Like

8 *p* *pp*

a gold en flame Through dawn.

III. UNTITLED

11 *mf* *mp*

Sound that sur-rounds me



14 *f*

When the rest of the world runs



17 *p* *mf*

emp - ty. don't roll the "r" *mf*

R



20

(r)as - py.



III. UNTITLED

23

su - uh - uh - uh(c) - cu - lent, _____ as

26

deep As the neck of the a

28

flow - er. _____

30

f

IV. AUTUMN SONNET

slow; pining (♩ = 56)

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

I ask lit-tle of light, soil the night sky.

lively, playful (♩ = 76)

pp *p*

That each is a kind of compass

p *pp*

that's fine. That

Ped. sim. Sost. Ped. (until bass pitches fade out)

IV. AUTUMN SONNET

poco accel.

14

each leads me to you a mir - a - cle.

a tempo

17

I do not need much: just this life,

poco rall.

a tempo

20

to die Hav - ing loved in - sa - tia -

IV. AUTUMN SONNET

23 *p mp*

bly, a - gainst my Na - ture, hav - ing giv - en ev - ery -

pp *p*

Red. as before
Sost. Ped. →
(until bass pitches fade out)

27 *mf mp*

thing up And hav - ing nev - er lost a

mp *p*

Red. as before
Sost. Ped. →
sim.

30 *p*

thing, to fill My life and your life

p

Red. as before
Sost. Ped. →
sim.

IV. AUTUMN SONNET

poco rall.

a tempo

34 *mf* *p* *p*

sim - ply, like a cup. The air still wan - der - ing

poco rall.

38 *mf* *p* *p*

in its old age Will be

slower; contemplative (♩ = 56)

accel.

41 *pp*

plen - ty to guide me when I must Leave the

IV. AUTUMN SONNET

(♩ = 76) *poco rall.*

mf *p*

45

globe of the body and re - turn

mf *mp*

slower; contemplative (♩ = 56)

49 *p* *rit.*

Like a calm star to my cradle of dust:

pp

molto rit. slow; like Mvt. II (♩ = 56) *p*

53

For it is where our love was

pp sempre

IV. AUTUMN SONNET

58

born, first leaf In the light when there was no pain,

64

poco rall. *pp* *attacca*

no grief, *attacca*

V. EVEN THE LITTLE THINGS

[Epilogue]

very slow, pensive, somber ($\text{♩} = 48$)

70 *p*

Even the little things I was sure would linger Have

