

Georgian's Songs

For 12 Players
Score in C

Text by David Bottoms

Music by Chris Ferebee

Texts

All texts by David Bottoms and are used with his permission.

Local Quarrels

As though the nineteenth century hadn't crumbled
and polite society still made pretensions
about honour, we left the party boozing in the house,
and half walking, half staggering,
followed our principals across the backyard
and gas-lamped garden,
the barbed-wire fence, the pasture spotted with ponds.

All around us oak branches trembled,
and far across the field of ponds and black mounds
of cattle sleeping in clusters in the cool dew,
we could see against a day horizon of pines
the light that was the house.

Face to face they stood in the full-moonlight
surrounding them with shadows,
arms at their sides, and began on signal
to step in opposite directions, looking straight ahead
as we all counted with our hearts
the twelve quick paces before they turned
and the long pistol-cracks spread through the pasture.
Heads cocked in sudden amazement,
they listened as the shots faded and one cow lowed
and waded into water. When neither fell
they sat in a common shadow.

A Slight Nod to Slick Pope

Who'd sashay the mowed fields like a shitfaced drum major,
blessing hay bales with his VA hook

who taught me, a kid, to match nickels in the barn loft
and kept my precious nickels when I lost,

who swilled down the pocket change Uncle Sam tossed him
for the arm he left at Anzio

and odd-jobbed around horses and hunting dogs,
cluttered yards and greasy windows,

who shot bull like a pro over the potbellied stove
in my grandpa's grocery, rattling off

whoppers over Slim Jims and jerky,
Cracker Jacks and pork rinds,

who hatched big dreams with wide-eyed hicks
over Dr Peppers and salted peanuts,

who cackled back when he was laughed at, quaking
from chin to butchered knees:

the closest we came to poetry.

Under the Vulture Tree

We have all seen them circling pastures,
have looked up from the mouth of a barn, a pine clearing,
the fences of our own backyards, and have stood
amazed by the one slow wing beat, the endless dihedral drift.
But I had never seen so many so close, hundreds,
every limb of the dead oak feathered black,

and I cut the engine, let the river grab the jon boat
and pull it toward the tree.
The black leaves shined, the pink fruit blossomed
red, ugly as a human heart.
Then, as I passed under their dream, I saw for the first time
its soft countenance, the raw fleshy jowls
wrinkled and generous, like the faces of the very old
who have grown to empathize with everything.

And I drifted away from them, slow, on the pull of the river,
reluctant, looking back at their roost,
calling them what I'd never called them, what they are,
those dwarfed transfiguring angels,
who flock to the side of the poisoned fox, the mud turtle
crushed on the shoulder of the road,
who pray over the leaf-graves of the anonymous lost,
with mercy enough to consume us all and give us wings.

Local Quarrels

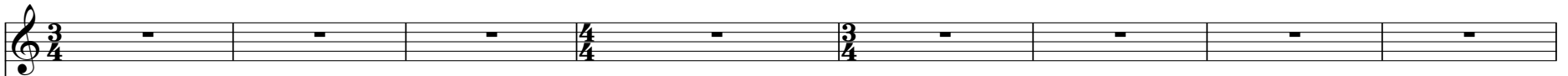
Song

David Bottoms

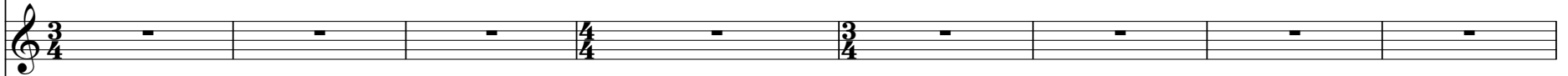
Chris Ferebee

Southern Gothic Waltz ♩ = 132

Soprano Solo



Northumbrian
Smallpipes

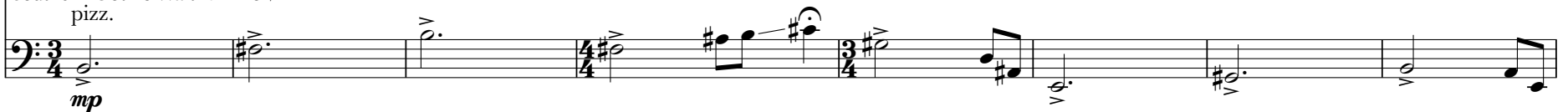


Acoustic Guitar



Southern Gothic Waltz ♩ = 132
pizz.

Contrabass



9

S. Solo

N. Pipes.

A. Gtr.

Cb.

