

Hunger Songs

a song cycle
music by Philip Norman

1. For Anne Gregory (W. B. Yeats) 2'00" p.1
2. My Sister (Margaret Mahy) 1'40" p.3
3. Tight Denim Jeans (Jana Harris) 1'40" p.6
4. The Hunger Song (Kim Chernin) 1'40" p.10

Four songs for women's chorus, commissioned by David Hamilton and the Epsom Girls' Grammar School Chamber Choir for use in the choir's 1989 tour to Oulainen, Finland. Commissioned from Philip Norman with the assistance of the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council of New Zealand. On a general level, these songs are about wanting to have something, or to be someone we are not.
Duration: c.7'30"

1. For Anne Gregory

music Philip Norman
lyrics W. B. Yeats

♩ = 96 ♩ = ♩ throughout

Piano

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

The piano introduction consists of two staves. The right hand starts with a whole rest, followed by a series of chords and moving lines. The left hand plays a steady accompaniment of chords. Dynamics range from piano (*p*) to mezzo-forte (*mf*) and forte (*f*).

6 *mp*

"Ne-ver shall a young man, thrown in-to de - spair by the great ho-ney-co-loured

The vocal line begins at measure 6. The melody is in a minor key and features various time signatures: 6/8, 4/4, 6/8, 4/4, 6/8, 4/4, 6/8. Dynamics are marked as mezzo-piano (*mp*).

12 *mf* *mp*

ram-parts at your ear, love you for your self a - lone and not your yell-ow

The vocal line continues from measure 12. Dynamics include mezzo-forte (*mf*) and mezzo-piano (*mp*).

18 *mf*

hair." "But I can get a hair dye and set such co-lour there,

The vocal line concludes at measure 23. Dynamics include mezzo-forte (*mf*).

18 *p*

Pno.

The piano accompaniment continues from measure 18. It features a series of chords and moving lines in both hands. Dynamics are marked as piano (*p*).

23

f

Brown or black or ca - rrot, that young man in de - spair may love me for my -

Pno.

mp

mf

28

mf

self a - lone — and not my ye - llow hair" "I heard an old re -

Pno.

mf

p

33

lig - ious man but yes - ter - night de - clare that he had found a text to prove that

Pno.

38

f

on - ly God, my dear, could love you for your self a - lone" and

Pno.

mf

mp

43 *p*

not your ye - llow hair, and not your ye - llow hair

Pno.

48 *a tempo* *pp*

[hum]

Pno.

2. My Sister

music Philip Norman
lyrics Margaret Mahy

54 $\text{♩} = 126$ *mp* gliss. *p*

Ah

Pno.

59 gliss. *mf* *mp*

Ah My sis - ter

Pno.

64 *mf* *p*

is re - - - mar-ka-bly light

Pno.

69 *mp* *pp* *mf* *f*

She, She can floa - - -

Pno.

74 *mf* *mp*

t to a fa - bu-lous Fab - - bu-lous hei -

Pno.

79 *p* *pp* *pp*

- - - ght. It's a trou-ble-some thing

Pno.

sub. p

84 *p*

but we tie her we tie her with

Pno.

88 *f* *mp* *mf*

string and we use her We use

Pno.

93 *mp* div.

we use her, we use her in - stead of a kite,

Pno.

98 *p*

a kite!

Pno.

3. Tight Denim Jeans

music Philip Norman
lyrics Jana Harris

♩. = 92

102 *mf*

I'd ne - ver

Pno. *f* *mp* *p*

108 ♩ = ♩ throughout

wear a gir - dle she said just me - di - ev - al throw - backs to

Pno. *pp*

112

whale ba - leen bra - ssi - eres and laced - up waist con - fi - ner cor - sets

116 *mf*

We burned'em in the six - ties — gir - dles she said Walking in-to Bloomingdales

Pno. *mf*

122

f

grabb ing a pair — of cig - ar - ette legged tight de-nim jeans off the rack

Pno.

126

mp *mf*

Hois - ting them up to her hips how do ya get 'em on she said have

Pno.

131

f *p*

sur - ger - y? — Take steam baths, slim - nast - ic class - es 'n

Pno.

135

f *mp*

Doc - tor Na - zi's di - et cli - nic fat - shots for a month These aren't jeans for

Pno.

140

go - ing to lunch in she said trying to do the snap These aren't e - ven jeans for

Pno.

mf

144

eat - ing an hour be - fore ya put 'em on Just for stan - din' up in — with - out your hands in the po - ckets there's

Pno.

f *a tempo*

148

not e - ven room in here for my un - der pants

Pno.

sfz *sfz* *sfz*

152

One hour la - ter she re - turns to the store for

Pno.

mp *mp* *mf*

156 *poco rit.*

a new zip-per front snap and the side seams re - stitched

Pno.

$\text{♩} = 120$

160 *mf* *meno mosso* *poco a poco accel.* *f*

These are jeans for wash-ing — in cold wa - ter on - ly, then wear - in' round the

Pno.

164 *mp* $\text{♩} = 138$ *mf* *f*

house 'til they dry on your shape Put 'em in the clothes drier

Pno.

168 *mf* *p* *mf*

she said And you'll get all pinch - bruised 'round the crotch 'n your

Pno.

più mosso

173 *f*

sto - mach co - vered with red streak marks a - cross the front

Pno.

176 *ff a tempo* *mf* *mp* *p*

We burned 'em in the six - ties — Gir - dles She said

Pno.

4. The Hunger Song

music Philip Norman
lyrics Kim Chernin

181 $\text{♩} = 56$ *mp*

Hu - nger-ing, I go out, I go ra - ve-ning in - to the woods

Pno.

186 *pp* *mp* *p*

Feed me #1 cry to the trees — De - sire ri - sing dri - ven in me like a sap and

Pno.

190 *mf* *p* *mp*

fal - ling in - to my bo - dy a - gain I en - ter in - to the world Ea - ting the snow

Pno. *mf* *p* *mp*

194 *mf*

This is my breath I say air of us fee - ding me. Look at this a - corn I made

Pno. *mf*

198

Love to know you like this Flesh - bound as I am, you in your ec - sta - cy bran - ching,

Pno.

203 *mp* *p* *molto rit.* *mp* *pp*

I in my green thoughts grow - ing up out of the snow

Pno. *mp* *p* *mp*