

3 Songs

for soprano and solo instrument

Samantha Fernando

Contents

1. *Half Moon* (2012)
for soprano and cello

2. *Utterance* (2012)
for soprano and cello

3. *Recollection* (2013)
for mezzo-soprano and paetzold contrabass recorder

Programme Notes

Written over a span of two years, these songs have, inadvertently, acted as record of the way in which my music has changed over time. *Half Moon* is very lyrical and its musical message is direct. However, *Utterance* and *Recollection* use an extended vocabulary of vocal sounds to express something much more elusive. The compositional approach of each song was dictated by my response to the individual poems and as such each song inhabits a world very much its own.

Half Moon and *Utterance* (2012) were written for Gwen Martin and Zosia Jagodinska, and have been performed at numerous venues including St. Leonard's Church, Shoreditch and Pop-Up Circus.

Recollection was commissioned by Vocaallab and premiered at LOD MusiekTheater, Ghent, in December 2013.

Half Moon

The Half Moon

The half moon shows a face of plaintive sweetness

Ready and poised to wax or wane;

A fire of pale desire in incompleteness,

Tending to pleasure or to pain:-

Lo, while we gaze she rolleth on in fleetness

To perfect loss or perfect gain.

Half bitterness we know, we know half sweetness;

This world is all on wax, on wane:

When shall completeness round time's incompleteness,

Fulfilling joy, fulfilling pain?-

Lo, while we ask, life rolleth on in fleetness

To finished loss or finished gain.

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

The Half Moon

poem by Christina Rossetti

Samantha Fernando

with a gentle ebb and flow ♩ = c.60

Soprano

Violoncello

mf 3 *p* *mf* 3

5 *p* 3

Sop

The half__moon shows a face of plain - tive sweet - ness__ Rea - dy and

Vc.

p 3

9 *mf*

Sop

poised to wax or wane;__

Vc.

mp 3 *p* *mp* 3

13 *mf* bright

Sop

A fire__ of pale de - sire in in - com - plete - ness,__

Vc.

mf bright

Animato

17

Sop. *f*

Tend - ing to plea - sure or to pain:

Vc. *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

poco rit. Tempo primo

20

Sop. (lunga) *p*

Lo, _____

Vc. (lunga) *mf* *pp*

24

Sop. *mp* *p*

_____ while we gaze _____ she roll - eth on in fleet - ness To per - fect loss _____ or per - fect gain. _____

Vc. *mp* *p* *pp*

29

Sop. *pp*

Vc. *p* *espress.* *mp* *p* *sim.*

poco rit.

49

Sop.

Lo, while we ask, life roll - eth on in fleet - ness_____ To fin - ished loss or

Vc.

f *p*

a tempo

54

Sop.

fin - ished gain._____

Vc.

mp 3 3 3 3

rit.

57

Sop.

Vc.

p *mp* 3 3 3 3 *pp*

Utterance

Twilight Circles

Dismantling in the early hours:

An urgent slideshow screens again.

Obediently spun and

Habitually spinning,

Done and undone.

Flashes through a fractured channel

A theatre of reprise.

Scintillas of doubt gain weight

In the umbra of the mind,

Truth refracted

Reason eclipsed

Done and undone.

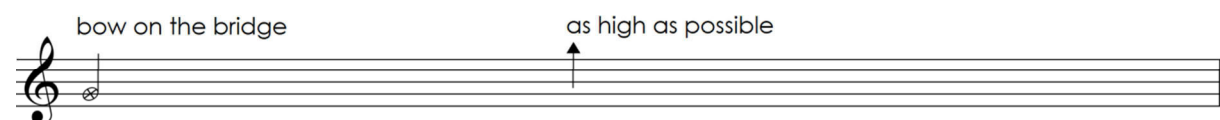
Performance Notes

Half harmonics: Strings half depressed. In bar 7 half harmonics are played as fast as possible along the whole length of the A string.

LP: As long as possible. The duration of the note to take the length of the bow or breath.

UST: Ultra sul tasto. Bowing very high up on the fingerboard for a muffled tone quality.

Noteheads:



Bowing on the bridge: in bars 9-10 begin bowing on the bridge and gradually move the bow into the ordinary position, going from noise to pitch and starting from silence.

Free bars: Vocal rhythms in free bars should be close to natural speech patterns and for both players, durations in free bars are approximate.

Utterance

Samantha Fernando

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 76$ *Anxious* **accel.**

f con forza

Soprano Solo

Truth re - fract - ed Rea - son e - clised Done___ and un - done.

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 76$ *Anxious* **accel.**

Violoncello

f

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of the musical score. It features a Soprano Solo part in treble clef and a Violoncello part in bass clef. Both are in 2/4 time. The tempo is marked as 'c. 76' and 'Anxious'. The Soprano part begins with a forte dynamic 'f con forza' and includes a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics 'Truth re - fract - ed Rea - son e - clised Done___ and un - done.' are written below the notes. The Violoncello part starts with a forte dynamic 'f' and has a few notes before a long rest. An 'accel.' marking with a dotted line is placed above both staves.

2 **A tempo**

S. Solo

A tempo

Vc.

f

6

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of the musical score. The Soprano Solo part has a whole rest. The Violoncello part is in 2/4 time, starting with a forte dynamic 'f' and a sixteenth note. It then has a six-measure rest, indicated by a '6' above the staff, followed by a melodic line. The tempo is marked 'A tempo'.

