

Full Score in C

Katharina S. G. Mueller (2025)

Songs From Childhood

for alto voice and one instrument

I - Mother, Why Are You Weeping?	<i>Bb trumpet</i>	4''
II - Misheard Absurd	<i>contrabass</i>	2.5''
III - A Sound Outside	<i>percussion</i>	2.5''
IV - Nobodies	<i>tenor voice</i>	4''
V - My Room	<i>Bb clarinet</i>	5''

I - Mother, Why Are You Weeping? *Bb trumpet* 4''

Alto: A3-Db5

Mother why are you weeping
Eyes red, reddened, raw, sore, mother.

I want to bring some joy to you
But it's no use the words I choose,
You keep on grieving.

Mother, why are you weeping?
Hands wring, wringing, reaching,
Like you've lost something.

You make a claw across your chest
The heart inside there worked too hard to fast
And now forgot its beat,
Mother, I see your tears wash color off your face
I hear your voice made hoarse and strange,
I hear your shallow, shuddered breathing.

Mother, I have all the songs you sang for me,
When I outcried the other night you told me in a lullaby to hush now and keep dreaming

I remember that blue butterfly hiding from the rain
You told me that it wasn't dead but only sleeping.

When I was last sick
You gave to me a little bear whose
Rounded paw I held between my fingers
Now I give him to you, this sweetest softest thing
Do not lose him from your grip

II - Misheard Absurd *contrabass* 2.5''

Alto: B3-E5

Oh Father who art in Heaven, Howard be thy name.
On a straightened arrow
One fell and swooped!
My ears are not wet behind, not me
Under my Rainbrella

Give us this stale and ail-y bread
And there's another *think* coming
A blessing in this guy's...what?
Got off scotch free, no
Taken into custardy...syrupy...
Are we having pancakes, can we have pancakes please please pancakes pancake dinner...

Forgive us our trash passes,
As we forgive those who pass trash against us
Stitching time to save it nine times, like a cat has nine lives
Gators named ally and Lack toast and tolerance

And lead us not, into Penn Station
One nation, under Dog, for witches dance
Wipe the Smurf off of your face

And deliver us some eagles,
Indisivible,
With liberty and just kiss!
Forever again.

III - A Sound Outside *percussion* 2.5''

Alto: C4-F#5

There's a sound outside.
In the moonless night.
I hear it
Lumbering around, shaking the house
And I just know it could come in.

Spit drips from teeth
Claws cleave

Is it because I didn't eat all my Brussel sprouts
Because I grabbed the cat by the tail
Because I didn't count all the way to twenty seven when I brushed my teeth

Strange howls
Behind me
Above, below

I already lost Teddy to the floor
I can't get up to go pee
When I fall asleep it will fit its mouth around me!

IV - Nobodies *tenor voice* 4''

Alto: C4-Eb5

Tenor: C3-G4

I wish those kids at the big round table would notice me. Those big kids there in the center of the room.

- Who cares? -

I thought nobody was paying attention.

- Nobody was -

You never talk to anyone!

- Because nobody talks to me -

Well now you've talked, you're talking to me.

- Because you're talking to me. And see, nobody cares! -

Do you think it's true? Somebody always cares. Even if you don't know that they care.

- No no no It's not often that somebody cares. It's usually a nobody. A kid who doesn't talk to anybody else. They aren't noticed by everyone else. They are nobody. Who sees what nobody else sees; hears when nobody listens. They're the ones who care. They do all the things that nobody does. -

Am I a nobody?

- There are a lot of nobodies. Some of the kids at the big round table in the center of the room are nobodies. -

Nobody can hear them, see them...But some somebodies have to care

- All the somebodies I know don't care about anybody. Certainly not nobodies. -

The lesser somebodies may care about somebody greater than them

- But the greatest somebody doesn't care at all. -

I wish I was something more than a nobody

- I don't think it's possible to have a world without nobodies. -

Well, maybe I want to be somebody so that I don't have to care.

- There are nobodies who don't care. But then there's nothing of them left. -

Or...Maybe it is best to be a nobody. They are the ones who have something to care about.

