

Canticle III

Still falls the Rain

★ Words by
EDITH SITWELL

The Raids, 1940. Night and Dawn

Music by
BENJAMIN BRITTEN
Op. 55

THEME

Slow and distant (♩ = 48)

Musical score for Canticle III, 'Still falls the Rain'. The score is in 5/4 time and consists of three systems. The first system includes Tenor, Horn (Actual notes), and Piano. The second system includes Horn and Piano. The third system includes Horn and Piano. The music features various dynamics such as ppp, mf, pp, cresc., dim., and p dim., along with performance markings like 'heavily' and 'actual notes'. The key signature changes from B-flat major to B-flat minor and then to B-flat major again. The score includes many accidentals and articulation marks.

* Poem from "The Canticle of the Rose" by courtesy of the publishers, Macmillan & Co. Ltd.

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VERSE I

Free recitative* (♩ = about 72)

Voice *p*

Still falls..... the..... Rain..... Dark..... as the world of..... man,

Voice *louder* *with force*

black..... as our loss - Blind..... as the nine-teen

cresc.

Voice *dim.*

hundred and for-ty nails Up - on the Cross.....

sf *dim.* *pp*

*In the recitative the semiquavers are always equal in length; the square brackets indicate the stresses only.

VARIATION I

Gently moving ($\text{♩} = 68$)

Horn

pp *cresc.*

($\text{♩} = 68$)

pp *cresc.*

(no Ped)

Horn

(*p*)

(*mf*) *f*

Horn

mf *pp dim.*

dim. *pp*

Horn

VERSE II

p Free recitative

Voice: Still falls..... the.... Rain..... With a sound like the pulse of the

Voice: heart (with piano) that is changed.... to the hammer-beat In.... the (recit.)

(in previous tempo)

Voice: Pot-ter's Field, (with piano) and the sound of the im-pious feet..... (with piano) dim.

(in previous tempo) (in previous tempo)

cresc. *sf*

VARIATION II
Moderately quick (♩ = 104)

Voice: On..... the Tomb:.....
very smooth

Horn: *pp* *pp*

Piano: *pp* *p (never tremolando)*

Horn: *cresc.*

Piano: *cresc.* *f*

Horn: *f* *pp dim.*

Piano: *dim.* *pp*

Horn: *pp*

VERSE III

Free recitative

Voice *p* Still falls..... the... Rain.....
 (with piano) (recit.) In the Field of Blood.....
 (in previous tempo)

Voice (with piano) (recit.)
 where the small hopes breed.....
 (in previous tempo)

Voice (with piano) (recit.) *p*
 and the hu-man brain Nur - - tures its greed,..
 (in previous tempo)

Voice (with piano) (recit.) *pp* (with piano)
 that worm..... with the brow of Cain.....
 (in previous tempo) (in previous tempo) *pp*

VARIATION III

Lively (♩ = 152)

Horn

pp *pp* *poco* *pp*

Horn

pp *pp cresc.* *pp* *pp*

Horn

dim. *cresc.* *ff*

Horn

dim. *pp* (Ped.)

VERSE IV

Free recitative (with piano) (recit.) (with piano)

voice Still falls..... the... Rain.....

(in previous tempo) (previous tempo)

pp p

(♭) (♭) (♭)

(♯) (♯)

Impassioned (♩. = 60)

voice At the feet of the Starved Man hung upon the Cross. Christ that each day, each

f

voice night, nails there, have mer - - - - cy on..... us -

ff p

voice On Di-ves and on La-za-rus:.....

(in previous tempo)

p

Free recitative

voice Un-der the Rain the sore and the gold..... are as one.....

pp

(♭) (♭)

VARIATION IV

Quick and agitated (♩ = 112) (brassed until ♯)

Horn

fp (*trem.*) *f* *fp* *f*

♩

Horn

fp *f* *fp* *f* *p cresc.* *cresc.*

♩

Horn

trem. *ff* *sf* *f* *dim.* *fp* *fp*

♩

Horn

fp *p dim.* *rall. pp*

♩

VERSE V

Free recitative

p Still falls..... the.... Rain—..... *(with piano)* *f* *b* (recit.) Still..... falls....

(with piano) (recit.) the..... Blood..... from the Starved Man's woun - ded Side:

(in previous tempo)

Agitated (imitate Var. IV) *mf cresc.*

He bears in His Heart all wounds —

mf cresc.

those of the light that died, The last faint spark In the self-murdered

fp

Voice heart, the wounds of the sad un - com - pre - hend - ing

Voice dark, The wounds of the bait - ed bear —

Voice slow recit. pp The blind and weep - ing bear whom the keep - ers

Voice beat... On his help - less flesh... the tears of the hun - ted hare.

VARIATION V

March-like (♩ = 108)

Horn

ff heavy *ff*

ff heavy *sf* *ff*

Horn

ff *ff*

sf *ff* *sf* *ff*

Horn

ff

sf *f cresc.* *ff*

Horn

dim. *pp*

dim. *pp*

VERSE VI

Free recitative

ppp

Voice *p*
 Still falls..... the..... Rain —..... Then—

(*pp*) (in previous tempo) (in previous tempo)

Voice *ff declaimed*
 O Ile leape up to my God: who.. pulles me doune— See, see where Christ's

Voice (with piano)
 blood streames in the firm-a-ment:

(*pp*) (in previous tempo)

Voice (recit.) *pp sung* (with piano)
 It flows from the Brow we nailed up-on the tree

(*pp*) (in previous tempo)

(recit.)
pp
 Voice: Deep..... to the dy - ing,..... to the thirst - ing heart.....
 (as before)
 (as before)

(with piano)
 Voice: That holds the fires... of the world —
 (as before)
 (pp)

(recit.) (with piano) (recit.)
pp
 Voice: dark-smirched with pain..... As Cae - sar's laurel crown.....
 (as before) (as before)

long pause
 Voice:
 rallentando - 8
 (pppp)

VARIATION VI

Slowly as at the start (♩ = 48)

p simply

Voice

Then sounds the voice of One who like the heart of man

Horn

muted

p

Voice

Was once a child who a-mong beasts has lain—

Horn

Voice

clearly (always *p*)

'Still do I love, still shed my in-nocent light, my Blood, for thee.'

Horn

(*p*) (always *p*)

pp

*

Aldeburgh. Nov. 27. 1954