

Angela Elizabeth Slater

Looking at a Blackbird
for soprano and string quartet

PERUSAL SCORE

Looking at a Blackbird

Angela Elizabeth Slater

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. 1

Vln. I *gliss.* *pp* *gliss.* *p* *gliss.*

Vln. II *jeté half col legno up the string* *pp* *freely* *S.P.* *sfz* *jeté half col legno up the string*

Vla. *pp* *freely*

Vc. *pp* *freely*

4 **A** *mp* *mf*

S. Among twen - ty snow - y moun - tains

Vln. I *gliss.* *pp* *jeté half col legno up the string*

Vln. II *nat.* *bull dog clip attach to G string* *gliss.* *mp*

Vla. *nat.* *S.P.* *sfz* *S.P.* *mp*

Vc. *fp*

8 *accel.* *mf* *f*

S. the on - ly the on - ly mov - ing

Vln. I *nat.* *accel.* *S.P.* *nat.* *f* *mp*

Vln. II *gliss.* *gliss.* *fp* *p* *f* *p* *jeté half col legno up the string*

Vla. *f* *mf* *p* *mf* *f* *p* *jeté half col legno up the string* *nat.*

Vc. *fp* *fp* *ttr* *S.P.* *f*

Prelude to II. Three minds

Agitated and circling ♩ = 86

mp *f* *mp* *f* *fp*

S. When the Blac-k when the blac__ k bird bird flew

Perc. ricochet jeté battuto

Vln. I *f* *p* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

S. ³ flew ah out - t out of sight

Perc. *p* *f*

Vln. I nat. II M.S.P. pizz. *mf* *pp* *fp* *f*

II. Three minds

¹ Insistently ♩ = 80 *mp* *mf*

S. I was of three

Vln. I arco ⁵ *p* *fp* S.P. ³ nat. ricochet ^{6.} of nat. ³ *mp* *f* *p*

Vln. II

Vla.

8

S. *f* *fp* *mf* *mf*

minds minds I

S.P. nat

Vln. I *fp* *mf* *fp* *mf* *pp* *mp*

Vln. II *mf* *p* *fp* *mp* S.P. nat. S.P.

Vla.

7

S. (non.dim, non.cres) *insistent* *sim.*

was of three of three

Vln. I

Vln. II nat. *gliss.*

Vla. *mp*

10

S. *f* *B* (birdsong) *mp*

three minds ah

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II S.P. nat. S.P.

Vla.

Prelude to III. The Pantomime

Agitated and circling ♩ = 86

S. *mp* < *f* *mp* < *p* < *f* *gruff* *p* *daintly* *mp*
the black_ ah_ bird flew out of sigh - t black_ ah bir - d flew

Perc. *mp* *mf* *p*

Vln. I *arco* *f* *nat.* *mp* *M.S.P.* *fp* *p*

Vla. *arco* *fp* *mp* *fp* *pizz* *p*

5 S. *f* < *mp* < *pp*
out of flew_ bla - ck bird_ flew out of sight

Perc. *mf*

Vln. I *mf* > *p* *S.P.*

Vla. *arco* *mf* > *mp* < *pp*

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.

1

accel.

Soprano part lyrics: the Blackbird, Kikiriko, whirl - ed, in the autumn wind

Cello part instructions: pizz, gliss, arco, pizz, S.P.

Dynamics: *mf*, *ff*, *pp*, *f*, *fp*, *mf*, *ff*, *pp*

Agitated ♩ = 86

2

Soprano part lyrics: it was a small part

Cello part instructions: pizz., nat., M.S.P.

Dynamics: *fpp*, *f*, *fpp*, *f*, *p*, *mf*, *fp*, *f*, *p*

VI. Barbaric glass

Dark and unsettling $\text{♩} = 48$

S. *mp* *f* *mf*
1 Ic-i-cles filled the long glass win dows with bar-ba-ric
harshly

Vln. I *ppp* *mf* S.P. *pp* *mf*
Vln. II *ppp* *mf* S.P. *pp* *mf*
Vla. *ppp* *mf* *pp* *mf*
Vc. *pp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *mf* *pp* *mf*

S. *f* *mp* *mf* *mp*
6 glass The sha-dow of the black- bird Crossed

Vln. I *fpp* *p* *mp* *pp* S.P.
Vln. II *fpp* *p* *mp* *pp* S.P.
Vla. *fpp* *pp* *mp* S.T. 3 *p*
Vc. *fpp* S.T. *p* 3

IX. The Edge

Agitated and circling ♩ = 86

mp *f* *mp* *f* *p* *f*

S. When the Blac-k when the blac__ k bird bird flew

Perc. *f* *mp*

Vln. I *mf* *p* *mf* *f* *jeté battuto*

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

3 *mp* *f* *p* *f* *f* *mp* *pp*

S. out of flew bla - ck bird_____ flew out of sight

Perc. *f*

Vln. I *p* *mf sub. p* *mf* *p* S.P. nat. S.P.

Vln. II

Vla. *p* *mf* *sub. p* *mf* *mp* *pp* arco S.P. nat. S.P. nat.

Vc.