- They are the ones who have something to care about. -

V - My Room *Bb Clarinet 4''*

Alto: Gb3-F5

There's a window, a camera
Lens of wind, that I open so the
Map of the world wobbles on the wall
Collected rocks and thoughts,
And other histories a cozy microcosm
Of my best and worst Ideas,

A ceiling of stars glow faint in the dark,
On columns of my writing on the walls,
To whom I'll bequeath this wallpaper
Universe when I am gone:

In my camera,
Purple dark with an open eye,
My plywood of desires,
My thumbprints on the tacks
That hold the map,
Another kind of window;

You walls, on some return,
When the wind blows me back,
I'll tell you what those printed meridians
Look like on the real sea.
One histories.
I now window out.

I - Mother, Why Are You Weeping?

for voice and Trumpet in Bb

$\text{♩} = 66$ Mournful

Voice *n* *mp* *pp* *< mf >*

mm - ma - mm mm - ma - mm

Trumpet in Bb Cup Mute *p*

7 *p* *pp* *p*

V. mm nn mo-ther, why are you weep- ing? eyes red, red-denned,

Tpt. *ppp* *mp* *p*

13 **17** Stirring accel. . .

V. raw, sore, mo-ther... I want to bring some joy to you but

Tpt. *p* *mp* *pp* *flutter* *pp* *p*

♩ = 80 rit. . . . **19** ♩ = 60 Mournful

18

V. *it's no use the words I choose, you keep on griev - ing.*

Tpt. *flut.* *Straight Mute* *dirty gliss*

fp *p* *pp* *ppp*

22 ♩ = 80 Alarmed, Fiery

Tpt. *bisbig* *dirty gliss*

f *mf* *f*

24

Tpt. *6*

26 Settling Again

Tpt. *p*

30 ♩ = 66 Plaintive

V. *Mo - ther, why are you weep - ing? hands wring, wring - ing,*

Tpt. *sfzp* *sfzp*

35 Stirring accel.

33 *reach*

V. *p*

reach - ing, like you've lost some thing. You make a claw a-cross your chest the

Tpt. *fp* *ppp* *pp*

belltone *slow ominous trill*

36

V. *p*

heart in there worked too hard too fast and now for - got its beat, mo -

Tpt. *p*

39 ♩ = 90 Frenzied

V. rit.

ther, I see your tears wash co - lor off your face, I hear your voice made hoarse and strange,

Tpt. *fp* *to Cup Mute*

42 ♩ = 66 Ground to a Halt

V.

I hear your shal-low, shud-dered breath - ing - nng.

Tpt. *p* *pp*

Cup Mute

46 ♩ = 80 **Alarmed, Fiery**

Tpt. *dirty gliss* *reverse doit* *continue pitchless air sound*

f 3 5 6 *subp*

2 123 2 123 simile

Tpt. *reverse doit* *continue pitchless air sound*

mf *f* *subp*

3 12 3 12

52

56 **As a Lullaby**

V. *pitch bend: tuning slide out* *pitch bend: tuning slide out*

Tpt. *pitch bend: tuning slide out*

Mo-ther I have all the songs you

V. *poco accel.*

Tpt. *tuning slide out* *(slide out) -> slide back in*

sang_ for me. When I cried out the o-ther night you told me in a lul - la-by to

♩ = 60 **Suddenly Slower**

62 **Quiet, in Disbelief**

V. *pitchless air sound*

Tpt. *pitchless air sound*

hush now, and keep dream - ing. I re mem-ber that blue but-ter - fly,

ppp *p* *mf*

63

V. *spoken/intoned*
 hid-ing from the rain. You told me that it was-n't dead, but on-ly sleep - ing. When *p*

Tpt. *half valve* *find a top pitch* *take out Mute*

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

68

V. *more sung*
 I was last sick, you gave me a Ted dy bear whose round-ed paw I held be-tween my

Tpt.

