The Sun Waited for Me

Ted Kooser

1. The sky hangs thin and wet

Meditatively ♩ = 80

2020

11
11
mp
13
13
mp
A deer
Ped.
15
3
of gray va - por steps through the
15

17
mp
fore - - - ground,
Un - der the
19
3
drip - ping,
li - chen - rust - ed
21
trees.
23
decresc.

25
p
Half - way
8va
25
p
28
3
a - cross the next field,
28
30
3
3
The dis - tance (or can that be the
30

32
fu - ture?)
is sealed up in tin like an
8va
32
36
old barn.
8va
36
p
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

2. The Pale Gray Road

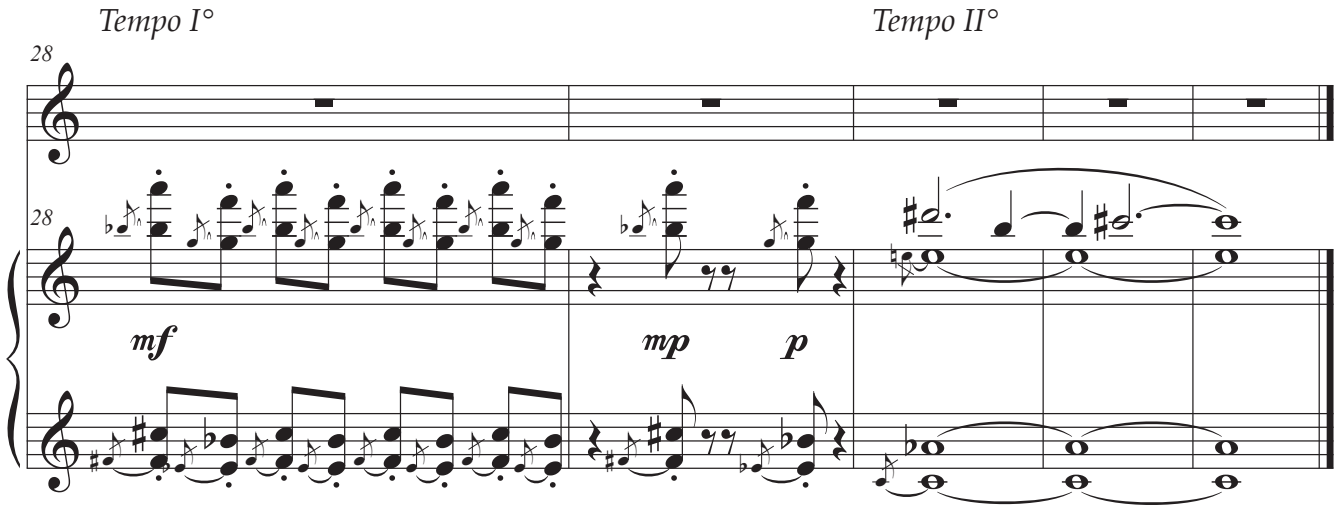
Allegretto ♩= 108

Poco andante ♩= 72

Tempo I°

10
mf
3
A rab - bit runs a - head,
10
Tempo II°
12
mp
3
3
then stops at the edge of the sound of my
12
p
Tempo I°
15
mf
foot - steps, then
15
mf

Tempo II°
mp
18
runs a - head and stops a - gain,
p
20
trem - bling in dark - ness
3
24
3
3
on the cold out-er rim of the pre - sent.


Tempo I°
Tempo II°
28
28
mf
mp
p

3. The Cold Finds Its Way

Poco allegro ♩. = 132

8
by rid - ing nails,
10
com - mon ten - pen - ny
12
poco f
nails through a wall so packed with in - su -
mf

14
la - tion
it would - n't ad -
16
mit a sin - gle quar - ter -
18
2
note from the wind's

20
so - pra - no so - lo.
20
22
mf
Yet
22
mp
24
you can touch this
24

26
so - lid wall and feel the i - cy
28
spots where the nails have
30
car - ried the out - side al - most

32
in - to the house,
32
34
ni - ckel - sized spots like the
34
36
poco f
fros - ty tips of fin - gers,
36
mf

38
più f
gro - ping,
40
mf
and you can i - ma - gine
mp
42
the face of the cold,

44
all
wreathed
in
fly - ing
46
hair,
its
long
fin - gers
48
spread,
its
thin
blue

50
lips pressed in - to the in -
2
52
dif - fe - rent ear of the si - ding,
54
p
whis - per - ing
p

57
some - thing
not one of us in side
57
60
can
hear.
60
63
63
decresc.
pp

4. Only a Crust of Moon is Left

16
what with our fros - ty pic - nic ta - ble
16
Poco più mosso ♩= 80
20
cresc.
mf
so hea-vi-ly la-den with stars.
20
mf
25
25

29
29
decresc.
p
3

5. A Round Hay Bale

7
shoul - - ders, hud - dled,
9
bound tight - ly by
11
sky blue ny - lon twine.

13
p
3
Just so I a - woke this
13
p
16
morn - - - - - ing,
16
17
f
wrapped in fear.
17

20
mf
Oh, red plas - tic
20
mf
23
3
flag on a stick
23
25
stuck in - to loose gra - vel,
25

27
dri - ven o - ver, snapped
29
3
off, propped up a - gain and a -
31
f
gain, give
poco f

33
3
3
me your cou - - - rage.
33
35
35
f
38
38
mf

40
40

6. I Was Alive and Looking

Allegro moderato ♪. = 92; ♪ = 138

14
mf
rec - tion when
14
mf
18
hun - dreds of star - - - lings
18
21
were perched on the
21

24
f
mf
sky,
or so it
poco f
mf
28
seemed,
though
32
they were real - ly sprink - led all o - ver

36
the a - lu - mi-num roof of a
36
39
mp
barn
that in fog
39
p
43
was sky,
the
43

47
co - lor and wet - ness of
47
50
sky.
50
mp
54
54

58
mp
They made a noise like
58
62
wa - ter drip - ping as they pecked
62
66
at the slip - per-y gray,
66

70
mf
but on - ly for the in - stant
70
mf
73
in which I was to be their
73
77
p
wit - ness. For then,
77
decresc.
p

Slower ♩= 60
81
with - out a sound, both sky and roof went blank, and clean - ly
84
se - pa - rate, and ev - 'ry bird was gone.
Tempo I° ♪. = 92; ♪ = 138
87
p

92
92

7. How Important It Must Be

11
the sun stood right at the end of the road and wait - ed for
11
Più andante ♩= 80
15
me.
15
mf
19
19

March-April, 2020