

'Writings From...'

for medium voice and accordion

Ben Lunn

To Grace Wain and Martynas Levickis, two of the most passionate and talented musicians I have ever had the privilege to work with.

'Writings From...'

Ekai, called Mumon Wumen Huikai

Ben Lunn

I - The Gateless Gate

Flowing and Zen ♩ = 60

Voice

Flowing and Zen ♩ = 60

Accord.

p *mp* *p* *mp* *mf*

vibr. 5:4 5:4 5:4

Voice

5

mp

5:4 5:4 5:4

The great path

Accord.

5:4

p *mp*

5:4 3:2

11

Voice

5:4

mp

has

Accord.

vibr.

p < *mp*

3:2

17

Voice

no gates Thou

5:4

vibr.

3:2

3:2

5:4

22

Voice

sands of

5:4

vibr.

5:4

5:4

5:4

5:4

5:4

5:4

26

Voice

roads en - ter it

Accord.

31

Voice

mp cresc.

When one pa - sses through this gate -

Accord.

vibr. *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *mf*

36

Voice

mp cresc.

less gate He walks free - -

Accord.

p *mp cresc.*

41

Voice

- ly _____ be - tween hea - - ven _____ and _____

5:4

5:4

5:4

5:4

f

Accord.

46

Voice

_____ Earth _____

Accord.

II Joshu Washes the Bowl

1 Bouncing and slightly comical $\text{♩}=90/\text{♩}=60/\text{♩}=180$

Voice *p* cheeky
It is

Accord. *p* *p sub.*

7 *mf*
too clear and so it is hard to see.

Accord. *mf*

13
A duncce once searched for a fire with a lamp

Accord.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. The first system (measures 1-6) features a voice line with lyrics 'It is' and a piano accompaniment with a 'p' dynamic. The second system (measures 7-12) features a voice line with lyrics 'too clear and so it is hard to see.' and a piano accompaniment with a 'mf' dynamic. The third system (measures 13-18) features a voice line with lyrics 'A duncce once searched for a fire with a lamp' and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked 'Bouncing and slightly comical' with three different note values: quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, each equal to 90, 60, and 180 respectively. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/8. The piano part includes various articulations such as slurs and accents.

19

Voice

Had he known what a fire was

Accord.

f

25

Voice

Accord.

p

31

Voice

mp

He could have cooked his rice much sooner

Accord.

p sub.

mp

III - Joshu Examines a Monk in Meditation

1 Reverant and Still ♩=40 *mp* *mp*

Voice

The light of the

Accord.

7 *mp* *mp*

Voice

eyes is as a co - met And

Accord.

13

Voice

Zen's ac - tiv - i - ty is as light - ning The sword that_

3

cresc.

Accord.

mp

p

Voice

kills the man_ Is the sword that saves the man

f

Accord.

f

IV - A Buddha Before History

1 *Lilting and flowing* ♩=90 *mf*

Voice

It is bet - ter to re - a - lise_ mind

Accord.

Lilting and flowing ♩=90 *mf*

5:4 5:4 5:4

6

Voice

than bo - dy_ When_

Accord.

7:4 7:6 *f* *mp*

11

Voice

mind is re - a - lised one need not wor - ry a - bout bo - dy

Accord.

17

Voice

When mind_

Accord.

mf

mp

5:4

5:4

5:4

5:4

5:4

21

Voice

_ and bo - dy_ be - come one

Accord.

7:4

7:6

26

Voice

f

The man is free

mf

Then_ he

Accord.

mf

f

mf

30

Voice

de - sires

no

prai - sing

Accord.

molto vibrato!!!

V - Dried Dung

Fast and Sharp like Lightning ♩=120
mf

Voice

1

Light-ning fla-shes, Sparks

Accord.

Fast and Sharp like Lightning ♩=120
as percussive as possible

ff *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

Voice

4

sho-wer In one blink of your eyes

Accord.

ff *ff* *ff*

8

Voice

You have missed

Accord.

ff

11

Voice

see-ing

Accord.

ff *ff* *ff*

VI - The Enlightened Man

1 **Broad and declamatory** ♩=60

Voice *f*

If the feet of en-lig - ten - ment moved, the great o -

Broad and declamatory ♩=60

Accord. *f* Irregularly change stops.

4

Voice

cean would o - ver-flow if that head bowed — it would look down

Accord.

7

Voice

on hea - vens such a bo - dy has no

Accord.

10

Voice

place to rest

Accord.

Speak: Let another continue this poem.

VII - Do Not Think Good, Do Not Think Not-Good

Slightly pushing, always bouncing ♩.=90

mp light

Voice

1

You can-not de-scribe it You can-not pic-ture it

Accord.

Slightly pushing, always bouncing ♩.=90

mp slightly jokey

Voice

6

You can-not ad-mi-re it You can-not sense it

Accord.

11

Voice

It is your true self it has no - where to hide

Accord.

16

Voice

when the world is des-troyed It will not be des - troyed

Accord.

fff

VIII - Learning is Not the Path

1 Beautiful and Meditative ♩=40

Voice

When the sky is clear _____ the sun ap -

Accord.

pp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 1 through 6. The voice part begins with a whole rest in measure 1. In measure 2, it starts with a half note G4 (F#4 in the key signature), followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5 in measure 3. A long note (half note) G4 follows in measure 4. In measure 5, it sings 'the sun' with a half note G4, and 'ap -' with a half note F#4 in measure 6. The piano accompaniment starts with a whole rest in measure 1. In measure 2, it has a half note G4 in the right hand and a half note F#4 in the left hand. In measure 3, the right hand has a half note A4 and the left hand has a half note G4. In measure 4, the right hand has a half note B4 and the left hand has a half note A4. In measure 5, the right hand has a half note C5 and the left hand has a half note B4. In measure 6, the right hand has a half note G4 and the left hand has a half note F#4.

7

Voice

pears When the earth is parched _____ rain will fall

Accord.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 7 through 12. The voice part starts with a whole note G4 in measure 7. In measure 8, it sings 'When the earth is parched' with a half note G4, followed by a long note (half note) G4 in measure 9. In measure 10, it sings 'rain will fall' with a half note G4, and a final note (half note) F#4 in measure 11. The piano accompaniment continues with a half note G4 in the right hand and a half note F#4 in the left hand in measure 7. In measure 8, the right hand has a half note A4 and the left hand has a half note G4. In measure 9, the right hand has a half note B4 and the left hand has a half note A4. In measure 10, the right hand has a half note C5 and the left hand has a half note B4. In measure 11, the right hand has a half note G4 and the left hand has a half note F#4. In measure 12, the right hand has a half note G4 and the left hand has a half note F#4.

14

Voice

He o-pened his heart fu - lly and spoke out

Accord.

21

Voice

But it was use - less to talk to pigs and fish

Accord.