70

V. *a morunful sigh*
 fin- gers. ah now I give him to you, this sweet-est

Tpt. *slight downward sigh* *pp*

73

V. *almost whispered* *pp*
 soft - est thing. Do not lose him from your grip.

Tpt. *airy* *a niente*

II - Misheard Absurd

for Voice and Contrabass

♩=104 Mocking Bach Flute Sonata in Eb

Voice *lightly*

Oh Fa - ther who art in Hea-ven,

Contrabass *mf* *tr*

6

V. *outburst!*
choke sound *resume*

Ho-ward, be_ thy name. on a straight-ened ar-row, one fell and swooped

Cb. *f* *mf*

10 Alarmed!

V. *ff*

My ears are not wet-be-hind, not me! un-der my rain brel-la.

Cb. *ff*

18 Pleasant, Pious (Church)

15

V. *p*

Give us___ this stale___ and oi - ly___ bread.

Cb. *f* *mf* *tr*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for the first system. The vocal line (V.) is in treble clef, starting with a rest for two measures, then playing a melody in 2/4 time with a dynamic marking of *p*. The lyrics are "Give us___ this stale___ and oi - ly___ bread." The cello line (Cb.) is in bass clef, starting with a dynamic marking of *f*, playing a rhythmic accompaniment, and ending with a dynamic marking of *mf* and a trill (*tr*) over a note.

Silly

21

V.

and there's a - no-ther think com-ing.

Cb. *tr*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for the second system. The vocal line (V.) is in treble clef, starting with a rest for two measures, then playing a melody in 3/4 time. The lyrics are "and there's a - no-ther think com-ing." The cello line (Cb.) is in bass clef, playing a rhythmic accompaniment with a trill (*tr*) over a note.

26 Reset Pleasantry

24

V. *incredulous*

A bless-ing on this guy's what?

Cb. *tr* *blat!* *ff* *mf*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for the third system. The vocal line (V.) is in treble clef, starting with a rest for two measures, then playing a melody in 3/4 time with a dynamic marking of *incredulous*. The lyrics are "A bless-ing on this guy's what?". The cello line (Cb.) is in bass clef, playing a rhythmic accompaniment with a trill (*tr*) and a dynamic marking of *blat!*, followed by *ff* and *mf*.

27

V. *p* *scandalized!* *mf* *mp* *mf*

got off scotch free, no! tak-en in - to cust - ar-dy sy - ru-py

Cb.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for the fourth system. The vocal line (V.) is in treble clef, starting with a dynamic marking of *p*, then *scandalized!*, *mf*, *mp*, and *mf*. The lyrics are "got off scotch free, no! tak-en in - to cust - ar-dy sy - ru-py". The cello line (Cb.) is in bass clef, playing a rhythmic accompaniment.

30 Crazy Excitement

V. *f*
are we hav-ing pan-cakes can we have pan-cakes for din-ner please please pan-cakes pan cake

Cb.

Musical score for 'Crazy Excitement'. The vocal line (V.) is in treble clef, 3/4 time, starting with a forte (f) dynamic. The lyrics are: 'are we hav-ing pan-cakes can we have pan-cakes for din-ner please please pan-cakes pan cake'. The bass line (Cb.) is in bass clef, 3/4 time, providing a rhythmic accompaniment.

35 Earnest, Rueful

32
V. din-ner! For - give us our trash - pas - ses,

Cb.

Musical score for 'Earnest, Rueful'. The vocal line (V.) starts at measure 32. The lyrics are: 'din-ner! For - give us our trash - pas - ses,'. The bass line (Cb.) is in bass clef, 3/4 time, with a complex rhythmic pattern.

37 **40**
V. as we for-give those who pass trash a - gainst us. stitch-ing time to

Cb.


Musical score for 'Earnest, Rueful' continuation. The vocal line (V.) starts at measure 37. The lyrics are: 'as we for-give those who pass trash a - gainst us. stitch-ing time to'. The bass line (Cb.) is in bass clef, 3/4 time, with a complex rhythmic pattern.

