

Many thanks to Fergus Hall and Lea Shaw for commissioning this work. The project was funded by Creative Scotland and premiered on the 21st of January 2026. Thanks to Lea Shaw for being patient with me and being a wonderful singer to write for.

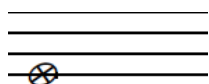
Performance Notes:

Free Sections



This is for both performers: *In the free section the rhythms of notes are ambiguous while the pitches remain fixed. The order of the pitches should remain the same, while the length of the notes is up to the performer's discretion. Shorter pitches are filled in, while longer pitches are hollow (resembling a minim or semi-breve). This is merely a guide that should be adopted loosely by both performers. **The most important task is to listen to one another.***

Vocal Fry



vocal fry

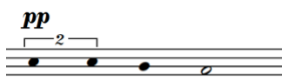
For singer only: *Break into chest voice at speech range. Find the humanity in this sound.*

Vibrato

For singer only: *You can add vibrato at your discretion, though some sections are marked with "vib." to prompt a wider more pronounced vibrato. It should still feel natural to you.*

Movement

move out of the shadows and
walk towards where audience
can see you



call - ing you home

For singer only: *There are some movement directions on the score as seen depicted above. The piece begins with the singer off-stage, but still in audible range. Just before section A, you emerge out of the shadows and assumes a position in which you can be visually perceived by the audience as well as the pianist. At the end of the piece, you move back into the shadows, humming to yourself*

Emotive Descriptors

urgency, frustration -
you are drowned out



blood,

This is for both performers: *There are emotive descriptors in **bold** throughout that should guide the mood of the piece. Feel free to embody physically and mentally.*

Perspectives

For singer only: *You will find some prompts that invite you to switch perspectives and sing to either yourself or to your lover, who you have lost and cannot reach. This is to prompt slight vocal changes from "performative" to something more inwardly and intimate with yourself.*

Piece structure

Singer: off-stage | Pianist: On-stage ||

Singer: hums and then stops | Pianist starts to play when humming stops ||

both engage in guided improv ||

follow descriptors as well as notation ||

Singer: moves to free material in boxes | Pianist: plays until the end with a degree of freedom ||

Singer: moves off stage || end.

The libretto was written by **Hannah Ingeborg**, *thank you for your words and friendship.*

crotchet = 120

you are off-stage for this bit, the audience can hear you,
but has to try hard to locate your voice

