

Elmwood Perspectives

Sanford Dole

poems by
Mary Child

The title of this work refers to the Elmwood district of Berkeley, California, where I grew up. It was the home of poet, Mary Child, as well. I met her when I was a child attending St. John's Presbyterian Church. We had an affinity for one another as she had been a singer in her youth. When she was a young adult she lost partial hearing and had to stop singing. As a result, she redirected her creative energy into writing poetry. One day, when I was in high school, and she already in her late eighties, I received an invitation to stop by her house. There she presented me with a book of her poems titled *Mosaic in the Rain* that had been published locally. It is from this volume that the four poems of the cycle are taken. The two of us, from different generations but the same neighborhood, come together to offer our view of the world: **Elmwood Perspectives**.

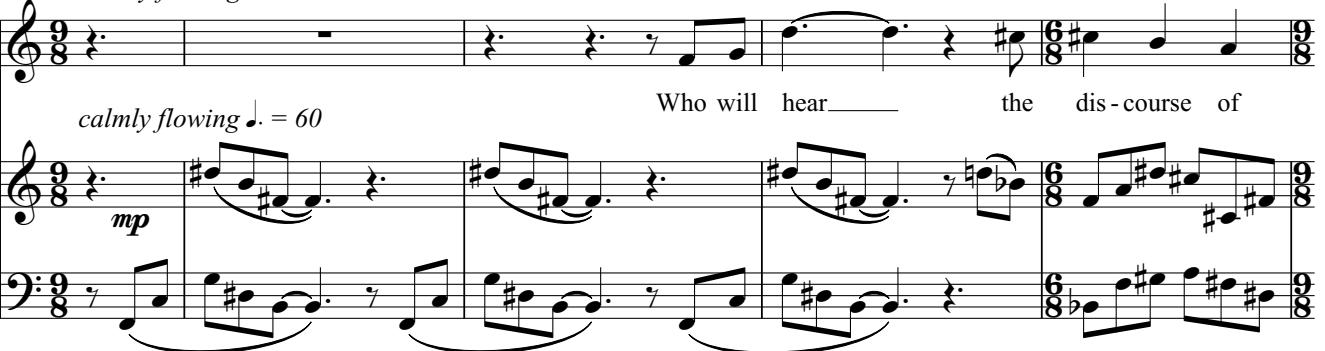
Elmwood Perspectives

1. Under the Bridge

Mary Child

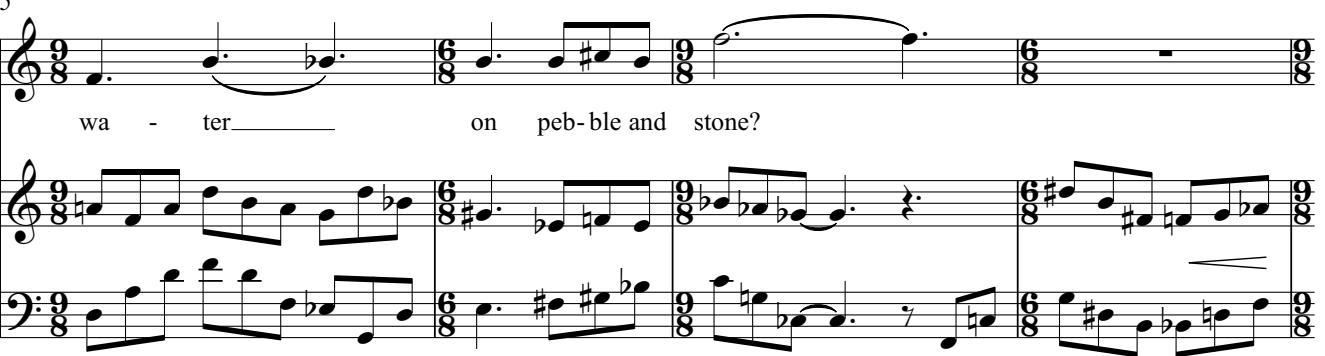
Sanford Dole
(1977)