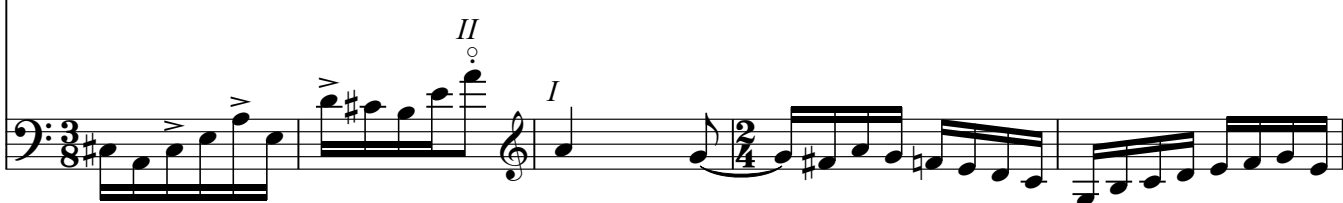
41
V. save nine like a cat has nine live. ga - tors named Al - ly and lack toast,

Cb.

Musical score for 'Earnest, Rueful' continuation. The vocal line (V.) starts at measure 41. The lyrics are: 'save nine like a cat has nine live. ga - tors named Al - ly and lack toast,'. The bass line (Cb.) is in bass clef, 2/4 time, with a complex rhythmic pattern.

46 Triumphant! Declarative


V. 
 we lack toast! and tol-er-ance!


Cb. 
 II
 I

52 Marching

51 
 f
 And lead us not in - to Penn Sta-tion. One na-tion,

Cb. 
 f

56 
 spoken
 un - der dog, for witch-es dance. Wipe that Smurf off your face!

Cb. 
 blat!

59 A Stately Conclusion

V. 
 And de - li - ver us some ea - gles, im-di - si - vi - ble,

Cb. 
 mp

III - A Sound Outside

for Voice and Percussion

♩ = 60 Metals and Glass (Subtle Scrabbling)

Voice

Percussion

Bass Drum

with Rattan Sticks and card for scrapes

with Heel of L.H. *p*

mp always l.v.

Gl. 3

Mtl.

5 Rl.

hit ruler on table

roll on glass

pp <

4

V.

Perc.

B.D.

p

"scrape"

mp

7

Spr.

B.

Rl. "twang"

Mtl.

3

Gl.

7

V.

Perc.

B.D.

Gu.

Cl.

Spr.

Gl.

B.

7

10

V. *p* There's a

Perc. **RI.** **Gu.** **Gl.** *rapidly strike* *taper/slow roll* *mf* *ppp*

B.D.

14 Delicate Sounds

V. sound out - side, in the moon - less

Perc. **B.** **Gl.** **Mtl.** **Spr.** **B.** **Spr.** *super slow:* *pp*

17

V. *mp* night, I hear it! *p* lum-ber-ing a round *mp* shak-ing the

Perc. *catch each coil* **RI.** **Gu.** *pp* *mp* *p* *mf*

B.D. (with L.H.) *pp* *mp* *p* *mf*

20

V. *f* *p*

house, and I just know it could come in

Perc. Spr. *scrape slow to fast*

B.D. *pp* *f*

23 Strange Thunder

V. *pitchless* *roll r*

sss pit! drrr ipsss from(m) tee -

B.D. Move pile of beads around B.D. head

26

V. th - dh claw lu lu lu lu lu lu

Perc. [Rl.] [Cl.]

B.D. *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

4

inhale/exhale (voiceless) *(voiced)*

29

V.

ha a ha a ha a clea (ch) fff vvv

B.D.

mp sfz mf ppp

(♩ = 60, ♪ = 80)

33 Fragile, 3 vs. 2

32

V.

Is it be - cause I did-n't

Perc.

ff p hit ruler off table

With Hard Wooden Sticks

W. Gl. Mtl. B. RI.

35 Industrial

34

V.

eat all my brus-sel sprouts? Be-cause I grabbed the cat by the tail

Perc.

mf hit ruler on table ff

Cl. RI. Mtl. Spr. snap

37 Counting Up ♩ = 120

36 *f* *p*

V. *I'm sor-ry!* *Is it be-cause I* *hit ruler on table*

Perc. *p* *f* *p* *p* *p*

Mtl. Cl. Gl. B. Mtl. W. 3 Cl. Gl. 3 Rl.