hum or "ooo" to yourself (solo) and abruptly stop

these two notes should be
the same length

Mezzo Soprano

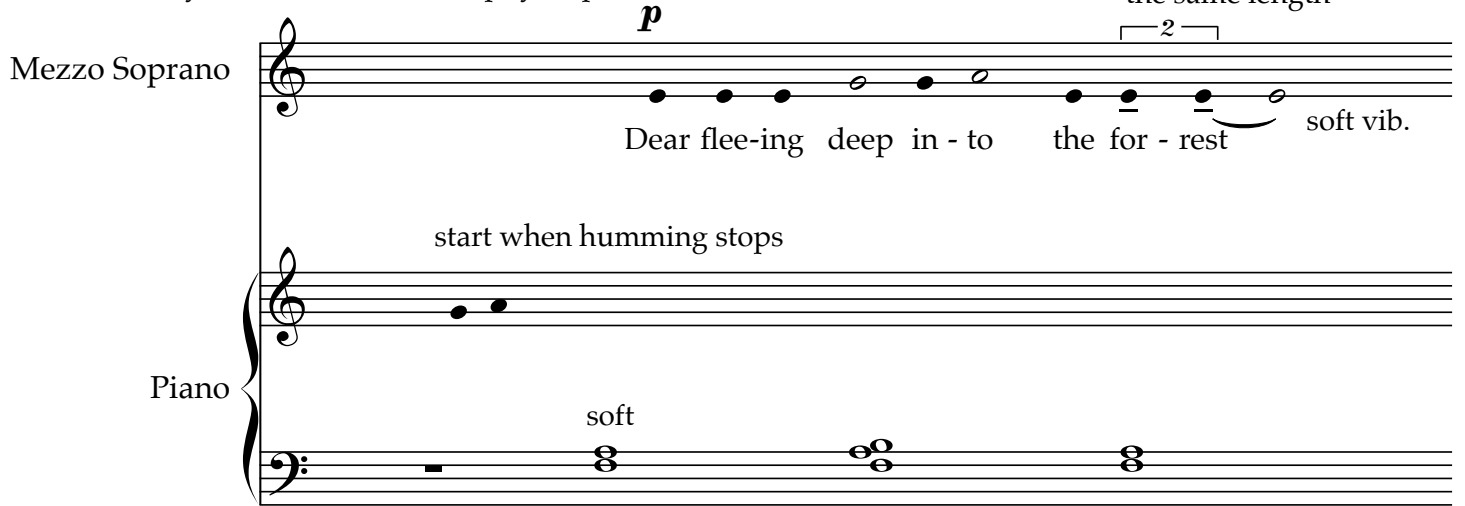
p

Dear flee-ing deep in - to the for - rest soft vib.

Piano

start when humming stops

soft



Mezz.

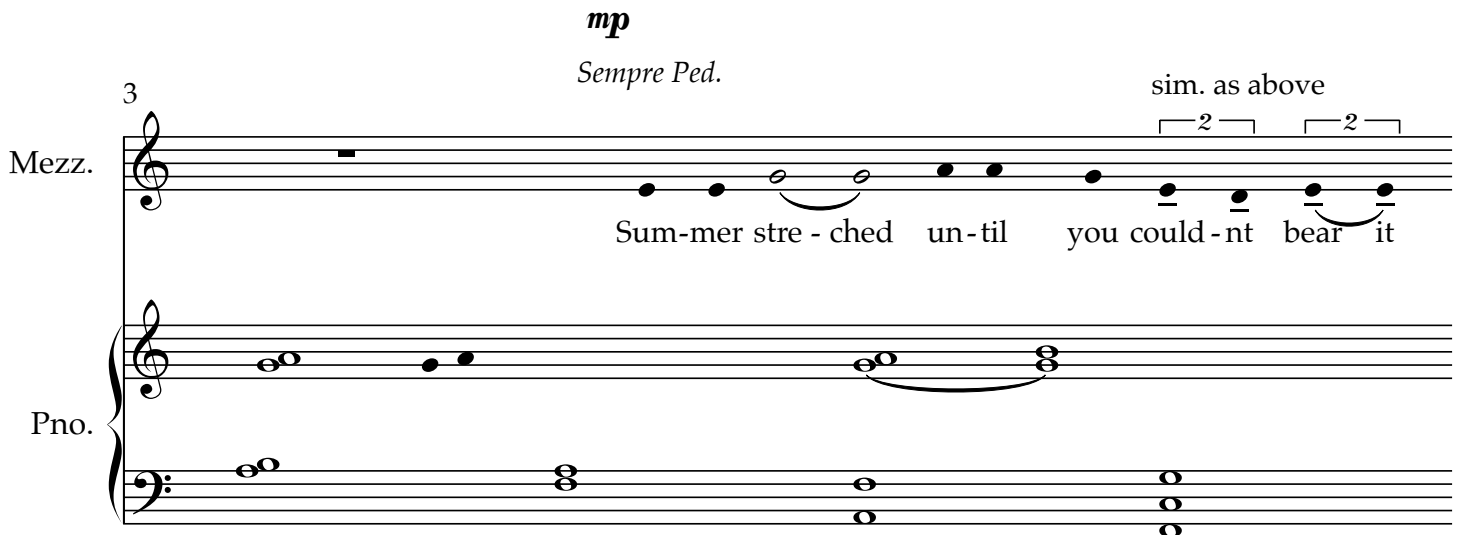
mp

Sempre Ped.

