

SONGS ON TEXTS OF RUMI

voice
cello

Margaret McAllister

I. What I want

II. Clear and Still

III. These Two Insomnias

IV. This Candleflame Instant

Dur ~ 12'

The Persian mystic poet Jalal ad-Din Rumi's monumental work the Mathnawi consists of six volumes of 50,000 lines each. Translator Coleman Barks' selected fragments of this work and arranged them into a wonderful book called "A Year of Rumi." I read about Barks' book in an essay by Harold Klemp that quoted these four excerpts out of the Barks' compilation. I chose titles for them.

My understanding is that Rumi is speaking with humor, insight and compassion on the gratitude of the seeker for the spiritual master, the stilling of the mind, the desire for truth, perplexity, misdirected desires, creativity and the continuity of life. MM

I. What I want

Who makes these changes?
I shoot an arrow right.
It lands left.
I ride after a deer
And find myself chased by a hog.
I plot to get what I want
And end up in prison.
I dig pits to trap others
and fall in.
I should be suspicious of what I want

II. Clear and still

There is a path from me to you
That I am constantly looking for

So I try to keep clear and still
As water does with the moon

III. These two insomnias

When I am with you, we stay up all night
When you are not here, I can't go to sleep

Praise God for these two insomnias
And the difference between them.

IV. This candleflame instant

As essence turns to ocean,
the particles glisten

Watch how in this candleflame instant
Blaze all the moments you have lived.

Excerpts from the Mathnawi by Jalal ad-Din ar-Rumi, translations by Coleman Barks
in : A Year of Rumi, Titles by Margaret McAllister

What I want

Score

Agitato, Fast

Jalal ad-Din Rumi
Margaret McAllister

♩ ~ 144

Voice

Cello

mf

5

Vc.

come sopra *mp* Who *crescendo* *mf* makes these

mp *crescendo* *mf*

9

Vc.

chan - ges

mp *crescendo* *mf*

13

Vc.

mp *poco* shoot an a - row

mp *poco*

16

Vc.

right It lands left.

mp *poco*

20

Vc.

I ride af - ter - a

mp *poco*

2 What I want

23

deer and find my-self chased crescendo

Emphatic

27

by a hog *f* I should be sus-pic-ious of what I want

31

Dolce desperate

mp I should be sus - pi - cious of what I want

34

brutale

with resignation

mf Who makes these

39

Dolce desperate

chan - ges *mp* I plot to get what I

44

want and end up in pris - on I dig

48 pits to trap o - thers and fall in *f* I should be sus -

Vc. *f*

52 pi - cous of what I want

Vc. *f*

dolce legatissimo furtive

55 I should be sus - pic - ious of what I want

p sub. *Ad libitum* vary tempo of trill exaggerate. *C*

Vc. *p* sub. *Agitato, Fast* *t.* accented but with the same dynamic

58 *p* Who makes these

Vc. *mp*

61 *accented but still p*

chan - ges *mp* Who *p* Who

Vc. *mp*

68

Vc. *pp*

Clear and Still

Score

Jalal ad-Din ar-Rumi
Margaret McAllister

♩ ~ 112 With humor, gently, like a folk song.

Voice

Ad libitum, quasi guitarra sempre pizz.

mf There is a path from me to you

5 that I am constantly look-ing for so I try I try

Vc.

9 I try *sub mp* to keep clear and still *mf* as

Vc.

13 wa ter does with the moon *p* clear still

Vc.

18 clear still a path from me to you *f* *mf*

22 *mf* There is a path from me to you that I am constantly looking for

22 *mf*

26 so I try I try I try *mp* to keep clear and still

26 *mp*

30 *mf* as water does with the moon

30 *p*

35 *p* clear decres. still clear still

35 *p*

39

39

43 *mf* I try

43 *mf*

Gently wandering and wondering. Introspective. (♩ 100) These two insomnias

Voice

Cello

mf

5

Vc.

mf When I am with you

9

we stay up all night

Vc.

13

mp when I am with you we stay up all night

Vc.

mp

17

mf when you are not here I can't get to sleep. I can't get to sleep when

Vc.

20

tenderly

You are not here

Gently

mf Praise God for

Vc.

24

these two in-som-ni as and the diff erence be tween them

Vc.

27

Tempo

mp When I am with you *p* When I am with you

poco meno

Vc.

30

pp When I am with you

mf

Vc.

34

Praise God *p* Praise God

Vc.

38

Vc.

THIS CANDLEFLAME INSTANT

Jalal ad-Din Rumi
Margaret McAllister

♩ ~60 Reflective

Voice

Cello

mp

6

Vc.

mp Glis ten

8

Vc.

the mo-ments you have lived *mf* as ess ence turns to o-cean

11

Vc.

the par ti cles glisten

17

Vc.

mf Watch *poco* Tempo *mp* watch how in this can-dleflame in-stant *mp*

20

Vc.

p blaze all the mo-ments you have lived *mp*

24

p Ah

p

cresc. poco a poco

s.p. ord

6 7 5 3

3

3

All the mo - ments you have lived

27

lunga

Glis - ten *lunga* All the mo - ments you have lived All the moments

mf *mf*

s.p. ord

mf

3

31

ess ence turns to o - cean

mp

mp

9 3

6

3 3

35

Ad libitum

mm glis ten * *mm* glis ten

Ad libitum

mp

39

mp

3 3 3 3 3 3

morendo

* or nn