ABSTRACT

Title of Dissertation: DISTANT LIGHT: SONGS ON TEXTS BY RICHARD BOADA

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Distant Light: Songs on Texts by Richard Boada is a collection of songs for baritone voice, piano, alto saxophone, and percussion (vibraphone and marimba). The texts do not present a continuous narrative, but they share common themes. Most are set in the rural South and deal with the conflict between nature and industrial development. This piece functions as a cohesive whole, but each song could be performed separately and would be effective out of the context of the entire work.

Distant Light is made up of eight songs and is approximately 23 minutes in duration.
DISTANT LIGHT:
SONGS ON TEXTS BY RICHARD BOADA

by

Robert Edward Collier

Dissertation submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the University of Maryland, College Park in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts 2010

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INSTRUMENTATION

Alto Saxophone
Percussion (Vibraphone, Marimba)
Baritone
Piano

Vibraphone motor always off

Score is at concert pitch

Duration: approximately 23 minutes

All texts by Richard Boada
1 - Cities of the Dead

Alto Saxophone

Marimba

Baritone

Piano

\[ \text{\( \text{\( = 124 \)}} \]
Gall wasps sprout on spongy wood. Their tiny carcasses spread
Alto Sax.

Mar.

Bar.

Pno.

o - pen a-gainst pine grain prism-ing.

Alto Sax.

Mar.

Bar.

Pno.

ff

ff

ff
thrush swirls thin limbs.
They feed here in the
Alto Sax.

Mar.

Bar.

Pno.

munching on larvae
and succulents.
There's so

man y.
2 - Modern Glow

\( j = 76 \)

Alto Saxophone

Vibraphone

Baritone

Piano

90

Alto Sax.

Vib.

Bar.

Pno.

Mis - sis-sip-pi for-ty nine re - sur-fac - es from
clogging winter snow.

Spring's
Alto Sax.

Vib.

Bar.

Pno.

sorbing asphalt.

Night cranes on the hollows and
bogs, pries highway cracks

by millimeters.
Alto Sax.  

Vib.  

Bar.  

Pno.  

117

the gravel, now sprouts like

120

compressed beneath
123
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.

switch grass through the unfrozen

125
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.

road's fault lines.
The un-grounded electric circuits

charge top-soil and flax.
Alto Sax.

Vib.

Bar.

Pno.

spent.

[Musical notation diagram]
3 - The Bell Ringer of Saint Louis Cathedral

\[ \text{\( j = 144 \)} \]

Alto Saxophone

Vibraphone

Baritone

Piano

\[ \text{\( \text{\( mp \)} \)} \]

\[ \text{\( \text{\( legato \)} \)} \]

\[ \text{\( \text{\( Led. \)} \)} \]
Her body recoils...

Like...
whips and sluices

with each clap
207

Alto Sax.

Vib.

Bar.

Pno.

211

Alto Sax.

Vib.

Bar.

Pno.
The menagerie of tongues and crowns jet-ti-sons
Each bell fatigues, cannon after cannon.

can - non   af - ter can - non.
She____ claps to ropes,

bells on pulleys and flat peals
over the square.
She mouths a dull,
4 - Exposed Veins

\( \frac{\text{Alto Saxophone}}{\text{Marimba}} \)
\( \frac{\text{Baritone}}{\text{Piano}} \)
\( \frac{\text{Alto Sax.}}{\text{Mar.}} \)
\( \frac{\text{Bar.}}{\text{Pno.}} \)
305
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.

Fold ing the sun a -

307
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.

cross iced hol - lows,
aspen shadows engrave the gorge.

Cold descends and the
wind busts once taut winter tree bark.

clearing limbs and trunks.
Alto Sax.

Mar.

Bar.

Pno.

320

A-gain

birds

notch

branches

with

beaks,

322

they chip a-way

the frozen primer
cleaning out torpid seeds leaving only sliv-

ers of wal-nut and pine cone shell.
Shocked black boughs grope ice spears that drip in heat, now im-mo-bi-lized.
Night in Kentucky agrees with ice,

each fells the woods and the
Aspish horizon.

Gummed
per trails that wind over each tree.
367
Alto Sax.  
Mar.  
Bar.  
Pno.  

373
Alto Sax.  
Mar.  
Bar.  
Pno.  

What's left

of the woods

Vibraphone
Alto Sax.

Vib.

Bar.

Pno.

re mains

379

380

for the peck -
Teen-age boys with buck-knives

chip initials
into land bridge sandstone.
414

Vib. (mp)

Pno. (mp)

Bar. (mp)

Panned big-leaf magnolias and

417

Vib. (f)

Pno. (mp)

Bar. (mp)

Yel-low buck-eyes spit seeds
against the lichen-covered rock arch.

Ken-tuck y au-gite gouged.
The boys call bird dogs back
to the hollow.

Mouths full

of quail, mud died feathers stuck
to snouts and ears.

Shot-gun shells full of nettles.

The
boys walk chucking acorns into Red River.
446
Vib.

448

Bar.

Pouches stuffed with northern bob-whites.

450
Vib.

Bar.

The covey roosted
near the ground.
6 - Parkway Construction

Morn - ing wants to or - ange the sky.

Head lights squat in fog.
stirs in his
Alto Sax.

Vib.

Bar.

Pno.

---

seat,

---

stretch
Alto Sax.

Vib.

Bar.

es his legs.

Pno.

Alto Sax.

Vib.

Bar.

Pno.
Alto Sax.

Vib.

Bar.

o - pens the win - dows.

Pno.
Alto Sax.

Vib.

Bar.
Cling - mans______Dome______

Pno.
477 clouds

478 like bay - o - nets and blue
Alto Sax.

Vib.

Bar.

Pno.

Traffic

Alto Sax.

Vib.

Bar.

Pno.

stalled for miles
Alto Sax.

Vib.

Bar.

Pno.

and there's no
7 - Falls of the Ohio

\( \text{\textit{Baritone}} \) \( \text{\textit{Piano}} \)

\( j = 108 \)

496

499

\textit{tugboat pulls a barge hauling coal and timber.}
High mud water splits.

The river's locks empty and fill.
Glints in the current.
521

Down - stream

522

the falls of the O - 

524

- - hi - o
expose the patch reef of clams and sponges,
536
Bar.
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{golden} & \quad \text{rods} \\
\end{align*}
\]

539
Bar.
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{and} & \quad \text{stinging} \\
\text{nettles} & \quad \text{wilt}.
\end{align*}
\]

541
Bar.
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{My arm} & \quad \text{shudders and I in-}
\end{align*}
\]
hale the humid air.

suffering from the altitude of this bridge;
flipped a coin into

the Ohio

where Caesar Clay threw his medal.
8 - Trappist, Kentucky

\( \text{Alto Saxophone} \)

\( \text{Marimba} \)

\( \text{Baritone} \)

\( \text{Piano} \)

\( d = 112 \)

561
He hatch-ets hick-o-ry bark into kind-ling

chips, swings axe
side-armed into a cedar,

leaving it clung to the trunk under blue needles.
Church bells

Across country lines
Silt gathers on Salt River's banks

as harried water steals popular leaves from
Geth-sem a-ge's cem e-ter-y.
lime-stoned water boils
in copper vats whisky stills in white oak barrels.
Ryed air tilts, falls on the abbey's
lichened headstones.

November'd come,
like briars prick ing buf-fa-lo on the