Sum-mer stre - ched un-til you could - nt bear it

Pno.

sim. as above



Mezz.

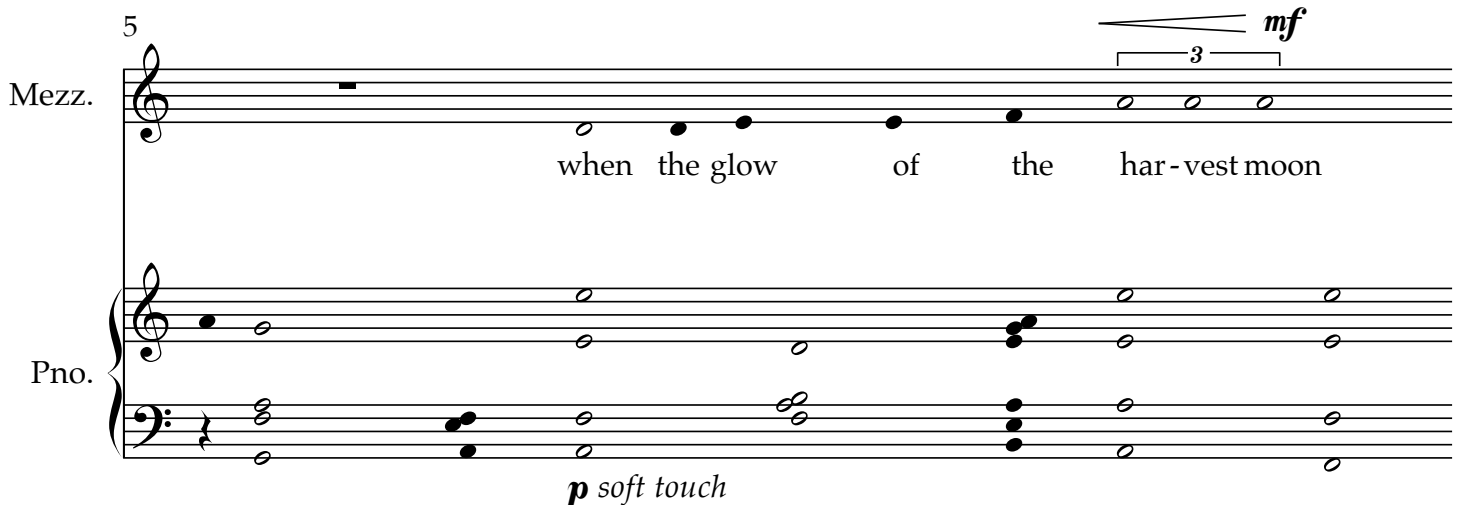
5

when the glow of the har - vest moon

Pno.

p soft touch

mf



move out of the shadows and
walk towards where audience
can see you

7 **f** *pp* *mf*

Mezz. rose o - ver the heath cal - ling you home cal - ling you home

Pno. *mf*

10 **A** *p*

Mezz. cal - ling you to the

Pno. *mp*

let go of pedal *mp* let each chord ring

15 **f** allow voice to break (nearly a vocal fry)

Mezz. earth ben - eath

Pno.

The musical score is written for Mezz. (Mezzo-soprano) and Pno. (Piano). The Mezz. part has three systems of music. The first system (measures 7-9) has lyrics 'rose o - ver the heath cal - ling you home cal - ling you home'. It starts with a forte (f) dynamic, followed by piano-piano (pp) for 'cal - ling' and mezzo-forte (mf) for 'you home'. There are slurs over the 'cal - ling' and 'you home' phrases. The second system (measures 10-12) has lyrics 'cal - ling you to the'. It starts with a piano (p) dynamic. The third system (measures 15-17) has lyrics 'earth ben - eath'. It starts with a forte (f) dynamic and includes the instruction 'allow voice to break (nearly a vocal fry)'. The Pno. part also has three systems. The first system (measures 7-9) has a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic and long horizontal lines indicating sustained chords. The second system (measures 10-12) has a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic and includes the instruction 'let go of pedal'. The third system (measures 15-17) continues the accompaniment. The score is in 3/4 time and ends with a double bar line.

