

Song of the Bowman of Shu

Translated by Ezra Pound - Songs from CATHAY

Text by Brunno, 1100 B.C. Chinese

Music by Winifred Keane, BMI

1 $\text{♩} = 52$

Voice Percussive

Piano *mf*

The first system of the score consists of two staves. The upper staff is labeled 'Voice' and contains a single note with a 'Percussive' effect. The lower staff is labeled 'Piano' and contains a complex melodic line in 5/4 time, marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and various accents.

2 3

Voc

Pno *sfz* *pp*

The second system continues the musical score. The 'Voc' staff has two measures, with the second measure marked with a 3/4 time signature. The 'Pno' staff continues the piano accompaniment, featuring dynamic markings of *sfz* (sforzando) and *pp* (pianissimo) in the later measures.

4 *mf* 3 3 5

Voc
Here we are pick- ing the first fern shoots, And

Pno

6 *Cantabile* 3 3

Voc
say- ing: When shall we get back to

Pno

7 8

Voc
our coun- try?

Pno

9 10

Voc

We grub the soft fern shoots.

Pno

11 12

Voc

When an- y- one says "Re- turn," the oth- ers are full of

Pno

13 14

Voc

sor- row.

Pno

15

Voc

16 *mf* 3

Sor- row- ful minds,

Pno

f *mp* *mf*

17

Voc

3

Sor- row- is strong, we are

Pno

18

Voc

3 *f*

hun- gry and thirst- y.

Pno

19

Voc

Pno

20

mp

21

Voc

Our de- fence is not yet made sure,

Pno

sfz

p

22

23

Voc

no one can let his friend re- turn. We

Pno

24 *mf* 25 *p*

Voc
 grub the old fern stalks. We say:

Pno
ppp

26 *mf* 3 3 3

Voc
 Will we be let to go back in Oc-

Pno
 3 3 3

27 > 28

Voc
 to- ber?

Pno
mp 3 3

29

Voc *mp* There is

Pno 3

30

Voc no ease in roy- al af- fairs, We have no

Pno *p*

31

Voc com- fort. Our sor- row is

Pno

32

Voc

6/4

bi- ter, but we would not re- turn to our

Pno

6/4

3

3

3

3

33

Voc

3/4

coun- try. What flow'r has come in- to blos- som? Whose

mf 34

3

Pno

3/4

3

mf

35

Voc

3/4

char- iot? The Gen'- ral's.

f 36

Pno

3/4

4/4

mp

37 38

Voc

Pno

sfz *mp* *f* *sfz*

39 40

Voc

Pno

mp

41

Voc

Pno

fp *f* *fp*

Hor- ses, his

42 *mf*

Voc hor- ses ev- en, are tired. They were

Pno

43 *p*

Voc strong. By heav'n, his hor- ses are tired. The

Pno *mf* *pp*

45 *ppp*

Voc gen'- rals are on them, the sol- diers are by them.

Pno

47 *mp* *mf* 3 48 *mp* 3

Voc We have no rest, three bat-tles a month. The en-e-my is

Pno *p* *mp* *p*

49

Voc swift, we must be care-ful

Pno

50 Cantabile *mp* 3

Voc When we set

Pno *mp* *pp* 3

51

Voc

out, the wil- lows were droop- ing with

p

3

Pno

pp

52

Voc

spring,

Pno

mf

53

Voc

We come back in snow, We go

mp

54

Pno

f

p

55 3 3 56

Voc

slow- ly, we are hun- gry and thirst- y, Our mind is full of

Pno

57 mf 58 3

Voc

sor- row, Who will know of our

Pno

mp *mf*

59 mf 60

Voc

grief?

Pno

mp *sfz* *fff*

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