

"A Strange Courage"

SSAATTBB
and Piano

It's a strange courage
you give me, ancient star:
Shine alone in the sunrise
toward which you lend no part!

I
Shine alone, shine nakedly, shine like bronze,
that reflects neither my face nor any inner part
of my being, shine like fire, that mirrors nothing.

II
Lend no part to any humanity that suffuses
you in its own light.
Be not chimera of morning,
Half-man, half-star.
Be not an intelligence,
Like a widow's bird
Or an old horse.

Text : "NUANCES OF A THEME BY WILLIAMS"
by Wallace Stevens
expanding on four lines by William Carlos Williams
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Deborah Mason 2003

9 min. ♩=96

The musical score is for a vocal ensemble (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and Piano. It is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 96 beats per minute. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The score consists of seven measures. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) are mostly silent, indicated by rests. The piano accompaniment begins in measure 2 with a *sempre mp* dynamic. The piano part features complex chordal textures and melodic lines in both hands. Dynamics for the piano part are marked as *ppp*, *mp*, *pp*, *mf*, *p*, and *ppp* across the measures. The piano part ends with a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a dotted quarter note in the left hand in the final measure.

8 *Clearly* *Warm, slightly covered*

S

A

T *p* 4. *pp*

B *pp* B.2

It's a strange cour-age you give me, an-cient star: Shine a -

Shine a -

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

16 *Clearly*

S

A

T *mf* 4.

B *mp* 4.

lone Shine a - lone Shine a -

16 lone Shine a-lone It's a strange cour-age you give me, an-cient star:

p

S *pp* Shine

A *pp* Shine

T lone *mf* in the sun-rise toward which you lend no part!

B *mf*

Shine a - lone in the sun-rise toward which you lend no

p

S *mf* Shine a - lone Shine a - lone Shine a - lone Shine a - lone

A *mp* Shine a - lone Shine a - lone Shine a - lone Shine a - lone

T *p* Shine Shine a - lone

B *p*

part! Shine a - lone Shine a - lone Shine a - lone

p *mp*

48

S.2

4. *f* ,

S
lone Shine Shine a - lone in the

A
lone Shine

T
which you lend no part! Shine

B
mp (stagger)

48 toward which you lend no part!

p

53

f

S
sun-rise toward which you lend no part! Shine Shine

A
4. *f* A.1 Shine Shine

T
mf Shine Shine

B
p 4. *mf* Shine Shine

53 Shine a - lone Shine Shine

60 *f* *mf* *mp* *f*

S Shine a - lone, Shine a - lone Shine Shine a -

A Shine a - lone, Shine a - lone Shine Shine a -

T Shine Shine a - lone Shine a - lone Shine a -

B Shine Shine a - lone Shine a - lone Shine a -

60 Shine Shine a - lone Shine a - lone

68 *mf* *mp* *p* 72 *Flowing*

S lone Shine a - lone Shine Shine a - lone

A lone Shine a - lone Shine Shine a - lone

T lone, shine like bronze, that re -

B lone, shine like bronze, shine like

68 Shine a - lone, shine na - ked-ly, shine like bronze, shine like

72

4. *p*
S Shine

4. *p*
A Shine

T *mp* *f*
flects neith-er my face nor an-y in-ner part of my be-ing, shine like bronze, shine like

B *f*
73 bronze, shine like bronze,

S

A

T *f*
bronze, shine like

B 4.
77 shine like bronze, that re-flects neith-er my face nor an-y in-ner part of my be-ing,

81 *4. p* 83 *Marcato f*

S shine like bronze, shine like

A shine like bronze, shine like

T bronze, that re-flects neith-er my face nor an - y in - ner part of my be - ing,

B *f* shine like bronze,

81 83 *Marcato*

84 *mf* *Flowing*

S bronze, that re-flects neith-er my face nor an - y in - ner part of my be - ing, shine like

A bronze, that re-flects neith-er my face nor an - y in - ner part of my be - ing, shine like

