

Israel Lai (2019)

Late Fragment

for soprano, clarinet, and piano

Late Fragment for soprano, clarinet, and piano is a setting of Raymond Carver's poem of the same name, commissioned by the composer's friend. Her recital, organised around the theme of motherhood, was to be concluded with this song, which represents a metaphorical death, or the end to a mother's life as it used to be. As she devotes the rest of her life to motherhood and assumes the new responsibilities, she loses her individual freedom, in a sense. This rather brief art song depicts a reflection on her past life as a young lass as she is stuck in her new life.

Score in C

Late Fragment

And did you get what
you wanted from this life, even so?

I did.

And what did you want?
To call myself beloved, to feel myself
beloved on the earth.

— Raymond Carver

For Karen Daley

Late Fragment

Raymond Carver (1938-88)

Israel Lai (2019)

Fiercely ♩ = 138

Soprano

Clarinet in Bb

Piano

f

ff

trill top note only

4

mf

7 *f*

/a/ /u/ /a/ I

pesante

f

3 4 3

10 *p*

from this life

gliss.

p

tr.

p

red.

13 *ff*

/a/ from

f *ff*

16

this earth I

mp *n*

19 *p* *whimpering*

And did you, did you did you, and did you get what ___

mp

mp

22 *ff* *mf*

WHAT what what you want - ed from this ___ life, this ___ life, ___

ff

mf

fr

27

27
e - ven so?

f *mf*

f *sub.*

gliss. *gliss.*

tr

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of music, measures 27-30. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a measure containing a fermata and a slur over two notes, with a '2' above it. The lyrics 'e - ven so?' are written below. The piano accompaniment has a treble clef with a '4' above the first measure and a '4' below the second measure. It includes dynamic markings *f* and *mf*, and performance instructions like *gliss.* and *tr*. The bass clef part starts with a '7' above the first measure and a '7' below the second measure, with a dynamic marking *f sub.*

30

p *hesitant* *f*

I I? did

p

con pedale

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of music, measures 30-33. The vocal line begins with a measure containing a fermata and a slur over two notes, with a '2' above it. The lyrics 'I I? did' are written below. The piano accompaniment has a treble clef with a 'p' dynamic marking and a '3' above the first measure. It includes a dynamic marking *f* and the instruction *con pedale*. The bass clef part has a '7' above the first measure and a '3' below the second measure.

33 *mp*

I

35

did

mf

flz.

mf

flz.

37 *p* *molto*

and

ord. *molto vib.*

f *p sub.* *f* *tr*

tr *leggiere*

p sub. *f*

40 *f* *leggiere*

and what did you want? What did you

mp

43

musical score for measures 43-45. It features a vocal line, a piano accompaniment, and a bass line. The vocal line includes the lyrics: "want? did you want What did you...". The piano accompaniment includes a four-measure arpeggiated figure in the right hand and a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *f pesante* and *mf*.

want? did you want What did you...

f pesante

mf

46

musical score for measures 46-49. It features a vocal line, a piano accompaniment, and a bass line. The vocal line includes the lyrics: "want? ha ha". The piano accompaniment includes a four-measure arpeggiated figure in the right hand and a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *f*, *mf cresc.*, and *mp*. Performance markings include *tr* and *gliss.*.

want? ha ha

f

mf cresc.

tr

gliss.

mp

49

Musical score for measures 49-51. The score is written for voice and piano. The voice part features a melodic line with lyrics: "ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha /a/". The piano accompaniment includes a treble clef staff with a vertical sequence of notes and a bass clef staff with chords and a melodic line. Dynamics include *ff* and *mp*. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it.

52

Rubato, confused

mp *legatissimo in a haze*

Musical score for measures 52-54. The score is written for voice and piano. The voice part has lyrics: "be - loved... my - self...". The piano accompaniment includes a treble clef staff with triplets and a bass clef staff with chords. Dynamics include *p* and *p* *sotto voce*. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it.

a tempo ma meno mosso

54

exhale

f *dolciss.*

call...

feel...

To_____

sempre sotto voce
*e dolciss.**mp*

57

call_____ my - self be - loved

mp \leftarrow *f* freely

60

Musical score for measures 60-63. The score is written for voice and piano. The voice part begins with the lyrics "To feel" and features a melodic line with a fermata. The piano accompaniment includes a section with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a trill (*tr*) over a four-measure rest. A "timbral trill" diagram is shown above the piano part, consisting of two vertical columns of notes with stems pointing upwards. The piano part also includes a section with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a trill (*tr*) over a wavy line. The score concludes with a section marked *mp* and *colla voce*.

64

mp

Tempo primo

Musical score for measures 64-67. The voice part continues with the lyrics "my - self, to feel my - self be - loved" and features a melodic line with a fermata. The piano accompaniment includes a section with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a trill (*tr*) over a wavy line. The score concludes with a section marked *f* and a triplet of notes.

67

f *p*

on the earth

mp *p*

mp *mp*

71

Freely *mp* *p* non cresc. *ff*

on the earth

timbral trill

mf gently *mp* *p* *sf*

f *f*