

I Was There

1. Beginning My Studies
2. I Was There
3. A Clear Midnight
4. O Captain! My Captain!
5. Joy, Shipmate, Joy!

Lee Hoiby | Walt Whitman

I WAS THERE

five poems of Walt Whitman

to Hans Leder

1. Beginning My Studies

Walt Whitman

Lee Hoiby

Allegretto

Be-gin-ning my

p *espressivo*

con ped.

4

stud - ies the first step pleas'd me so

legato sempre

6

much. The mere fact con - scious - ness. these

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9

forms, the pow - er of mo - tion, the least in - sect or

12

an - i - mal, the sen -

15

ses, eye sight,

18

love, The first

p *poco allargando* *f* *a tempo*

p cresc. *f*

21

step I say awed me and pleased me so

24

ritenuto much, I have hard, *a tempo* ly gone and

f *p*

27

ritardando molto hard - ly wish'd to go an - y far - ther, But

30

Un poco lento stop and loiter all the time *tratt.* *a tempo* *ritard.* to

pp *p*

poco a poco stringendo

34 *port.*

sing _____ it in ec - stat - ic

poco a poco stringendo

Allegro

36

songs. _____

ff

38

poco a poco stringendo al fine

40

to Eric Karpeles

2. I Was There

Walt Whitman

Lee Hoiby

Steady $\text{♩} = 76$

Piano

pp *sim.* *poco cresc.* *sim.*

5 I un - der - stand the

mp *pp*

9 large hearts of he - roes, _____ The

p

13 cour - age of pres - ent times _____ and

17 *all* _____ *times,* _____

20 _____

How the skip - per saw the crowd - ed and

23 _____

rud - der - less wreck of the steam - ship, and Death chas - ing it

26 _____

up and down the storm. How he

29

knuck - led tight and gave not back one inch, and was

ff

33

faith - ful of days and faith - ful of nights, and

p

37

chalked in large let-ters on a board, Be of good

f

41

cheer, we will not de - sert you; How he

sfz *pp sub. molto legato*

45

fol-lowed with them and tacked with them three days and

poco a poco cresc.

49

would not give it up, How he saved the drift-ing com - pa-ny at

ff

ped. *ped.*

53

last, How the

allargando *f sempre*

8ba *loco* *8ba*

ped. tenuto

56

a tempo

lank loose - gown'd wom-en looked when boat - ed

p

60 (.)

from the side of their pre - par - ed graves,

cresc.

65 *poco rit.* *a tempo*

How the si - lent old - faced in - fants

f *p*

70

and the lift - ed sick, and the

74 *v*

sharp - lipped un - shav - en men, _____

dim.

ped. sempre tenuto

Meno mosso $\text{♩} = 50$

78

All this I

pp

82

swal - low, it tastes good, — I like it well,

86

it be - comes mine, I am the man,

p *mf*

90

I suf - fered, I was there.

f *ff*

to Michael Carson

3. A Clear Midnight

Walt Whitman

Lee Hoiby

Lento $\text{♩} = 46$

This — is thy hour, O

Piano *pp*

con pedale

soul, thy free flight in - to the word - less. A -

p

way from books. a - way from art. the day e - rased. the les - son

mf

pp

13

done. _____ Thee ful - ly forth e - merg - ing.

17

si - lent, gaz - ing, pon - der - ing the themes thou lov - est

21

best, Night, sleep,

Poco più lento

Tempo 1

25

death and _____ the stars. _____

Tempo 1

to Joseph Machlis
4. O Captain! My Captain!

Walt Whitman

Lee Hoiby

Lento ♩ = 54

Piano *p*

6

11

16

Poco più mosso ♩ = 58

Cap - tain, my Cap - tain! Our fear - ful trip is done. The

18

ship has weath-er-ev-ry rack. the prize we sought is won. The

20

port is near, the bells I hear, the peo-ple all ex-ult-ing. While

22

fol-low eyes the stead-y keel. the ves-sel grim and dar-ing;

24

But O heart! heart!

26

(f)

heart! O the bleed - ing drops of red. Where on the deck my Cap - tain lies. — Fall - en

p *poco a poco cresc.*

29

ritard. *a tempo*

cold and dead. O — Cap - tain! my Cap - tain! Rise up and hear the bells; Rise

f *p* *f*

32

up, for you the flag is flung, for you the bu - gle trills. For

35

you hou - quets and rib - boned wreaths, for you the shores a - crowd - ing. For

p

37 *p*
 you they call, the sway - ing mass, their ea - ger fac - es turn - ing:

pp
 6

39 *cresc.*
 Here — Cap - tain! dear — fa - ther! The

f *p sub.* *cresc.*
 6 3 3 3 3 3 3

43
 arm be - neath your head! It is some

3 3 3 6 6 3

46
 dream that on this deck you've fall - en

ff
 6

48

cold — and dead. *ritard.*

sfz poco a poco dim.

51

Meno mosso ♩ = 46

My Cap - tain does not an - swer, his

pp

55

lips are pale and still, My fa - ther does not feel my arm, —

60

— he has no strength nor will, The

Poco più mosso

65

ship is anchored safe and sound. _____ its

pp

68

voy - age closed and done. _____ From

71

fear - ful trip the vic - tor ship comes in with ob - ject

mp poco a poco cresc.

74

won: _____ Ex - ult, O shores, and

f

78 *allargando*

ring, O bells! But

Largamente

81 I with mourn ful

84 tread, walk the deck my

87 Cap tain lies. fall

dim. *f*

90

en, fall en

poco a poco dim.

93

cold and

mp

8ba

97

dead.

p

ritard. al fine

101

pp

to Michael Sell
5. Joy, Shipmate, Joy!

Walt Whitman

Lee Hoiby

Allegro molto ♩ = 160

8va- - - - -

Piano

8va- - - - -

ff

con pedale

This system contains the first three measures of the piano accompaniment. The music is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The right hand features a rapid eighth-note pattern, while the left hand plays a similar pattern with some triplets. The dynamic is marked *ff* (fortissimo). A dashed line labeled '8va-' indicates an octave transposition for the right hand. The instruction 'con pedale' is written below the left hand.

This system contains measures 4 through 6. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic patterns as the first system, maintaining the *ff* dynamic.

7

ff

This system contains measures 7 through 11. The piano accompaniment continues. The right hand has some triplet markings. The dynamic remains *ff*.

12

Joy, ship - mate, joy! _____

f

This system contains measures 12 through 15. The top staff shows the vocal line with the lyrics 'Joy, ship - mate, joy!' and a long horizontal line for the rest of the phrase. The piano accompaniment continues with a dynamic marking of *f* (forte). The right hand has triplet markings.

17

(Pleas'd to my soul at death I cry.) Our

mf *dim.*

22

life is closed, _____ our life _____

p *cresc.*

27

_____ be - gins, _____

ff

32

The long, long an - chor - age we

f

37 *(f)*

leave, _____

pp sub. *mf*

41

The ship is clear at

pp *cresc.*

44

last, _____ she leaps!

ff

47

She swift - ly

p sub. *cresc.*

51

cours - es from the shore.

54

57

Joy, ship - mate.

61

joy!

8va *loco*

ff

gliss.

15-7

8-7