

Commissioned by Claude Veilleux for Kristal Calvert
in honor of her forty-fifth birthday and their tenth wedding anniversary

Barbara Sherrington
(1947-2008) **Slow** ♩ = 54

A spiral of soprano sound

I. Song

Christopher Hossfeld
(b. 1980)

The musical score is written for soprano and piano. It begins with a piano introduction (Ped.) in 2/4 time, featuring a complex piano accompaniment with sixteenth-note patterns and a soprano line that remains silent. The tempo is marked 'Slow' with a quarter note equal to 54 beats per minute. The key signature has two flats (B-flat major). The score is divided into systems, with measure numbers 5, 12, and 22 indicated. Dynamics range from *pp* (pianissimo) to *f* (forte). The lyrics are: 'Warm grain-y rock Un-der the burn - ing light that floods the sky. One gold-en rock is my aim; As I climb up-wards An ea - gle spooks and flies.' The piano accompaniment includes a 'Ped.' (pedal) marking at the end of the piece.

The late Mrs. Barbara Sherrington's poetry is used with the kind permission of Mr. Peter Sherrington.

28

p

I want to draw— you, rocks, — But how can my char-coal Em - bod - y the es-sence of your warmth, The

pp

37

pp

earth - i-ness of li - chens, And those home-ly cracks where sure ly snakes hide? —

ppp

44

mf

I want to play you on a gui - tar, — The grains vi -

pp *mp* *p*

Red.

50

brat-ing my toes, The heat — warm-ing my face, At sun's rise, — As ea-gles rise.

54

in a grow - ing shout.

58

Deliberate ♩ = 66
f

Winds af-front the

61

rock Where the goat steps, Where the ea-gles glide,

64 **Slow** $\text{♩} = 54$
mf *p* *mf*
 Sail - ing the heat in a low smooth hum, Div - ing the gap in a long wild

70 *f* *mf*
 scream, Curv-ing up - wards In a spi - ral of so-pran o

75 *f*
 sound,

80 *mf* *p*
 O ver the ridge In a bil low of song.

p *f* *p*

12 12 6

Red.

3/4

II. SPIRAL

Calculated $\text{♩} = 72$

p

So cool, so calm is the ge - o-log - i-cal,

pp *cresc.*

5

Bi - o log - i-cal a-nal - y-sis Of life and death. —

pp

9

p

So, I'm a mere blip in the scheme of things! There's no - thing

cresc.

13

f

in the fu - ture for me? The world is as un-af-fect-ed by me

pp

Rage ♩ = 108

17

As it was be-fore my first in - fant yell?

20

Can you not see the

22

sting - ing tears, the wrench - ing fear of the

24

death times?

26 *f*

If you had ev - er learned to

f

28

love,

meno f

30 *rit.* **Calculated** ♩ = 72 *p*

You'd know what you could lose. Your glib

pp

34 *cresc.*

log - ic ne gates my thin - ning skin. I see the signs of change As clear as pu

cresc.

38 *mf*

- ber-ty ev - er was. Yes, you have it all_ wrapped up,

pp

41 *p cresc.*

Ti - dy, swept, ar ranged, But my will, my de - si - re is to

45 *f cresc.* *ff* **Rage** ♩ = 108

Rage, rage, rage a - gainst the

48 *ff*

dy - ing of the light, rage a - gainst the dy - ing of the light,

51 *ff*

rage a - gainst the dy - ing of the light.

53 *f*

I knock all your

55

log - ic in the scat - ter of my

57

an - ger.

59 *ff*

Can you not hear Lear

f

61

rail Against the con - ten - tious

meno f

63 *dim.* *pp*

storm, The pelt - ing rain Of as - sured

pp

ppp

66 *rit.*

des - - - ti - ny?

rit.

III. NEXUS

Noble $\text{♩} = 60$

p

Did you for-get how love feels? A dawn-ing, a dis-be-lief That this is for you;

7

You sur-face and dive a-gain In-to trem-bling an-tic-i-pa-tion.

13

Can you not re-mem-ber how You walked a-lone and Learned the shape and

18

sound of eve-ry tree? How you loved the tall-est two, How you whis-pered se-crets And

22 *mf* *p*

felt their wis- dom? That was for al - ways, Love is for al - ways;

28

The line of smiles is no emp-ty met a-phor. It is how the trees might re-mem - ber you

33 *pp*

Af - ter you are gone. Be still Take com - fort

38 *(pp)*

and rage no more.