39

V. *did - n't count all the way to twen-ty se - ven when I*

Perc. *p* *mp* *mp* *mf*

3 3 3

44 Outbursts, Terrifying

42 *ff* *fall*

V. *brushed my teeth Oh no!*

Perc. *mf* *f* *f* *7*

3 5 Cl.

B.D. *with heel of L.H.* *ff*

3

46

Perc. RI. Spr.

B.D.

p *mp* *f* *6* *ff*

ff *ff*

50

Perc.

B.D.

mp *f*

ff

53

Perc.

B.D.

mp *f*

3 *3*

57 ♩ = 72 **Doom**

Superball Mallet dragged on B.D.
Loose bead chains on B.D.

56

B.D.

With Stick

fff

p *mf* *pp*

inhale/exhale

61

V.

↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑

5

creepy, intoned *siren wail*

strange howls ha a ha a ha a-round me be hi - nd th t b

3

Switch to pushing beads around B.D. head

B.D.

f *sfz* *sfz* *fp* *mf*

scoop up handful *drop handful*

65

V.

th t b, ih! n m n m n m n I al-rea - dy lost Ted - dy ah,

p

with hand (and card)

RL.

Perc.

scoop up handful *drop handful*

B.D.

fp *mf* *sfz*

68 *f* *full of spit sound* *f*

V. *f* to the floor *fff* flo

Perc. *mf* *ff* *mf* Spr. Spr. Rl.

B.D. *ff* *sfz* *f*

71 $\text{♩} = 80$ *f*

V. *f* I can't get up to go pee! and if I fall a-sleep it will

Perc. *ff* *mf* *ff* *f* Rl. Spr.

B.D. *sfz* *sfz* *fp* *p* scoop drop Beat B.D. With Hand let bead rumble fade

74

shriek ***fff***

V.

prac-tice fit-ting its mouth a-round me. Ah!

prac-tice fit-ting its mouth a-round me. Ah!

Gu.

Spr.

Spr.

Perc.

mp ***ff***

mp

ff

B.D.

f damp B.D.

f damp B.D.

IV - Nobodies

for Alto and Tenor Duet, optional Contrabass

♩=60 **Small, Forlorn**

Voice *p parlando* *pp* *p*
I wish those kids___ at the big round ta - ble would no-tice me, those

Low Voice *gentle pp* *p*
Ah___

Contrabass *change bows as needed, minimize bow change* *pp*

Voice *mp* *f outburst* **10**
big kidsthere. in the cen-ter of the room. I thought no - bo-dy was pay-ing at

L.V. *pp* *p* *mf*
Ah___ who cares?

Cb. *p*

Voice *mf*
ten - tion! You ne-ver talk_ to a - ny one.

L.V. *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*
No-bo - dy was. Be-cause no - bo - dy talks to

Cb.

desicive

16 *f*

Voice Well now you've talked! You're talk-ing, to me?___ Do you

L.V. *mp* *mf* 3

me... Be-cause-you're talk-ing to me, and see? No-bo-dy cares.

Cb. *mp*

21

21

Voice think that is true? Some-bo-dy al-ways cares, e - ven if you don't know___ that they care.

L.V. *p*

No, no

Cb.

25

strong, still gentle

Voice *mf* *mp*

No?___ Oh.

L.V. *f* *p*

no! It's not of-ten that some - bo-dy cares. It's u - sual-ly a no - bo - dy. A

Cb. *mf* *mp*

29

Voice

L.V.

Cb.

p

kid who does-n't talk to any one else. They aren't no-ticed by e - v'ry one else. They are no_____

34

33

Voice

L.V.

Cb.

p

mp

mf

No-bo-dy_____ sees,_____ hears, no - - - - -
 _____ bo - dy. They see what no-bo-dy else sees, hear when no-bo-dy lis-tens, they're the ones who care.

39

37

Voice

L.V.

Cb.

mf

p

p

p

bo - dy. Am I no-bo - dy? Am I?_____

They do all the things that no - bo-dy does. There are lots of no - bo-dies.

