

Sea Fugue

a song on an excerpt from a poem by Elee Kraljii Gardiner

for Mezzo soprano and Piano

2012

(ca. 5:00)

Christopher Gaaney (b. 1981)

Dedicated to:

Alison D'Amato and Lynne McMurtry

With special thanks to:

Heather Pawsey and Rachel Kiyo Iwaasa,

Michael Park and Ray Hsu,

John Roeder, David Gompper, Bruno Amato, Ray Chester, and Kristin Gainey

Sea Fugue (excerpt)

Concrete plaza echoes, jackhammer beats,
revolving door pushed to a swift change
in heat. She swims through a current of suits, briefcases
bump/trigger her alarm. Screech of toner becomes coconut vendor's
canto, offshore rhythm. Terror cycling on the nine to five tide.

Double lines, *to flee, to chase, to fly*; this fugue,
her mind, slides into riptide
to terminus of last year's vacation.
Sudden highrise sound-wash in her cochlear seashell,
sand grit in the molar cave.
Revolution, suspension.

She sees those two
 small starfish
 catch at air
 screaming open-handed aria
 above the wave
 line and rises to rescue. She did once, she re-does
again, daily, unasked, unwell. She/dives under/and up, under
and up. She
 is in the pitch again
where no one else
dives.

She/works a wave/trough
 function/stoptime photography pushes past/the buoys, persistent
Percussion
coming closer/scales are changing/
he is growing child-sized/to man.

Sea Fugue

Elee Kraljii Gardiner (2012)

Christopher Gainey (2012)

Intense, mechanical (♩ = 128)

Mezzo-soprano

Piano

3

M-S.

Con-crete pla - za e-choes jack-ham-mer

mp

Pno.

5

M-S.

beats re - volv-ing door pushed to a swift change in heat She

Pno.

8vb *8vb* (loco) *mf* *mp* *8vb*

8

M-S. *f* swims in a cur - rent of suits brief ca-ses *mp*

Pno. *mf* *mp*

S.P. *mf* *mp*

10

M-S. bump/ trig-ger her_ a larm Scree - ch of to-ner be *ff*

Pno. *f*

S.P. *f*

13

M-S. comes co - co - nut-ven dor's can - to, *mp*

Pno. *mp*

S.P. *mp*

16

M-S.

off - shore rhy - thm off-shore rhy - thm Ter

p *mp*

Pno.

p *mp*

($\frac{3}{2}$ = $\frac{1}{2}$)

19

M-S.

- ror cy-cling on the nine to five tide.

mp *pp*

Pno.

pp *pp*

8^{va}

22

M-S.

Pno.

(8)

25

M-S.

Pno.

(8) (loco)

mp

mp

28

M-S.

Pno.

Dou - ble lines, _____ to flee, _____ to chase, _____ to _____

mf *p*

30

M-S.

Pno.

fly; this _____ fugue, _____

f

8va

Red.

32

M-S.

p her *mf* mind, slides

Pno.

(8) 7 (loco)

34

M-S.

in - to rip - - - tide

Pno.

36

M-S.

p to *mp* ter - - mi - nus of

Pno.

38

M-S.

last year's va - ca - - - tion.

Pno.

pp

40

M-S.

p Sud-den *f*

Pno.

pp *f*

8^{va}

42

M-S.

high-rise sound - wash_ in her co-chle-ar sea - shell,

mp *f* *mf*

Pno.

pp *f* *pp* *f*

(8)

44

M-S.

sand *mp* grit in her mo-lar cave

Pno.

(8)

mp *pp* *f*

46

M-S.

re-vo-lu - tion, su - spen - sion.

mf *mp* *p*

Pno.

(8)

mp *pp* *f* *mp* *pp*

49

M-S.

Pno.

(8)

8va

52

M-S.

Pno.

(♩ = ♩)

Surreal, hallucinatory (♩ = 96)

55

M-S.

Pno.

p

p

Ped. (as needed until m. 78, optional use of soft pedal)

59

M-S.

Pno.

She sees those

mp

64

M-S. *breathless, half-sung*

two small star fish *3* *catch* at air *p*

Pno. *8va* *3*

69

M-S. scream - ing o - pen hand-ed a - ri - a a - bove the

mf *f* *mp*

Pno. (loco)

73

M-S. wave line and ri - ses to re - scue. *p*

Pno. *3*

(♩ = ♪)

78 Unsettling, disorienting (♩. = 64)

M-S. *p* She did _____ once, _____ she *p*

Pno. *pp*

81

M-S. re - does _____ a - gain, _____ dai - ly, un asked _____

Pno. *mp*

84

M-S. _____ un - well _____ She dives _____ un - der and up

Pno. *f*

(♩ = ♩)

87 Precise, relentless (♩ = 128)

M-S. *mp* un - der and up *f* She is in the pitch a-gain where no one else

Pno. *mp* *f* *mp*

90

M-S. *mp* dives. She/ works a wave/ trough func - tion/ stop -

Pno. *mp*

92

M-S. time pho - to-gra-phy push-es past/ the bu- oys per-sis-tent *f*

Pno. *f* *8vb*

95

M-S.

Pno.

f

mp

p

f

S.P. *p*

co - ming

97

M-S.

Pno.

clo - ser/

scales are

100

M-S.

Pno.

chang - ing/

he is grow - ing chi-ld -

8^{va}

103

M-S.

size/ to man.

Pno.

8^{vb}

106

M-S.

Pno.

The musical score for measures 106-108 shows the M-S. part with whole rests and the Pno. part with a complex melodic and harmonic line. The Pno. part features many accidentals, including flats and naturals, and a variety of note values including eighth and sixteenth notes.

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