

WE BOTH WILL DIE THEN, BEAST

for baritone and piano.

Words by
Josh Gibson

Music by
Bennett Luo

WE BOTH WILL DIE THEN, BEAST (2024)

For baritone and piano.

Words by Josh Gibson (2002-). Composed by Bennett Luo (2003-).

Duration: ca. 3'30".

PROGRAMME NOTES

I interpreted Josh's poem as the struggle between the speaker and an inner conflict, the "beast". The juxtaposition of perceived lengths emphasizes the significance of this conflict to the speaker. As the conflict intensifies, the speaker's desire for liberation becomes more and more desperate. Having been blessed with the opportunity to work with such a dramatic poem, I tried to use a lot of word painting to better translate the text into music.

IN the DARKNESS of MY ROOM

Josh Gibson

An instant. ∞

Shorter than most, longer than I've ever
endured. —————>

It is choking the air from my lungs.

I am PARALYZED... ✱

A greedy gulp of air does nothing but fuel the fiery beast lazing on my chest,
compressing my oxygen into useless pucks of final breath.

We both will die then, beast.

Choke and die, you useless piece of self.

Blissful darkness... ✧

I WAKE

just another nightmare then....

WE BOTH WILL DIE THEN, BEAST

Josh Gibson

Bennett Luo

Adagietto ♩ = 72

mf

Baritone

An

Piano

legato
Red.

3

ins - - tant.

Shor - ter than most, _____

lon -

5

- - ger than I have e - ver en - dured. _____

sempre legato

mf

8

Musical score for measures 8-9. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 5/4. The score is written for a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a whole rest in measure 8 and a half note in measure 9. The piano accompaniment features a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand of measure 8, a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand of measure 8, and a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand of measure 9.

10

Musical score for measures 10-11. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 5/4. The score is written for a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has the lyrics "It is cho - king, it's cho - king the" and features a triplet of eighth notes in measure 10 and a triplet of eighth notes in measure 11. The piano accompaniment features a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand of measure 10 and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand of measure 10.

12

Musical score for measures 12-13. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 5/4. The score is written for a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has the lyrics "air from my lungs!" and features a triplet of eighth notes in measure 12 and a triplet of eighth notes in measure 13. The piano accompaniment features a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand of measure 12 and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand of measure 12.

15 *mp*

The musical score is for a vocal and piano piece. The vocal line is in the bass clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 5/4 time. It begins with a rest, followed by a melodic phrase starting on D4, moving down to A3, then up to B3, C4, D4, E4, F#4, G4, and A4. The lyrics 'I am paralyzed...' are written below the notes. The piano accompaniment consists of three staves. The left hand plays a series of chords in the bass clef, while the right hand plays a series of chords in the treble clef. The tempo is marked 'mp' (moderato piano). The score ends with a double bar line and a 3/4 time signature.

I am pa - ra - lyzed...

18 **rall.**.....Più mosso *mp*

A gree - dy gulp of air does

sempre legato

sub. p

22

no - thing but fuel the fi - e - ry beast la - zing on my

This musical score is for a song. It features a vocal line in the bass clef and a piano accompaniment in the grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has four sharps (F#, C#, G#, D#). The first system is in 4/4 time and contains the lyrics 'no - thing but fuel the fi - e - ry beast'. The second system is in 3/4 time and contains the lyrics 'la - zing on my'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes, with some triplets in the first system.

25

f *mp*

chest. Gree - dy gulp of air, com-

p

8ba

29

pres - sing my ox - y - gen in - to use - less plucks of fi - nal

cresc.

32

f *mf*

breath. We both will die then, beast.

mp *f* *mp*

36 *mf* *f*

choke and die! Die you use - less piece of self,

40 *rit.*.....*a tempo**accel.*..... *ff*

— you use - less piece of self!

42

44 *rit.*.....

46 *Lento* ♩ = 63 *p* *molto accel.*.....

Bliss - ful dark - ness.....

52

61 *ff* *speak* **Riten.** **a tempo** *p*

I WAKE! Just a - no - ther

ff *tap* *pedal*

68

night-mare then...

pp dim.

3 3 3

71

morendo