

Time grows upon the rock

For vocal trio

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Time grows upon the rock (2010)

Text: Wallace Stevens

For vocal trio: soprano; mezzo-soprano; alto

Duration c. 4 minutes

Text:

From 'The Blue Guitar' by Wallace Stevens

XI

Slowly the ivy on the stones

Becomes the stones.

Women become

The cities, children become the fields

And men in waves become the sea.

It is the chord that falsifies.

The sea returns upon the men,

The fields entrap the children, brick

Is a weed and all the flies are caught,

Wingless and withered, but living alive.

The discord merely magnified.

Deeper within the belly's dark

Of time, time grows upon the rock

Notes:

When single line staves are used, pitches are approximate. Crossed note-heads indicate whispers or unvoiced phonemes. Normal note-heads on single line staves indicate voiced phonemes or spoken syllables.

Phonetic symbols used in the score:

Explanations are in Received Pronunciation English unless otherwise stated.

[a]: 'â' as in the French 'pâtes'

[i]: 'ee' as in 'see'

[oʊ]: 'ow' as in 'slow'

[ai]: 'y' as in 'fly'

[f]: 'f' as in 'fly'

[l]: 'l' as in 'fly'

[z]: 'z' as in 'zebra'

[s]: 's' as in 'see'

Time grows upon the rock

Wallace Stevens

Stef Conner

Relaxed and extremely free ♩ = 60

Soprano

Mezzo-soprano

pp

ppp

ppp

pp

Slow

slow

ppp

p

pp

Slow

slow - ly

7

S.

M-S.

C.

ppp

p

pp

mp

slow - - - ly slow - ly The i - vy on the

ppp

p

pp

slow - - - ly The i - vy

ppp

p

pp

slow - - - ly The i - vy

rall. . . . ♩ = 48

♩ = 60

13

S.

M-S.

C.

mp

pp

pp

stones Be-comes the stones. slow - ly slow - ly Wo-men be-come The

mp

pp

pp

stones Be-come stones. slow - ly slow. Wo-men be-come The

mp

pp

pp

stones Be-comes the stones. slow - ly slow. Wo-men be-come The

rall. A tempo (♩ = 60)

19

S. *ppp* *p* *mp*
 cit - ies, [i] slow [oʊ] child - ren be - come the fields men

M-S. *ppp* *p*
 cit - y slow [oʊ] child - ren be - com the fields And men

C. *ppp* *p* *mp*
 cit - ies, [i] [oʊ] child - ren be - come fields in

accel. . . . ♩ = 70

♩ = 60

24

S. *mf* *mp* *mf* *ppp*
 waves be - come the sea. It is the chord that fal - si - fies. slow

M-S. *mf* *mp* *mf* *ppp*
 waves the sea. It is the chord that fal - si - fies. slow

C. *mf* *mp* *mf* *ppp*
 waves be - come the sea. It is the chord that fal - si - fies. slow

29

S. *p* *pp* *pp*
 re - turns u - pon the men, the sea

M-S. *mp* *pp* *mp* *p*
 sea The sea

C. *mp* *pp* *mp* *p*
 The The sea re - turns u - pon the men, the

32 *mp* *p* *mf mp*

S. — re-turns u pon the men the sea re-turns u-pon the men fields en-trap the child-ren,

M-S. — The fields en-trap the child-ren, The fields en-trap the child-ren,

C. fields the sea The fields en-trap the child-ren,

rit. A tempo (♩ = 60)

35 *mp* *p* *pp* *p* *f*

S. brick is a weed flies [fla] - [i] [a] - [i] -

M-S. brick is a weed and all the flies s are caught [s]

C. weed fly [z] [a] are caught [a] - [i] [z]

molto rit.

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

S. [a] - [i] - [a] liv-ing live* dis-cord mere-ly

M-S. Wing-less and with-ered, but liv-ing a - live. cord mere-ly

Perc. [a] [f] - [lai] - [s] live* The dis-cord mere-ly

(*N.B. [lav] as in 'alive', not [liv])

A tempo (♩ = 60)

41

S. *f* *p* *pp*
 mag - ni - fied. Deep-er with-in dark deep - er Of

M-S. *f* *p* *pp*
 mag - ni - fied. Deep-er with-in the bel-ly's dark the bel-ly's dark Of

C. *f* *p* *p* *pp*
 mag - ni - fied. Deep-er with-in dark deep - er

46

S. *ppp*
 time, grows

M-S. *ppp*
 time, time grows

C. *ppp*
 time, time grows

molto rall.

52

S. *pp* *p* *ppp*
 grows the rock.

M-S. *pp* *p* *ppp*
 grows on the rock.

C. *pp* *p* *ppp*
 grows up - on the rock.