

Pages of Solitary Delights

for Medium Voice
& Chamber Orchestra or Piano

Donald Steven

Text from the book *F. R. Scott - Selected Poems*

Published by Oxford University Press

Piano Vocal Score



ISMN: 979-0-706080-40-6

CP056

Program Notes:

Pages of Solitary Delights is a setting of selected poems of the late F.R. Scott. The piece is organized into three “songs” which are contemplative, mature, and somewhat Asian in style, and it evokes many of the lovely physical aspects of the townships to the east of Montreal, Canada. It was commissioned in 1985 by the McGill Symphony Orchestra through the Canada Council for the Arts, and was written for contralto Maureen Forrester.

Poems excerpts from “Old Song”, “Laurentian Shield”, “Below Quebec”, “Lakeshore”, “Autumn Lake”, “Autumnal” and “March Field” from *Selected Poems*, by F.R. Scott. Published by Oxford University Press ISBN: 9780195432572

Composer Biography:

Donald Steven is an award-winning composer whose works have been performed on four continents. Born in Montréal, Mr. Steven has won a number of important awards including the Jules-Léger Prize for Chamber Music and the JUNO Award for “Best Classical Composition” from the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, deemed by many to be the highest honors for composers in Canada. Mr. Steven has also been nominated for the “Composer of the Year” Award from the Canadian Music Council and has won the Golden Jubilee Creative Arts Award from the Canadian Federation of University Women.

His music has been played throughout the world, including the World Music Days of the International Society for Contemporary Music and the World Cello Congress, and has been performed by major artists and orchestras, including Maureen Forrester, Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi, Bertram Turetzky, the Pierrot Ensemble, l’Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, the Société de musique contemporaine du Québec, the ensemble Newband, the Harry Partch Instrumentarium, and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. In addition to classical music, Mr. Steven has a background as a performer and arranger in folk and rock music playing 12-string guitar and five-string banjo, and has worked as an arranger for, among others, the McGarrigle Sisters, Stan Rogers, and Graham Townsend.

He has held fellowships from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Government of Québec, and Princeton University, and received grants from the McGill Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, the Ontario Arts Council, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the National Endowment for the Arts, Chamber Music America, and the New York State Council on the Arts.

Mr. Steven received his M.F.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Princeton University (where he studied with, among others, Milton Babbitt and Steven Mackey) and his Bachelor of Music degree from McGill University. He taught composition, electronic and computer music, and orchestration at the University of Western Ontario and McGill before becoming dean of the Conservatory of Music at Purchase College, SUNY and, subsequently, Dean of Roosevelt University’s School of the Performing Arts and the Chicago Musical College where he championed the development of its Orchestral Training Program and developed a faculty comprised of many of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s principal players. At McGill he was successively Head of the Composition Area and Chair of the Department of Performance and was involved in the modernization of the Electronic Music Studio and the evolution of computer music studies.

Mr. Steven has served as a member of the Educational Board of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Artistic Director of the Thayer Fellowship in the Arts, Composer-in-Residence at the Courtenay Youth Music Festival, and on many juries, including the Shanghai International Radio Festival and as Chairman of the International Jury for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation Competition for Young Composers.

In addition to his professional work in music, Mr. Steven has served in a number of senior academic administrative positions. He has retired from his post as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Rider University, where he was also professor of composition at Westminster Choir College.



We thank the SOCAN Foundation for their financial support in helping make this new piano reduction possible.