41

Voice

sweetly

pp

L.V.

Some of the kids_____ at the big round ta - ble, in the cen - ter of the room are no - bo - dies,

Cb.

pp

44

Voice

p *mp*

No - bo - dy can hear them, see them, But some some-bo - dies have__ to care.

L.V.

p *mp*

no _____ bo - dy. All the

Cb.

p

50 Growing Turbulent

48

Voice

p *p*

some - bo - dy_____ The les-ser some-bo - dies care a -

L.V.

mf *p*

some-bo - dies I know don't care a - bout a - ny one. Cer - tain - ly not no - bo - dies. The

Cb.

pp

51

Voice *f*
 bout some-bo-dy grea - ter than them. The les-ser some-bo-dies, the les-ser some-bo-dies. I

L.V.
 great - est some - bo - dy does-n't care at all, does-n't care at all, care at all, care at all.

Cb.

54

Voice *fp* *mp* *p*
 wish I was some-thing more than a no - bo - dy.

L.V. *f* *p*
 I don't think it's po - ssi-ble to have a world with-out no - bo - dies.

Cb. *f* *pp* *let ring*

wait until CB sound finishes ringing

59 Completely Alone

Voice *mp*
 Well may-be I want to be a some-bo-dy, so I don't have to care.

L.V. *mp*
 There are no - bo - dies who don't

Cb.

63 *pp* *p* > *pp* *p*

Voice: Ah _____ Or... May-be it is best to be a

L.V.: care, but then there's no-thing of them left.

Cb. *pp*

69 *f* *p*

Voice: no - bo - dy. ones who have some - thing to care a - bout.

L.V.: *p* *f* *p*
They are the ones _____ who have some-thing to care_ a - bout._

Cb. *p* *f* *p*

V - My Room

for Voice and Bb Clarinet

♩=72 Smooth and Serene

Clarinet in Bb

ppp *p* *pp*

7 Jumpy

Cl.

mp *p* *pp* *pp*

Cl.

pp

11

Cl.

rit.

p *pp*

13 Smooth and Serene

V.

There's a win-dow a cam'-ra lens of wind that I o - pen so that the

Cl.

p *mp* *pp*

2

18 *mf* *f* *mf* *p*

V. map of the world wob - bles on the wall,

Cl. *mf* *f* *pp* *mp*

23

V. col-lec -ted rocks and thoughts and o - ther his-to - ries, a co-zy mi - cro - cos-m of

Cl. *p* *mp*

27 *mp* *pp*

V. mybestand worst i - deas..

Cl. *pp* *mp* *ppp*

35 Moving More

32 *p*

V. A ceil-ing of stars

Cl. *p* *mp*

36

V. *p* *pp*

g l o w s f a i n t i n t h e d a r k o n c o l - u m n s o f m y w r i t - i n g

Cl. *pp*

40

V. *pp*

o n t h e w a l l s , t o w h o m I b e - q u e a t h t h i s w a l l p a p e r e d u - n i -

Cl. *bisbig.*

42

45

V. *p*

v e r s e W h e n I a m g o n e .

Cl. *pp < p* *p*

48 ♩=110 Lively, Cheeky

49

V. *p*

I n m y c a m ' - r a p u r p l e d a r k

Cl. *p*

52

V. *p*

an o - pen - eye, _____ my _____ ply - wood of de-

Cl.

56

57

V.

sires, my thumb-prints on the _____ tacks the hold the

Cl.

59

V. *mf*

map a - no ther kind of win -

Cl.

64 ♩=72 Pensive

62


V.


Cl.

p

68 ♩=60 Smooth and Serene


66


V. 

Cl. 

you _____ walls _____ on some re-


71


V. 

Cl. 

turn, _____ when the wind blows me. back _____ I'll

75

V. 

Cl. 

tell you what those ted mer-i - di-ans look _____ like _____ on the real sea.

80 Untethered, In Long Arcs

79

V. 

Cl. 

Ah _____

6

82

V.

Cl.

86

V.

Cl.

92 Floating Away

rit.

91

V.

Cl.

94

V.

Cl.