

Vilnai

There's a Bluebird
in My Heart

for Mezzo-Soprano and Piano

text by Charles Bukowski

Duration: 25 min.

BLUEBIRD

there's a bluebird in my heart that
wants to get out
but I'm too tough for him,
I say, stay in there, I'm not going
to let anybody see
you.

there's a bluebird in my heart that
wants to get out
but I pour whiskey on him and inhale
cigarette smoke
and the whores and the bartenders
and the grocery clerks
never know that
he's
in there.

there's a bluebird in my heart that
wants to get out
but I'm too clever, I only let him out
at night sometimes
when everybody's asleep.
I say, I know that you're there,
so don't be
sad.
then I put him back,
but he's singing a little
in there, I haven't quite let him
die
and we sleep together like
that
with our
secret pact
and it's nice enough to
make a man
weep, but I don't
weep, do
you?

MARINA

majestic, majic
infinite
my little girl is
sun
on the carpet-
out the door
picking a flower, ha!
an old man,
battle-wrecked,
emerges from his
chair
and she looks at me
but only sees
love,
ha!, and I become
quick with the world
and love right back
just like I was meant
to do.

FOR JANE

225 days under grass
and you know more than I.
they have long taken your blood,
you are a dry stick in a basket.
is this how it works?
in this room
the hours of love
still make shadows.

when you left
you took almost
everything.
I kneel in the nights
before tigers
that will not let me be.

what you were
will not happen again.
the tigers have found me
and I do not care.

I MET A GENIUS

I met a genius on the train
today
about 6 years old,
he sat beside me
and as the train
ran down along the coast
we came to the ocean
and then he looked at me
and said,
it's not pretty.

it was the first time I'd
realized
that.

CONSUMMATION OF GRIEF

I even hear the mountains
the way they laugh
up and down their blue sides
and down in the water
the fish cry
and the water
is their tears.
I listen to the water
on nights I drink away
and the sadness
becomes so great
I hear it in my clock
it becomes knobs upon my dresser
it becomes paper on the floor
it becomes a shoehorn
a laundry ticket
it becomes
cigarette smoke
climbing a chapel of dark vines. . .
it matters little
very little love is not so bad
or very little life
what counts
is waiting on walls
I was born for this
I was born to hustle roses down the
avenues of the dead.

Bluebird

Bukoswki

Vilnai

$\text{♩} = 44$
quasi-rubato, crystalline

Dec 8, 2012

$\text{♩} = 44$
quasi-rubato, crystalline

p

5

10

15

in time, contemplative

in time, contemplative

there is a blue-bird in my heart — that wants to get out

25

but I'm too tough for him I say stay in there

30

I'm not go-ing to let a-ny-bo-dy see you_

accel. ♩ = 60 with motion

there is a blue - bird in my heart

accel. ♩ = 60 with motion

p *cresc. poco a poco*

that wants to get out

mp

but I pour whis - ky on him

and in - hale ci - ga - rette smoke and the whores and the bar ten - ders

f *f*

8^{vb}

45 ♩ = 50

p

poco rit. 5

and the gro-ce-ry clerks ne-ver know he's in there

8

♩ = 40

50

ne-ver know he's in there ne-ver know

8^{vb}

55

pp

8

lucid

lucid

5 senza pedal 7 6

60

*pochiss. ten.**

* - refers to the first note of each tremolo

65 simple *pp*

there's a blue-bird in my
simple

heart that wants to get out but I'm too

70

pp *poco rit.*
cle-ver I on-ly let him out at night some-times when e-v'ry one's a-sleep
poco rit.

$\text{♩} = 48$
mp

I say I know you're in there so don't be

$\text{♩} = 48$
mp pedal ord.

75 $\text{♩} = 40$

sad then I put him back

$\text{♩} = 40$

quasi-rubato

80

and he's sing-ing a lit-tle in there I have-n't quite let him die

quasi-rubato

pp *p*

8va

8vb

[spoken]

and we sleep together like that with our secret pact and it's nice enough to make a man weep

8va

but I don't weep do you?

Jan 20, 2013

Marina

Bukoswki

Vilnai

light and crisp

♩ = 136

Nov 7, 2012

Musical score for measures 10-15. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present. A trill is indicated above a note in measure 11. A *8va* marking is placed above the right-hand staff in measure 11. Measure numbers 10, 15, and 20 are boxed in the score.

15

Musical score for measures 15-20. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present. A trill is indicated above a note in measure 16. A *sub.p* marking is present in measure 17. A large slur covers the right-hand staff from measure 17 to 20. Measure numbers 15, 20, and 25 are boxed in the score.

20

Musical score for measures 20-25. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present. A large slur covers the right-hand staff from measure 20 to 25. Measure numbers 20, 25, and 30 are boxed in the score.

25

Musical score for measures 25-30. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A large slur covers the right-hand staff from measure 25 to 30. Measure numbers 25, 30, and 35 are boxed in the score.