Vamp x 4

Breathy, forebo

p

As

Vamp x 4

Vamp x 4

p

Vamp x 4

p

18

S. Solo

N. Pipes.

A. Gtr.

Cb.

though the nineteenth cen tury had - n't crum bled

And po - lite so-ci - e - ty

still made

27

S. Solo

pret-en sions a-bout ho-nour we

A. Gtr.

Cb.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 27 through 35. The Soprano Solo part begins with a long note for 'pret-en sions', followed by a rest, then 'a-bout ho-nour' with eighth notes, and ends with 'we' on a single note. The Acoustic Guitar part plays a consistent eighth-note pattern throughout. The Contrabass part provides a steady bass line with a melodic flourish at the end of the system.

36

S. Solo

left the par - ty boo - - - zing in the house And half

A. Gtr.

Cb.

mp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 36 through 44. The Soprano Solo part has lyrics 'left the par - ty boo - - - zing in the house' and 'And half'. The Acoustic Guitar part continues with eighth notes. The Contrabass part has a bass line with a melodic flourish at the end. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) for the Soprano Solo and Acoustic Guitar parts.

46

S. Solo

walking half stagge ring _____ fo - lloved our prin - ci pals a-cross the back - yard

A. Gtr.

Cb.

55

S. Solo

and gas lamped gar - den the barbed- wi-re fence the

A. Gtr.

Cb.

64

S. Solo

p

pas- ture spo- tted_ withponds

A. Gtr.

p

mf

Clb.

p

Measure 64: Soprano Solo (treble clef) has a quarter note F#4, quarter note G4, and a whole rest. Acoustic Guitar (treble clef) has a descending eighth-note scale: F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3. Clarinet (bass clef) has a half note F#2. Measure 65: Soprano Solo has a whole rest. Acoustic Guitar has a descending eighth-note scale: E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3. Clarinet has a half note E2. Measure 66: Soprano Solo has a whole rest. Acoustic Guitar has a descending eighth-note scale: D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3. Clarinet has a half note D2. Measure 67: Soprano Solo has a whole rest. Acoustic Guitar has a descending eighth-note scale: C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3. Clarinet has a half note C2. Measure 68: Soprano Solo has a whole rest. Acoustic Guitar has a descending eighth-note scale: B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2. Clarinet has a half note B1. Measure 69: Soprano Solo has a whole rest. Acoustic Guitar has a descending eighth-note scale: A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2. Clarinet has a half note A1. Measure 70: Soprano Solo has a whole rest. Acoustic Guitar has a descending eighth-note scale: G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2. Clarinet has a half note G1. Measure 71: Soprano Solo has a whole rest. Acoustic Guitar has a descending eighth-note scale: F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, F#2. Clarinet has a half note F#1. Measure 72: Soprano Solo has a whole rest. Acoustic Guitar has a descending eighth-note scale: E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, F#2, E2. Clarinet has a half note E1.

73

A. Gtr.

Clb.

Measure 73: Acoustic Guitar (treble clef) has a quarter note F#4, quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4. Clarinet (bass clef) has a quarter note F#2, quarter note G2, quarter note A2, quarter note B2, quarter note C3, quarter note B2, quarter note A2, quarter note G2. Measure 74: Acoustic Guitar has a quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4, quarter note F#4, quarter note E4. Clarinet has a quarter note G2, quarter note A2, quarter note B2, quarter note C3, quarter note B2, quarter note A2, quarter note G2, quarter note F#2. Measure 75: Acoustic Guitar has a quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4, quarter note F#4, quarter note E4, quarter note D4. Clarinet has a quarter note A2, quarter note B2, quarter note C3, quarter note B2, quarter note A2, quarter note G2, quarter note F#2, quarter note E2. Measure 76: Acoustic Guitar has a quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4, quarter note F#4, quarter note E4, quarter note D4, quarter note C4. Clarinet has a quarter note B2, quarter note C3, quarter note B2, quarter note A2, quarter note G2, quarter note F#2, quarter note E2, quarter note D2. Measure 77: Acoustic Guitar has a quarter note D4, quarter note C4, quarter note B3, quarter note A3, quarter note G3, quarter note F#3, quarter note E3, quarter note D3. Clarinet has a quarter note C3, quarter note B2, quarter note A2, quarter note G2, quarter note F#2, quarter note E2, quarter note D2, quarter note C2. Measure 78: Acoustic Guitar has a quarter note E4, quarter note D4, quarter note C4, quarter note B3, quarter note A3, quarter note G3, quarter note F#3, quarter note E3. Clarinet has a quarter note D2, quarter note C2, quarter note B1, quarter note A1, quarter note G1, quarter note F#1, quarter note E1, quarter note D1. Measure 79: Acoustic Guitar has a quarter note F#4, quarter note E4, quarter note D4, quarter note C4, quarter note B3, quarter note A3, quarter note G3, quarter note F#3. Clarinet has a quarter note E1, quarter note D1, quarter note C1, quarter note B0, quarter note A0, quarter note G0, quarter note F#0, quarter note E0. Measure 80: Acoustic Guitar has a quarter note G4, quarter note F#4, quarter note E4, quarter note D4, quarter note C4, quarter note B3, quarter note A3, quarter note G3. Clarinet has a quarter note F#1, quarter note E1, quarter note D1, quarter note C1, quarter note B0, quarter note A0, quarter note G0, quarter note F#0.