21 **B** don't be too precise
mf with urgency
 Mezz. the ber-ries turned red on the ho o - ly tree

B
 don't let ring
 Pno. *mp*
less pedal, more rhythmic

26
 Mezz. your voice car-ried by - y - y red wings com

Pno.

32
 Mezz. ing to feast on the blood red fruit the bark that gave us wo-

f
feeble, whispery, hopeless
pp

C
 Pno.

38

Mezz.

mp

mf gentle

man took her too

Pno.

mf gentle

45

Mezz.

2

mf

spiraling with disbelief

red thread and

Pno.

50

Mezz.

row - an wo - ven wo - ven by hu - man hands

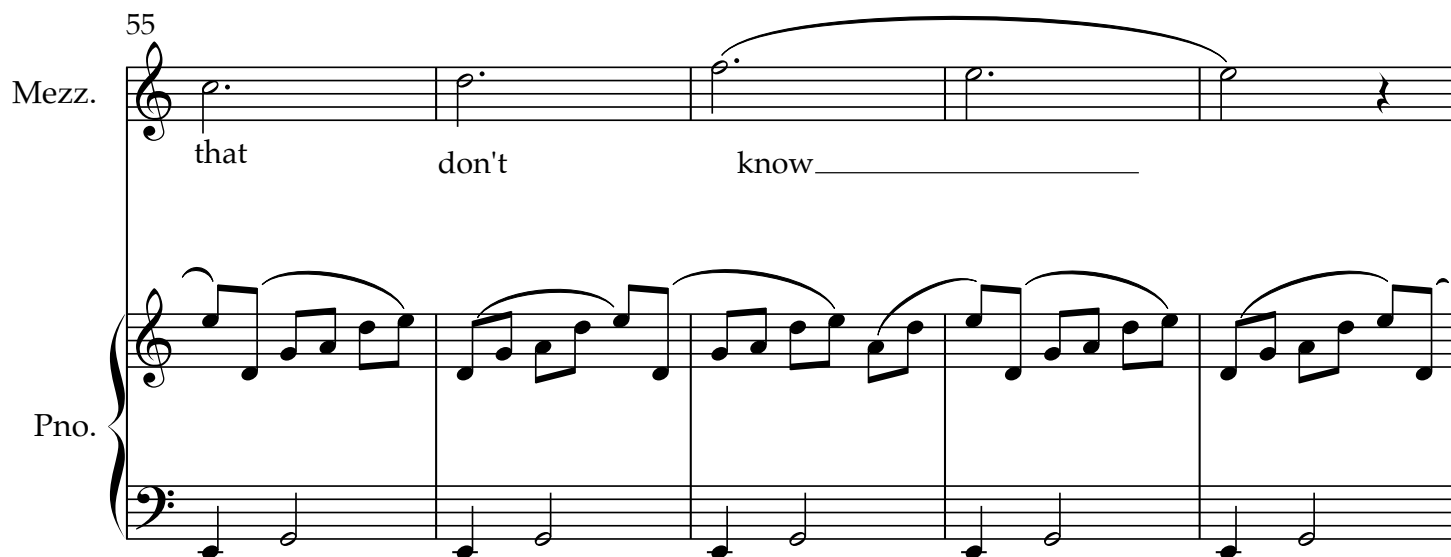
Pno.

55

Mezz.

that don't know_____

Pno.



60

Mezz.

f *vib.*

you were made to be swathed

Pno.



65

Mezz.

vib.

in soft moss___ and wild flow - ers___

Pno.



70

Mezz.

mist - y wo man of the moors

Pno.