30

35

mp

ma - - jes - - tic

p

30 *molto rit.*

ma - jic in - fi - nite

p

35 ♩ = 136 *mf*

my lit - tle girl is sun on the car

p

40 *p*

- - pet out the door pick - ing a

sub. p

11

sfz

flow - er ha!

mf

45

$\text{♩} = 100$

laden

laden

pp

50

55

an old — man,

60

bat - tle_ wrecked e - mer - ges from_ his chair

65

and she looks_ at me_

but on - ly sees_ love_

70

♩ = 136 as before

ha! and_ I be - come

and I be - come

quick with the world

8^{va}

quick with the world

80

8^{va}

8

mp

and love right back

mp

8va

85

molto rit.

and love right back and love right back

molto rit.

$\text{♩} = 136$

p

just like I was meant to

$\text{♩} = 136$

p

tr

90

p poss.

do

8va

Two Hundred and Twenty-Five Days

Bukoswki

Vilnai

$\text{♩} = 60$ dirge

Feb 20, 2012

5

$\text{♩} = 60$ dirge

mp

f

sub.mp

vi

10

sub.f

sub.mp

vi

Red.

15 *mp*

two hund red and twen -ty five days

two hund red and twen -ty five days two hund red and twen -ty five

20

days un - der grass and you know more than I

two hund red and twen - ty five days

two hund red and twen -ty five days un -der grass and you know more than

30

35

they have long — ta - ken your blood, —

40

you are a dry stick in a bas - ket. is this how it

♩ = 66 fleeting, translucent

p

works?

♩ = 66
1.v. 8va
fleeting, translucent

pp

p

(8)

45

(8)

50

(8)

55

(8)

60

mp

p

(8)

(8)

65

70 *p*

in this room the hours of love

(8)

mf 75 *mp*

still make shadows sha

(8)

p

- dows when you left you took

(8)

mf

al - most ev' - ry - - thing

(8)

85

mp

ev' - ry - thing

(8)

mp

p

90 95

♩ = 50

i kneel in the night be - fore ti - gers that will not

let me be

mp *p*

♩ = 60

sempre p

what you were will

p

ne-ver hap-pen a - gain ne-ver hap-pen a -

gain

the ti - gers have found me and I do not

115

care

rit.

rit.

Apr 26, 2012

I Met a Genius

Bukoswki

Vilnai

$\text{♩} = 160$
playful, with a little swing

5

Mar 21, 2013

mp

I met a gen-ius I met a gen-ius on the train to - day

playful, with a little swing

$\text{♩} = 160$

mp *mf*

10

I met a gen-ius I met a gen-ius a-bout six years old

mp *mf*

8va

15

p

with more motion

he sat be - sides me and as the

sub.p

with more motion

20 *mf* *mp* 25

train ran down a - long the coast we came to the

30

o - cean o - - -

mp

35

cean

40

f

45 *mf*

and then he looked at me

sub.mp

50 *cheeky p*

and said it's not pre - tty
cheeky

f mp

it's not pre - tty

55 *G.P. f rit. = 120*

it was the first time I'd rea - lized that

G.P. f rit. = 120

slower and freely, dramatic

Mar 22, 2013

Consummation of Grief

Bukoswki

Vilnai

very slow and free

♩ = approx. 72

March 26, 2013

very slow and free

♩ = approx. 72

Musical score for the first system, measures 1-3. It features a treble clef staff with rests, a piano staff with notes and slurs, and a bass clef staff with notes and slurs. A dashed line with '8vb' is below the bass staff.

5

Musical score for the second system, measures 4-6. It features a treble clef staff with rests, a piano staff with notes and slurs, and a bass clef staff with notes and slurs. A dashed line with '8' is below the bass staff.

10

Musical score for the third system, measures 7-10. It features a treble clef staff with rests, a piano staff with notes and slurs, and a bass clef staff with notes and slurs. A dashed line with '8' is below the bass staff.

slightly faster and with motion

p

I e-ven hear the moun-tains the way they laugh

slightly faster and with motion

(8)

15

up and down their blue sides and down in the wa-ter

(8)

in time ♩ = 72

20

the fish cry and the wa-ter is their tears I lis-ten to the

in time ♩ = 72

(8)

25

wa-ter on nights I drink a-way and the sad-ness be-comes so

(8)

30 *mp*

great I hear it in my clock it be-comes knobs up-on my dre - sser it be-

pp 35 *mp*

comes pa - per on the floor it be-comes a

mf *f*

shoe - horn a laun - dry ti - cket it be - comes__

40 *p* [poss.]

ci - ga - rette smoke climb - ing a cha - pel of dark vines

sub.p *pp*

8^{va}

45 rit. 50 ♩ = 72

it mat-ters lit-tle ve-ry lit-tle

rit.

♩ = 72

(8)-----|

55 mp

love is not so bad or ve-ry lit-tle life what counts is wai-ting on

mp

3/4

8vb-----|

60 mf p 65 pp

walls I was made for this I was made to

mf p pp

3/4

8vb-----|

repeat ad lib. and fade

slightly faster ♩ = 80 70

hus-tle ro-ses down the a-ven-ues of the dead to

slightly faster ♩ = 80

70

(8)-----|

repeat ad lib. and fade