

M

Trevor Hold

A BOOK OF BEASTS

songcycle for high voice and piano

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THE MUSIC CENTRE,
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AH

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to the memories of Ted and Peter

~~1st perf. given by John Potter and the composer, University of Leicester~~

19/2/1986

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A BOOK OF BEASTS

songcycle for high voice and piano

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DURATION : c 14 minutes

written: March - June 1984

1. LARKS

voice

f

3:2 3:2

To-day the fields are an aer - o - drome bu - sy with

Jubilantly: $\text{♩} = 126$

piano

f *sfmf* (with voice) *f* *mf*

tr. $\hat{a}(\hat{e})$ tr.

Red sustaining pedal throughout

larks. *mf*

A - long ... furrowed run - ways ... they taxi and take

f *sfmf* *sfmf* (*sim.*)

tr. $\hat{a}(\hat{e})$ *sfmf*

off like mi - i - ture air - craft, the air noi - sy with their singing: ...

f *sfmf* *sfmf* (*sim.*)

tr.

3:2 *mf*

they rise singing, de - scend singing, ...

mp

7:8 9:8 9:8

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mp flutter in mid-air singing, ... *mp cresc.* e-ven perch on

(Ped.)

mf clouds sing-ing, *mf* un-til the ear is numbed and dazzled ...

cresc. gradually

f ... the world ... one cease less

lark-song ...

brilliantly *ff* (lv.)

* (ped. off)



2. DOG, CAT AND VOLE

short *f*
 Dog ... and ... cat:

Rhetorically: ♩ = c 120

f *f*
 Ped. * Ped. * Ped. (sim.)

... compare ... the different ways they hunt a vole hid- den in a

f *f* *f*
 Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

woodpile. Dog: ... blows ... down ... the hole, puffing and snorting like a

Hold back at first (♩ = c 100) then speed up
f *f* (heavily) *mf*
 Ped. *

fier - y dra - gon, And ... headless of fall - ... ing logs ...

rall. - - - || Hold back again - - - speed up - - -

... scrat - ches furib - ly ... to dig the poor crea - ture

Very fast

mf
cresc.

out. Whist Cat:

Slow and stealthy: $\text{♩} = 66$

f
p
Ped. *

plays a game of nerves, waits quietly ... for its victim to e-merge, then, when the vole can

Ped. * Ped. Ped. Ped.

sland the tension no longer and rushes out, ... pain - ces!

Speed up - - - - In time again

slight cresc. (f) [OVER]

ff
f
cresc.
Ped. *

3 HARE

13 12 13 12

Just ... watch that moon-struck pair! ...

Eccentricity: ♩ = c 120 (♩: 240)

mf

10 10 8 4

They run ... in tandem, linked ... like rail-way tracks,

mf mp mf mp mf

Red. * Red. * Red. *

10 7 7 (f)

follow each other each swoon and curve of the way, stopping together,

mf mp mf mp

Red. * Red. *

2 2 2 2

con- tin- u- ing to- gether, caught ... up ... in a strange ec-

mf f sfmp

Red. *