3 ***f* whispered loudly**

S. Solo

Dis-mant-ling in the earl-y hours: An ur-gent slide-show screens a-gain.

LP

Vc.

f

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of the musical score. The Soprano Solo part has a whole rest. The Violoncello part is in 2/4 time, starting with a forte dynamic 'f' and a half note, followed by a long rest. The lyrics 'Dis-mant-ling in the earl-y hours: An ur-gent slide-show screens a-gain.' are written below the Soprano staff. The tempo is marked 'A tempo'. There is an 'LP' marking above the Violoncello staff.

4

S. Solo

Vc.

agitato

f

6:4

9:6

5

S. Solo

Vc.

| (half harmonics)

6

S. Solo

Vc.

mf *f*

3

3

3

3

3

O - bed - ient - ly spun and ha - bi - tual - ly spinn - ing,

6

6

6

6

6

mf *f*

7 *f* bright hum
mp 3

c. 4 secs

S. Solo

Flash - es through a frac-tured chan-nel (ah)

Vc.

I (half harmonics)

p *f*

8 LP

S. Solo

Vc.

mf espress.

9 *f* whispered loudly

S. Solo

A the-atre of re-prise.

Vc.

LP

p

11

p *espress.*

S. Solo

Scin - til - las of doubt gain weight__

Vc.

(p)

poco meno moso

♩=c.66

14

mf *p* *mf*

S. Solo

__ In the um-bra of the mind,__ Truth__ re-fract-ed Rea-son e- clipsed__

Vc.

mf *p* *mf*

LP

UST

pp

poco meno moso

♩=c.66

18

p

S. Solo

done__ and un - done. Done Undone.

Vc.

colla parte

20

S. Solo

hum

pp

Vc.

5

21

S. Solo

I (half harmonics)

p

Vc.

LP

5

Recollection

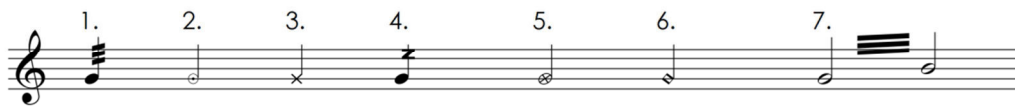
Score in C

Text: *'A panoply of echoes'*

Performance notes:

Dotted line in recorder part denotes overblowing.

Noteheads and markings:



1. Fast double tonguing, sputato
2. Half breath, half pitch
3. Breath only, no pitch
4. Flutter tonguing
5. Partially cover labium to create a softer sound
6. Audible intake of breath
7. Tremolo between two pitches, overblowing as designated to create multiphonic.

Recollection

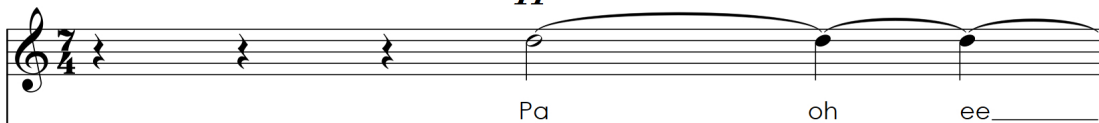
'A panoply of echoes'

Samantha Fernando

♩ = 72 **Spacious**

poco vib.
pp

Mezzo-soprano



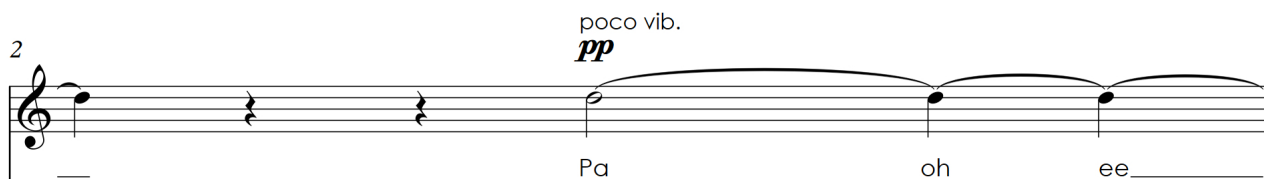
very fast double tonguing, sputato,
Increase tonguing speed with crescendo

C.bass Paetzold Recorder



2

M-S.



poco vib.
pp

Cb. Rec.



3

M-S.



Cb. Rec.



4

M-S. *mf* *sub. p* *mf* *mf* *gliss.*

Pa ay ah ee no

overblow to produce multiphonic with fingering:

0 1
2
3
5
6
7

very fast double tonguing, sputato, Increase tonguing speed with crescendo

Cb. Rec. *p* *mf* *p* *p* *mf* *p*

6

M-S. *ff*

half breath/half tone breath only

no ah!

Cb. Rec. flz. sputato normale

mp *p* *pp*

7

M-S. *f*

a loud whisper with a little pitch

pa no plee co se of no plee co se of pa plee co se of pa no co se

sputato, double tongue, percussive

Cb. Rec. *p*

8

M-S.

of pa no plee se of pa no plee co of pa no plee co se

Cb. Rec.

3 3 3 3

9

M-S.

p *f* *p*

breathy → full tone

pa pa pa pa pa pa pa pa Pa - - no - ply

gliss.

overblow to produce multiphonic with fingering:

0	1
2	
3	
5	
6	
7	

Cb. Rec.

6 6

mf *f* *sfp* *f*

11

M-S.

mf *p*

of e - - - choes

sputato

Cb. Rec.

p *mf* *p* *mp* *p*