75

Mezz.

mp
the red-wings

Pno.

p

80

Mezz.

fall si - lent and your voice stills too. Frost on what was kissed

Pno.

rit. (you lead the pianist's tempo here)

85

Mezz. by mor - ning drew. blood slows in the beast as brum - a tion

Pno.

rit

90

Mezz. *f* be - gins__ *p* wa ter stands so-lid and light is far and slow *mf*

Pno. *a tempo* gentle, like a still pond

use pedal to let each note and chord ring out

mp

97

Mezz. *pp* between the teeth When the moors fall qui-et and the on - ly sound Is the

Pno. *ppp* *pp*

103

Mezz. pine nee-dles rust-ling, old bark creak-ing A stir in my

Pno. *< mf*

109 *mf* *into chest voice sfz* *mf* *you sing for her*

Mezz. heart and I fol-low it down past the

Pno. *mp*

115

Mezz. ic - y stream— rough lich - en un - der feet

Pno. *p*

you sing for yourself again
gentle with anticipation

123

Mezz.

pp

fal - ling_

Pno.

130

Mezz.

mf ***p***

in - to_ fal - ling in to

Pno.

transition into Sprechgesang / chest voice

136 *gentle gliss vib.* **f** **E**

Mezz. the se -

Pno. **E** urgency, suppressed anger **mp**

142 Sprechgesang through the teeth, guttural, chest voice
you may allow voice to crack **mp**

Mezz. a wa - ter

Pno.

145

Mezz. chu - ning - chur - ning

Pno. *sim.* *sim.*

intensity rises through the chest

148

Mezz. *mf* *f*

Foam, spit-ting spit - ting

Pno. *mf*

head voice, sprechgesang comes to an end. No longer sing through teeth.

151

Mezz. *f*

Gulls, Shriek - ing weep - ing

Pno. *f*

through the teeth, guttural, chest voice
allow voice to crack at ff

154

Mezz. *mp*

gan-nets di -

Pno. *mp*

Plosive,
go with your own heartbeat rising

157 *ff*

Mezz. *gliss.*

ving tum - bling Blood, p-ound -

Pno. *mf*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 157, 158, and 159. The Mezz. part begins with a glissando on a whole note, followed by a half note, and a quarter note. The Pno. part has a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes. Dynamics include ff and mf.

urgency, frustration -
you are drowned out

160 *ff* *mp*

Mezz. ing thum - ping Blood,

Pno. *f*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 160, 161, and 162. The Mezz. part starts with a half note, then a quarter note, and a half note. The Pno. part continues with a complex rhythmic pattern. Dynamics include ff, mp, and f.

163 *p*

Mezz. Tears,

Pno.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 163, 164, and 165. The Mezz. part has a half note, a quarter note, and a half note. The Pno. part continues with a complex rhythmic pattern. Dynamics include p.

166

Mezz. *p* Blood, *p* Tears *f*

Pno. *mp*

gliss.

169

Mezz. *mp* teem - ing you

Pno. *p*

p

172

Mezz. *rit.* *ppp* ben - eath me sin - ing - ing

Pno. *pp*

pp

F

pick each box in any order and improvise with the material until piece end. Pause when you need.

177

slow, drawn out "hmm" *mp*

more melodic "oohh" *mf*

lament "ahh" *mp*

p

Mezz. can you hear her sing? is it all in my head?

vocal fry

Pno. *mp*

play each chord once then move on until metered section

mp

181

keep improvising
Into another's voice

Mezz.

Pno.

190

Mezz.

Pno.

197 Move back into the shadows Your voice rings clear.

Mezz.

Pno.

p

pp

Let ring

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff, labeled 'Mezz.', contains seven measures of whole rests. The bottom staff, labeled 'Pno.', contains seven measures of piano accompaniment. The first measure has a piano (*p*) dynamic. The second measure has a piano (*p*) dynamic. The third measure has a piano (*p*) dynamic. The fourth measure has a piano (*p*) dynamic. The fifth measure has a piano (*pp*) dynamic. The sixth measure has a piano (*pp*) dynamic. The seventh measure has a piano (*pp*) dynamic. The instruction 'Let ring' is written above the final piano chord in the seventh measure.