

Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird
For alto solo and piano

2006

Texts by Wallace Stevens
Music by Jess Turner

Duration: 15'

I. Snowy mountains

II. Three minds

III. Autumn winds

IV. A man and a woman

V. Inflections

VI. Icicles

VII. Golden birds

VIII. Noble accents

IX. Circles

X. Green light

XI. He rode

XII. The river

XIII. It was evening

Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird

I. Snowy Mountains

Jess Turner
Texts by Wallace Stevens

Adagio Dolemente ♩ = 52

Alto *mp*
A-mong twen - ty sno-wy moun-tains

Piano *p* *mf* *p* *pp*

Alto *mf* *p*
The on - ly mo - ving thing _____ was the eye _____ of the

Pno. *pp* *mp* *pp* *p* *pp*

Alto *subito p* *ppp*
black - bird

Pno. *p* *mf* *p* *ppp*

II. Three minds

Jess Turner

Indesicively ♩ = 96 *mf*

Alto

I was of three minds,

Piano

mf *mp* *p*

And.

*

6 *p* *mf* *f* confidently

Alto

I was of three minds, I was of three minds Like a

Pno.

mp *f*

11 *mf* *p* haltingly

Alto

Tree, in which there are three black-birds.

Pno.

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

III. Autumn Winds

Jess Turner

Alto

Allegretto leggiero ♩ = 88

mf

Piano

Allegretto leggiero ♩ = 88

p *p* *sim.*

The

Alto

mp *f*

5

black - bird whir - - - - - led in the au - tumn

Pno.

p *mf*

p

Alto

10

winds.

Pno.

p *fp* *sim.*

mf

Alto *mf* *mp*
The black - bird whir - - - - -

Pno. *mp*

Alto *f* *pp*
- - - - led in the au - tumn winds.

Pno. *p* *f* *fp*
p *f*

Alto
The black - - - bird

Pno. *sim.*

Alto *mp* *f*
whir - - - - - led in the au-tumn winds.

Pno. *p* *fp* *mf*

33 *mf* *p* *ppp*

Alto

It was a small part of the pan - to - mime.

33 *sim.* *ppp* *8^{va}*

Pno.

IV. A Man and a Woman

Jess Turner

Andante espressivo ♩ = 80

p *mp*

Alto

A man and a wo - man are one.

Andante espressivo ♩ = 80

pp *p* *pp*

Piano

7 *pp* *mp*

Alto

A man

Pno.

7 *p* *mp* *pp* *mp*

13 *mf* *f* *p*

Alto

and a wo - man and a black - bird are one.

Pno.

13 *mf* *f*

V. Inflections

Jess Turner

Misterioso $\text{♩} = 68$

mp

Alto

I do not know which to pre fer,

Misterioso $\text{♩} = 68$

ad lib.

Piano

leg.

*

leg.

*

Alto

The beau-ty of in - flec - - - tions Or the beau -

Pno.

leg.

*

leg.

*

leg.

*

leg.

*

leg.

*

leg.

*

leg.

*

leg.

*

leg.

*

leg.

*

leg.

*

leg.

*

leg.

*

Alto

ty of in - - u-en-dos

Pno.

leg.

*

leg.

*

leg.

*

leg.

*

leg.

*

leg.

*

leg.

*

leg.

*

leg.

*

leg.

*

10 *mf*

Alto

the black bird whist - ling

Pno.

mf

5 7

Ad lib.

17 *p*

Alto

or just af - ter.

Pno.

pp *mp*

5

Ad lib.

20

Alto

Pno.

ppp *8va* ad lib.

5

Ad lib.

VI. Icicles

Jess Turner

Alto

Andante con moto ♩ = 72

mf

I - - - ci-cles filled the long win-dow with bar -

Piano

Andante con moto ♩ = 72

p *mf* *p*

Alto

9 *mf*

bar-ic glass

Pno.

9 *f* *ff*

8va *8vb*

Alto

16 *mf* *f*

The sha - dow of the black - bird crossed it to and fro

Piano

16 *mf* *mf*

sim.

8vb

12

23

Alto

to and fro — to and fro — to and fro — to and fro

Pno.

29

Alto

ad lib.

(spoken) 5

The mood: an in-de-ciph-er-a - ble cause. — *attacca*

Pno.

ff *mf* *p* *mf*

attacca

VIII.

Noble Accents

Jess Turner

Adagio ♩ = 52

Alto

mf *mp*

I know no-ble ac-cents and

Piano

Adagio ♩ = 52

quasi-tango *mp* *pp* tap on wood

7 *mf* *p* *f*

Alto

lu-cid in-es-cap-a-ble rhy-thms But I know too that the black-bird

Pno.

7 *f*

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

Alto

is in-volved in what... I know no-ble ac-cents and lu-cid in-es-

Pno.

12 *mf*

Rec.

14

Alto *18* *p* *f*

cap-a-ble rhy-thms But I know too that a black - bird _____ is in-

Pno. *18* *p* *f* *ff*

Alto *24* *mf* *p* *niente*

volved in what I _____ know. _____

Pno. *24* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp*

IX. Circles

Jess Turner

Hypnotic ♩ = 72

Alto *mp*

When the black - bird

Hypnotic ♩ = 72

Piano *mp*

Leg. * *Leg.* * *Leg.* *

4 *mp*

Alto

flew - out of sight. It marked the edge _____ of

Pno.

Leg. * *Leg.* * *Leg.* * *Leg.* *

8

Alto

one of ma - ny cir - cles *attacca*

Pno.

Leg. * *Leg.* * *Leg.* * *Leg.* * *morendo* *attacca*

X.

At the sight

Jess Turner

Alto

Con fuoco ♩ = 100

p *mf*

at the sight At the sight at the sight of black - birds

Piano

Con fuoco ♩ = 100

pp *mf*

Alto

mp *f*

at the sight at the sight of black birds fly-ing in a green light

Pno.

p

Alto

mp *mp*

fly-ing in a green light at the

Pno.

mp *mf* *f*

Alto

ff

sight at the sight at the sight of black - birds fly-ing in a green light

Pno.

mp *ff*

Alto *mf* fly-ing in a green light *f* ev - en the bawds

Pno. *ffp*

Alto *mp* of eu - pho-ny would cry

Pno.

Alto *mf* out would cry *mp* out would cry

Pno. r.h. begin accelerating gradually
l.h. keep in tempo

Alto out would cry out cry out cry out

Pno. r.h. as fast as possible
l.h. stay in tempo

40 *f* *fff* shriek! a picare *ff* *p* *fff*

Alto
cry out sharply.

40 *f* *fff* *ff* *p* *fff*

Pno. *Glissando* *Glissando*