82

A. Gtr.

Cb.

p

mp

91

S. Solo

N. Pipes.

A. Gtr.

Cb.

Vamp x 4

Vamp x 4

Vamp x 4

Vamp x 4

mf

mp

mf

mp

arco

101 Flowing, but with urgency
mp

S. Solo

All a- roundus oak bran-ches trem bled_____ and far a- crossthe field of ponds_____ andblack mounds

N. Pipes.

A. Gtr.

Cb.

110

S. Solo

_____ of cat-tle__sleeping in clusters in the cool dew _____ wecould

A. Gtr.

Cb.

mf *mp*

mf *mp*

119

S. Solo

see a- gainst a dark hor - i - zon of__ pines__ the light that

A. Gtr.

Cb.

128

S. Solo

wa - s the house_____

A. Gtr.

cresc.

Cb.

cresc.

wa - s the house_____

cresc.

cresc.

137

2nd time, Molto Rall. $\text{♩} = 60$

S. Solo

An ugly (as possible) start-up...
Drones only

2nd time, Molto Rall.

N. Pipes.

2nd time, Molto Rall.

A. Gtr.

f *mf*

Cb.

arco

2nd time, Molto Rall. $\text{♩} = 60$

f *mf*

146

mf

S. Solo

Face to face they stood in the full moon- light — sur - roun - ding

N. Pipes.

A. Gtr.

Cb.

155

S. Solo

the - m with sha - dows Arms at their sides and be - gan on sig - nal

N. Pipes.

A. Gtr.

Cb.

the - m with sha - dows Arms at their sides and be - gan on sig - nal

164

S. Solo

— to step in o - ppo - site di - re - ctions loo - king straight a - head

N. Pipes.

A. Gtr.

Cb.

molto rall.

— to step in o - ppo - site di - re - ctions loo - king straight a - head

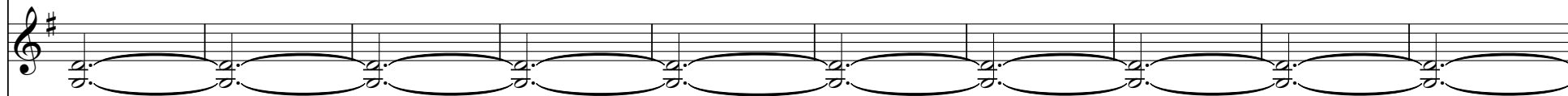
molto rall.

a tempo174 $\text{♩} = 60$

S. Solo



N. Pipes.



A. Gtr.



Cb.

**a tempo** $\text{♩} = 60$

184

S. Solo



N. Pipes.



A. Gtr.



Cb.



194

S. Solo

pi - stol cracks spreadthrough the pa - sture

N. Pipes.

A. Gtr.

Cb.

204

'Diddling'* *f*

S. Solo

N. Pipes.

A. Gtr.

Cb.

gliss. *f*

* The use of consonants (such as 'da' and 'dee') to vocalise a text-less melody in much European and American folk music. See vocal trio Lady Maisery for an example of this. For the purpose of this piece, how the diddling is accomplished is ultimately left to the discretion of the vocalist.

214

S. Solo

N. Pipes.

A. Gtr.

Cb.

224

S. Solo

N. Pipes.

A. Gtr.

Cb.

233 **rall.**

S. Solo

N. Pipes.

A. Gtr. *cresc.*

Cb. **rall.** *cresc.*

ff

Slower ♩ = 110

243 *Ad libitum p*

S. Solo

A. Gtr. *ppp*

de-tune 6th string

Heads cocked in su - dden a - mazement They lis - tened as the shots fa - ded and one cow lowed_ and wa - ded in - to wa - ter

255

S. Solo

When ne-i - ther fell they sat_____ in a co - mmon sha - dow When ne - i - ther fell they sat_____ in a co - mmon sha - dow

A. Gtr.

l.v.

The image shows a musical score for two parts: S. Solo and A. Gtr. The S. Solo part is in treble clef and contains the lyrics: "When ne-i - ther fell they sat_____ in a co - mmon sha - dow When ne - i - ther fell they sat_____ in a co - mmon sha - dow". The A. Gtr. part is in bass clef and contains the marking "l.v.". Both parts end with a double bar line.