Angela Elizabeth Slater

Looking at a Blackbird
for soprano and string quartet

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setting of selection of Wallace Stevens'
'Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird'
(1954)

Prelude to I. Snowy mountains

Agitated and circling ♩ = 86

Soprano

mp — *f*   *lyrical mp*   *f* *p* *f*

When the Black Black-bird   bird flew   ou - t   of sigh - t

Kikiriko

mf   *p* — *f*

I. Snowy mountains

Dark and brooding ♪ = 100

S.

Vln. I

bull dog clip attach to G string

gliss.   *gliss.*   *gliss.*

pp   *p*

Vln. II

jeté half col legno
up the string

S.P.

pp
freely   *sfz*

Vla.

jeté half col legno
up the string

pp
freely

Vc.

Among twen - ty snow - y moun - tains

the on - ly the on-ly mov-ing

Agitated and circling ♩ = 86

II. Three minds

Insistently ♩ = 80

8

Prelude to III. The Pantomime

III. The Pantomime

Repeat first section for 30 seconds

- Soprano can repeat each box as many times as they wish, with or without gaps between boxes and after the first circular iteration, they can be presented in any order in any order. Across the 30 seconds the agitation and intensity should increase until absurdity is reached. Boxes without dynamics should have their dynamics varied each time but generally in keeping with the growing intensity.

- Cello can repeat boxes as many time as they wish, with or without gaps between the boxes and in any order from the first iteration. Across the 30 seconds the intensity should increase in line with the soprano part, reaching a level of absurdity.

VI. Barbaric glass

Dark and unsettling ♩ = **48**

Ic - i-cles   filled   the long   glass___   win dows___   with   bar-ba-ric

The   sha-dow of the black-   bird   Crossed

glass

IX. The Edge

Agitated and circling ♩ = 86

When the Blac-k when the blac_k bird bird flew

out of flew_bla - ck bird flew out of sight