calmly flowing $\text{♩} = 60$

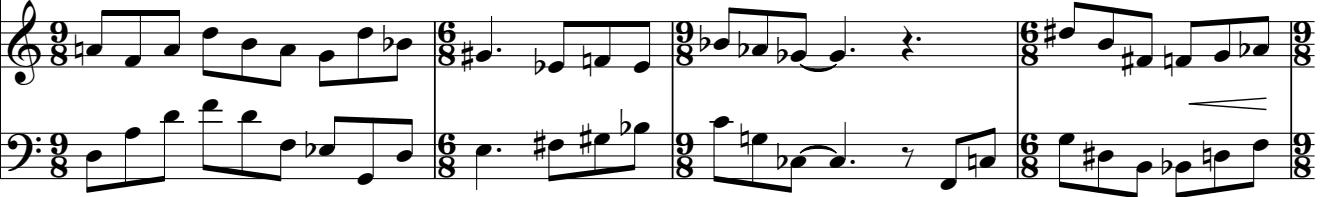
Voice 

Piano 

Who will hear the dis-course of

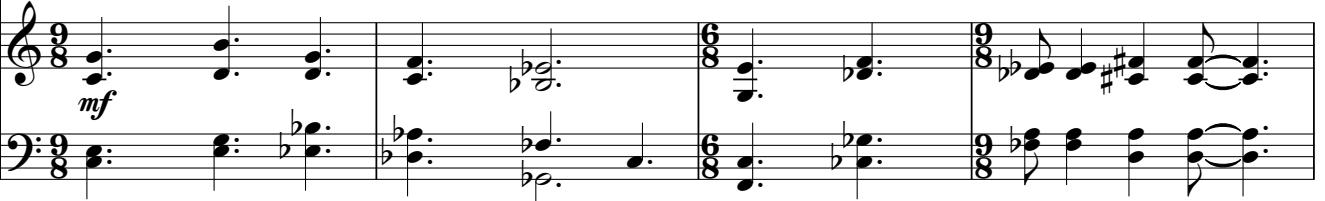
5 

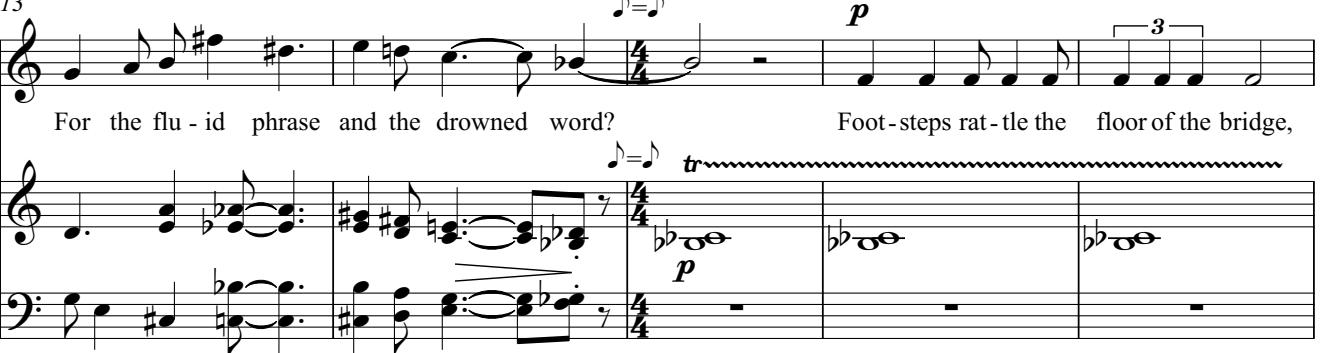
Voice wa - ter on peb-ble and stone?

Pno. 

9 

Voice Who will lis - ten for al - ter - nate voi - ces for rise and fall of li - quid ca - dence?