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18 *breve* (*breve*) *p* *p*

mind. Out of long ae-ons when dust was blind and

ppp pp *sotto voce* *pp* *p* *pp* *poco ord.* *sim.* *sim.*

ped. *ped.*

21 *poco rit.* **B** ♩ = 66, *leggiero*

ice hid sound.

pp *sim.* *sotto voce* *ord.* *pp*

ped. *pp* *sim.* *ppp* *sim.*

24 *mp* (*falsetto*)

Hid-den in won - der and snow, or

poco ten. *p*

28 *p* (falsetto)

sud-den with sum - mer, this land stares at the sun in a huge

pp *ppp*

32 *ord.* **C** molto leggiero

si - lence,

pp *pp* *p ppp* *p ppp*

38 **D** *p*

end-less-ly re-peat-ing some-thing we can-not hear.

ppp *pp*

1/2 Red. *sim.*

43 **E**

pp *pp* *p* *pp*

1/2 Red. *sim.*

48 *poco rit.* *poco rit.* *mp*

But no oth - er

p *pp* *morendo* *ten.* *ord.* *p*

pp *Red.* *Red.* *Red.*

n.

53 *mp* **F** ♩ = 48

stir - - - ring than waves and wind

pp *pp* *mp*

Red. *Red.* *Red.*

56 *mp* *rit.* *a tempo* *poco rit.*

makes for the heart a song at this day's end.

psuedo gliss. *ten.* *pp*

pp *ppp*

Red. *Red.* *Red.*

p *l.v.*

G ♩ = 60

59 *p* Far voi - - - ces and fret-ting *poco rit.*

62 *breve p* leaves this mu- sic the hill-side gives. *breve*

H ♩ = 72, *leggiero*

66 *mp* Some - times, up - on a

70 *poco accel.* *a tempo* *poco ten.* *p*

crow - ded street, I feel the sud - den rain (fall) down and

pp *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

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

Leg. *Leg.*

73 *a tempo* (*meno mosso*) *mp* *pp*

in the old sound_ I hear the op - 'ning of a gate_ that

p *p*

p *Leg.* *Leg.*

76 *poco rit.* *poco* **I** *p*

poco misterioso *p*

loos-ens all the se-ven seas. Some-thing o-pened hur -

pp *mf* *ppp* *pp*

pp *1/2 Leg.* *sim. (sempre)* *poco*

81 *p*

- ting far down the mir - ror of

84 *pp*

the lake re flect ing my un - calm

88 *mf p p*

till soon wait - ing I was drawn

92 *pp*

to that point on the far shore

ppp

95

where i - mage meets re - al - i - ty,

ppp

98

K (echo) *pp*

some - thing o - pened — hur - ting far down

ppp

101

pp

where i - mage meets re - al - i - ty

ppp

105

ppp

one and one forms one — and con - flict

pp

ppp K1

109 ends.

ppp *ppp* *ppp*

ppp

113

ppp *pp* *pp* *p* *p* *mp*

espress. *poco rit.* *a tempo* *poco rit.* L ♩ = 60, freely

117

mf *p* *mp* *gliss.* *p* *poco* *p*

pp

119 *poco rit.* *ten.* *a tempo ma meno mosso* *poco rit.* *dimin.* (echo) *ord.*

p *mp* *pp* *n. < ppp >* *ppp* *ppp* *mp*

pp *n.* *pp* *n. < ppp >* *ppp*

123 *a tempo* *poco* *p* *pp* *ppp* *poco ten.* *pp* *sotto voce* *ten.*

127 *p* *M* *ten.* *ten.* *mp*

and all has been said. Of you and me long

rit. *l.v.* *pp* *ten.* *ten.*

ppp *poco > n.* *ten.* *ten.*

più p *poco rit.* *mp* *poco lento* *accel.* *p*

131 — years a - go how love that once was young de -

p *mp* *p* *pp*

p *5* *5* *7:8* *3* *3*

a tempo

mp

p

N

più mosso

p

134

-sire grew pale, and died. There is a

pp *pp* *mf* *p*

Leg. *Leg.*

138

warm wind in this bare pri-son un-der a hol-low

poco ten. *ten.* *p* *pp* *p*

pp *pp* *pp* *p*

Leg.

O *più mosso*

poco ten.

poco meno mosso
mp

142

sky. Was is an Is that died in our care-less hands.

p *pp* *pp* *pp* *p*

Leg. *Leg.* *Leg.*