

1988

Poor Soul

Scott Lakin Jones

William Shakespeare

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Jones, Scott Lakin and William Shakespeare. "Poor Soul." (1988). https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nm_composer_archive/312

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Two Sonnets

Inconclusiveness

Dante Gabriel Rossetti

The changing guests, each in a different mood,
Sit at the roadside table and arise:
And every life among them in likewise
Is a soul's board set daily with new food.
What man has bent o'er his son's sleep, to brood
How that face shall watch his when cold it lies?
Or thought, as his own mother kissed his eyes,
Of what her kiss was when his father wooed?

May not this ancient room thous sittest in dwell
In separate living souls for joy or pain?
Nay, all its corners may be painted plain
Where Heaven shows pictures of some life spent well;
And may stamped, a memory all in vain,
Upon the sight of lidless eyes in Hell.

Poor soul, the centre of my sinful earth

William Shakespeare
(revised by S. L. Jones)

Poor soul, the centre of my sinful earth--
Source of all these rebel powers that thee array *
Why dost thou pine within and suffer dearth,
Painting thy outward walls so costly gay?
Why so large cost, having so short a lease,
Dost thou upon thy fading mansion spend?
Shall worms, inheritors of this excess,
Eat up thy charge? is this thy body's end?
Then, soul, live thou upon thy servant's loss,
And let that pine to aggravate thy store;
Buy terms divine in selling hours of dross;
Within be fed, without be rich no more:
So shalt thou feed on Death, that feeds on men,
And Death once dead, there's no more dying then.

* orig. "My sinful earth these rebel powers array--" [A Book of Sonnets, ed. Robert Nye, Oxford University Press, 1976]

Scott Lakin Jones wrote these songs in December, 1988. They were intended to be two of a group of three songs. The third, it is believed was to have been a setting of the sonnet Clouds by Rupert Brooke.

f

WHY SO LARGE COST,
 HAV-ING SO - SHORT A LEASE DOST
 THOU UP-ON THY FAD-ING

MAN-SION SPEND?
 SHALL WORMS,
 IN-HER-I-TORS OF
 THIS EX-CESS,
 EAT UP THY

CHARGE?
 THIS THY SO - DY'S END?
 THEN

CRESC. **ff**

SENZA MISURA

ff SOUL,
 LIVE THOU UP-ON THY SER-VANT'S LOSS,
 AND LET THAT PINE TO AGGRAVATE THY STORE.

pp

TEMPO I GRADUALLY SLOWING

VERY SLOWLY (♩ = 58-60; TEMPO II)

SENZA MISURA

TEMPO I SLOWING...

BUY TERMS DI-VINE

SELL-ING HOURS OF

CROSS;

SENZA MISURA

TEMPO II

WITH-IN BE FED, WITH-OUT BE RICH NO MORE.

Rit. - - - - -

SENZA MISURA

pp dolce

SO SHALT THOU FEED ON DEATH THAT FEEDS ON MEN, AND DEATH ONCE DEAD THERE'S

pp dolce sostenuto

SIMILE AD LIB.

NO MORE DY-ING THEN

pp

rit.

Scarlatti

Scarlatti Dec. 1988