Pno. 

13 

Voice For the flu - id phrase and the drowned word? Foot-steps rat - tle the floor of the bridge,

Pno. 

18 rit.

Voice: foot - steps crac-kle dry leaves.

Pno. (3 3 3 3 3 3 3) (3 3 3 3 3 3 3) (mf) (3 3 3 3 3 3 3) rit.

22 slower **p**

Voice: In the dis-tance a tra-vel-ler un-a - ware con - tin - ues his jour - ney.

Pno. (slower) (p) (3 3 3 3 3 3 3) (3 3 3 3 3 3 3) (mp) (3 3 3 3 3 3 3) rit. a tempo

27 **mp**

Voice: The wa - ters, the wa -ters con -

Pno. (9 8 9 8 9 8 9 8) (9 8 9 8 9 8 9 8) (6 8 6 8 6 8 6 8) (6 8 6 8 6 8 6 8) (9 8 9 8 9 8 9 8) (9 8 9 8 9 8 9 8)

31

Voice: tin - ue their long con-ver - sa - tions.

Pno. (9 8 9 8 9 8 9 8) (6 8 6 8 6 8 6 8) (9 8 9 8 9 8 9 8) (6 8 6 8 6 8 6 8) (9 8 9 8 9 8 9 8) (6 8 6 8 6 8 6 8)

34

Voice: (6 8 6 8 6 8 6 8)

Pno. (6 8 6 8 6 8 6 8 6 8 6 8 6 8 6 8 6 8 6 8)

2. Margaret and Mary

4
Mary Child

Sanford Dole

1 *playful; childlike* ♩. = 92

My lit - tle nie - ces Mar-g'ret and Ma - ry dress them-selves up like Ma-dame du Bar - ry,

5

Their taste in hats runs to felt and fea-thers but straw can be worn in all sorts of wea - thers.

9

A dash of per - fume and ban - gle ear - rings,

13

bright co-lored beads, strings and strings, An eve-ning bag with pow - der box, all for -

17

Voice got - ten their white half - socks.

Pno.

21 *slower* ♩. = 50

Voice They feel their cos - tumes are quite com-plete in spite of plaid skirts and Ma - ry Jane feet,

Pno.

25

Voice Oh, child world half real, half fai - ry, Oh, charmed world of

Pno.

A tempo

// *f*

28

Voice Mar - g'ret and Ma - ry!

Pno.

3. In Retrospect

Sanford Dole

Voice

introspective ♩ = 96

Voice

5 *mp*

Oh to be my - self a- gain to

Voice

9 *faster* ♩ = 110

touch the child who met the frog with glad sur-prise, The child.

faster ♩ = 110

A tempo

Voice

12

who looked through un - spec-ta- cled eyes.

4. This Day

Mary Child

Sanford Dole

7

1

Voice

fast and energetic ♩ = 132

Pno.

ff

6

Voice

wor-thy of this day.

Pno.

11

Voice

mf

Crys - ta-line is too cold, too clear:

Pno.

16

Voice

Per- fect... too ex-ac-ting, too se-vere.

Pno.

21

Voice

Pno.

f *mp* *pp*

26

Voice - - - - -

Pno. *mp* *pp* *cresc.* *f*

33 *f*

Voice - - - - -
The air rinsed by rain, whit-led by

Pno. *#*

39

Voice *#* - - - - -
wind, mel-lows in sun.

Pno. *ff*

45

Voice - - - - -

Pno. *legato* *mp*

49 *mf*

Voice Grass rolls green o - ver the hills while gar - dens

Pno. - - - - -

53

Voice are a - drift with yel-low leaves.

Pno.

59

Voice This day un - cal - en - dars the wea - ther,

Pno.

65

Voice Brings fire of Spring

Pno.

71

Voice and wine of Fall

Pno.

78

Voice to - ge- ther. This Day!

Pno.