T shine like

B

84 *Flowing*

S
bronze, that re - flects neith - er my face nor an - y in - ner part of my

A
bronze, that re - flects neith - er my face nor an - y in - ner part

T
bronze, shine like bronze, that re - flects neith - er my

B
4. *mf* shine like bronze, shine like

S
be - - - ing,

A
that re - flects neith - er my face nor be - - - ing,

T
face nor an - y in - ner part of my be - - - ing,

B
bronze, that re - flects neith - er my face nor an - y in - ner part of my

91 *mf* *poco rit* 94 *Mysterioso*
a tempo *mf*

S shine like bronze, Shine a -

A *ff* shine like bronze, Shine

T 4. neith - er an - y in - ner part of my be - ing, Shine a - -

B *mp* *mp* 4. Shine

91 be - - - - - ing, Shine

96

S lone Shine na - ked - ly,

A a - - - - lone, Shine

T lone, Shine Shine a - lone, Shine

B Shine a - lone, Shine a - lone, a -

96 Shine a - lone, Shine a - lone, a -

S *f* shine like

A *mf* shine like fire, shine like fire, *f* shine like

T fire, like fire, like fire, that mir-rors noth-ing.

B fire, like fire, like fire, that mir-rors noth-ing.

S *Marcato* fire, like fire, like fire, that mir-rors noth-ing. shine like

A fire, like fire, like fire, that mir-rors noth-ing. shine like

T shine like fire, shine like fire, like fire, that mir-rors

B shine like fire, shine like fire, like fire, that mir-rors

S
fire, shine like fire, that mir-rors noth-ing. shine like

A
fire, shine like fire, that mir-rors noth-ing. shine like

T
noth-ing. mir - rors noth - ing. like fire, like fire, shine like fire, shine like

B
noth-ing. mir - rors noth - ing. shine like fire, shine like fire, shine like

S
fire, like fire, like fire, that mir - rors

A
fire, like fire, like fire, that mir - rors

T
fire, shine like fire, shine like fire,

B
fire, shine like fire, shine like fire, fire, that mir - rors noth - ing.

S
noth-ing. mir - rors noth - ing. noth-ing.

A
noth-ing. mir - rors noth-ing. noth - ing. noth - ing. noth - ing. noth-ing.

T
that mir-rors noth-ing. noth - ing. Shine a -

B
mir - rors noth-ing. noth - ing. Shine a -

130 *Mysterioso*

S
Shine a - - - - lone,

A
Shine a - - - - lone,

T
lone, a - lone, Shine a - lone, shine na - ked - ly,

B
Shine a - lone, Shine a - lone,

lone, Shine a - lone, 130

a - - - - lone, Shine a -



S

A Shine

T Shine a-lone, Shine

B 4. *p*

lone, Shine a - lone, a - lone,

pp

p

143 Warm, slightly covered

S *p*

Lend no part

A A.1 *p* 4. *p*

Lend no part to an-y hu - man - i - ty

T

B

143

ppp

mp

150

S *4. p* (stagger)
Be not chim-er - a

A that suf-fu - ses you in its own light.

T *4. pp* (stagger)
Be not chim -

B

150

pp mp

158

S *Bright mp* *mf*
of morn - ing, Half - man, half - star.

A *A.1 mp* *mf*
Half - man, half - star.

T *mp* *mf*
er - a Half - man, half - star.

B *p* *mp* *mf*
Half - man, half - star.

158

pp mp

S *mp* 4. Like a wid-ow's bird

A A.2 wid-ow's bird

T *mp* 4. Be not an in - tell - i-gence, Like a wid - ow's bird Or an old

B 4. wid - ow's bird

Warm, slightly covered

S *mp* 4. horse. It's a strange cour-age you give me, an-cient

A horse.

T horse.

B

S
star: Shine a - lone in the sun - rise

A
A.2 *p* Shine a - lone Shine

T
4. *p* Shine Shine a - lone in the sun - rise in the

B
Shine a-lone Shine in the sun - - 4. *p*

181 in the

mp *pp*

poco rit

S
(stagger) toward which you lend no part!

A
sun - rise toward which you lend no part!

T
rise toward which you lend no part! you lend no part!

B
(stagger)

188 sun - rise toward which you lend no part! you lend no part!