

Richard St. Clair

*Owl Night*

For Soprano and Piano

On the Poem

by Susan Spilecki

(2000)

Music, "Owl Night" ©2000 Richard St. Clair

Poem, "Owl Night" ©2000 Susan Spilecki

# Owl Night

Poem by Susan Spilecki

for Soprano and Piano

Music by Richard St. Clair

November, 2000

Moderato  $\text{♩} = 69$  *mp*

Soprano

Piano

*Moderato sempre legato* *p* *simile*

Rib-bons of dark - ness en - twine in the

branch - ches re-gret set-tles in the leaves

a - wash with this night and your name. Thick-ets of ha -

zel and black - ber - ries catch at me, a tide of brit-tle

6

6

10

10

15

15

Pno.

Pno.

Pno.

18

hands drag-ging at my legs to pull me down. In

Pno.

22

sum - mer we wan - dered - through for - ests at eve - ning,

Pno.

26

shoul - ders caped by dew. Then you pulled me down

Pno.

*mf*

30

in-to mid - night deeps. The blind moon un-see - ing now floats

Pno.

*mp*

35

through the bran - ches touch - ing ev - ery leaf, read - ing ab - sen - ces in

Pno.

40

owl (l) wings. The owl leaves the moon sink - ing in waves of

Pno.

*crescendo*

45

sha - dow. Still I'm wait - ing here. Still. Wait -

Pno.

*f* *mp*

*f* *dimin.* *mp*

51

- ing.

Pno.

59 Allegro energico *f*

dry leaves sing in a

Pno.

65

thou - sand tongues a - drift be - tween night and

Pno.

70

so - li - tude branch - es lift rid - ing clouds they smo - ther them - selves in wind

Pno.

75

weath - ered grey shapes and sha - dows roll - ing in

Pno.

80 *Tempo di Siciliano*

*mp*

How can these woods so

80 *Tempo di Siciliano*

*mp poco espressivo*

*sempre legato*

*p con Pedale*

84

soaked in dew wear night like a robe of ash?

84

Pno.

87

How can this cold and sleep - less path wear such a thick blan - ket of

87

Pno.

90

*mf*

leaves?

Oaks and al - ders sur -

90

*p*

Pno.

*mf* bring out

93

round me reach-ing out, reach - ing to - ward me emp - ty

Pno.

96

arms. How can this for - est

Pno.

*mp*

*mp*

99

wear night like a wall? (Ah)

Pno.

*bring out*

102

How can I walk here a - lone?

Pno.

*mp*

*p*

*mp*

*p*



107 *Con moto ma moderato*

*mp*

Dew ran - ges it - self, an a - ba - cus of im - pa - tience.

107 *Con moto ma moderato*

*p poco staccato*

*mf*

111 *mf*

I count ev - ery drop. I would hold it all a - gainst you.

*mp poco staccato*

114

I would hold it all a - gainst you tak - ing your size. Pale

117

wa - ter col - lects it - self. The lake shines grey, re - flect - ing

*bring out*

120 *mp*

no-thing, ad - mit - ting no-thing wrong and own - ing

Pno. *p poco staccato*

123

no - thing miss-ing. The shine off the lake, its sheen, its

Pno.

127

sil - ver mir - ror wel - comes me, a stran - ger out of sea - son.

Pno.

131 *mf*

It wel-comes me in your name. In your un-

Pno. *mp poco espressivo*

135 *mf*

spo - - ken name I would set it a - fire (r) as dawn

Pno. *mf*

139 *f*

burns throw-ing sparks in-to the dew on ev-ery branch and leaf.

Pno. *f*

142 *f*

I would set this lake a -

Pno. *f*

146 *mf* *mp* *poco espressivo*

fire like dawn, like mourn-ing. But dawn is for-ev - er

Pno. *mf* *mp* *poco espressivo*

150

in com - ing, and on - ly dawn can turn wa - ter to flame.

Pno.

154 *p* *Lento mp*

The dark owl call - ing has

Pno. *Lento* *p*

158

flown. Now nest - ed, wings fol - ded

Pno.

8vb

162 *simply*  
 it sleeps. Si - - - - lent.

Pno. *simply*

166  
 No more ques - tions. No more grey glid - ing

Pno.

(8<sup>vb</sup>) - - - - - *Red.* \*

170 *poco ritard.* Moderato  
 in the dark.

Pno. *poco ritard.* Moderato  
*mf sempre legato*  
*con Pedale*

174 *ff*

Pno.

178 *mf*  
 Sun climbs these trees,

Pno.

182  
 pour - ing it-self up, through morn - ing air.

Pno.

186  
 bring out

Pno.

190 *mp*  
 Dew turns to gold be-fore my eyes be-fore it

Pno.

193

disappears, just as it should.

Pno.

bring out

196

You are not

Pno.

Gradually broadening to the end *mf*

200

lost. You are a blade shi-ver-ing in

Pno.

204

grass - y breeze. You are a

Pno.

208 whole field drown - ing

211 in light, drown - ing

214 in light, in

217 light. ritard. -