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(7. Vico visits Canedolia)

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Vico visits Canedolia

for
three unaccompanied voices

after two poems by Edwin Morgan

Vico's Song
and
Canedolia

Richard Barron

March 2021

Vico visits Canedolia

Vico visits Canedolia is the pairing of two settings of poems by the Scottish poet Edwin Morgan (1920-2010), *Vico's Song* and *Canedolia*. The songs are for three unaccompanied voices: soprano, mezzo-soprano and alto.

In *Vico's Song*, Vico's spoken part can either be taken by one of the singers or shared between them. The *Sprechstimme* passages are intended to be closer to speech than singing, and the *Sprechgesang* passages closer to singing than speech. In both songs, pitches need not be precise in any of the sections that are not sung.

Performance time for the pair is around eight minutes. The texts are shown below and on the following page.

Vico's Song

*the universe that turned in on itself
turned in on itself
on itself
self was
was the universe
that was turned in
it was the universe that was turned in*

*the universe that was turned in
turned in got seven
seven days
days it
it spent turning
spent turning over
days it spent turning over a new leaf*

*the universe that turned over a new leaf
turned over a new leaf
new leaf
leaf lived
lived in the arms
in the arms of the eternal
it lived in the arms of the eternal return*

Canedolia

an off-concrete Scotch fantasia

oa! hoy! awe! ba! mey!

who saw?

rhu saw rum. garve saw smoo. nigg saw tain. lairg saw lagg.
rigg saw eigg. largs saw hagg. tongue saw luss. mull saw yell.
stoer saw strone. drem saw muck. gask saw noss. unst saw cults.
echt saw banff. weem saw wick. trool saw twatt.

how far?

from largo to lunga from joppa to skibo from ratho to shona from
ulva to minto from tinto to tolsta from soutra to marsco from
braco to barra from alva to stobo from fogo to fada from gigha to
gogo from kelso to stroma from hirta to spango.

what is it like there?

och it's freuchie, it's faifley, it's wamphray, it's frandy, it's
sliddery.

what do you do?

we foindle and fungle, we bonkle and meigle and maxpoffle. We
scotstarvit, armit, wormit, and even whifflet. we play at crosstobs,
leuchars, gorbals, and finfan, we scavaig, and there's aye a bit of
tilquhilly. if it's wet, treshnish and mishnish.

what is the best of the country?

blinkbonny! airgold! Thundergay!

and the worst?

scrishven, shiskine, scrabster, and snizort.

listen! what's that?

catacol and wauchope, never heed them.

tell us about last night

well, we had a wee ferintosh and we lay on the quiraing. it was pure strontian!

but who was there?

petermoidart and craigenkenneth and cambusputtock and
ecclemuchty and corriehulish and balladolly and altnacanny and
clauchanvrechan and stronachlochan and auchenlachar and
tighnacrankie and tilliebuaich and killieharra and invervannach
and achnatudlem and machrishellach and inchtamurchan and
auchterfechan and kinlochculter and ardnawhallie and
invershuggle.

and what was the toast?

schiehallion! schiehallion! schiehallion!

Vico's Song
for three voices

Richard Barron

Vico (spoken part): the universe that turned in on itself

Rhythmic throughout ♩ = 72

Spoken *p*

Voice 1

Voice 2

Voice 3

the u - ni - verse that turned in on it - self turned in on it - self on it-self self was was the u - ni - verse that was turned in it was the u - ni - verse that was turned in

the u - ni - verse that turned in on it - self turned in on it - self on it-self

the u - ni - verse that turned in on it - self turned in it was the u - ni - verse that was turned in

was the universe that was turned in

Sprechstimme

6

mp

mf

mp

the u - ni - verse that was turned in turned in got se - ven se - ven days days it it spent turn - ing spent turn - ing o - ver days it spent turn-ing o - ver a new leaf

the u - ni - verse that was turned in turned in got se - ven se - ven days it it spent turn - ing spent turn - ing o - ver days it spent turn-ing o - ver a new leaf

the u - ni - verse that was turned in turned in got se - ven days it spent turn-ing o - ver a new leaf

the universe that was turned in got seven days

Sprechgesang

10

mf

f

mf

the u - ni - verse that turned o - ver a new leaf turned o - ver a new leaf new leaf leaf lived lived in the arms in the arms of the e - ter - nal it lived in the arms of th'e - ter - nal re - turn

the u - ni - verse that turned o - ver a new leaf turned o - ver a new leaf new leaf lived in the arms in the arms of the e - ter - nal it lived in the arms of th'e - ter - nal re - turn

the u - ni - verse that turned o - ver a new leaf it lived in the arms of th'e - ter - nal re - turn

days it spent turning over a new leaf

Reflective ♩ = 60 *gliss.*₃ *p* *mp* *p*

Soprano
the u - ni - verse that turned - (rrnd) in on it - self _____ self was _____ the _____ u - ni - verse - that turned in on it - self ____

Mezzo
turned - (rrnd) in _____ on it - self that was turned in ____

Alto
p *mp* *gliss.*₃
turned - (rr) (nd) on it - self _____ was the u - ni - verse - (rrss)

the universe that turned over a new leaf

10 Quick, light ♩ = 66 *mf* *gliss.* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *p* *gliss.*

days it _____

turned in ____ got se - ven se - ven days it spent turn - ing spent turn - ing o - ver ____

the u - ni - verse that _____ was turned in _____ days ____ it spent turn - ing o - ver _____ a new leaf

lived in the arms of the eternal return

19 Serene ♩=55

the u - ni - verse turned - (rrnd) o - ver a new leaf lived in the arms

the u - ni - verse that tur(r)ned o - ver a new leaf new leaf leaf lived

the u - ni - verse that turned - (rrnd) new leaf in the arms of the e -

26

it lived in the arms of the e - ter - nal re - turn

it lived in the arms of the e - ter - nal re - turn

ter - nal it lived in the arms of the 'ter - nal re - turn

Canedolia

Score

after Edwin Morgan

Richard Barron

Moving along - very free

Mezzo-Soprano (Vico)

Closer to singing than speaking *mf*

who saw?

Soprano (1st local)

Spoken *f* *p*

oa! ba! rhu saw rum. garve saw smoo. nigg saw tain.

Alto (2nd local)

Spoken *f* *p*

hoy! awe! mey! r(rr)hum (mm)

4

mp

lair saw lagg. rigg saw eigg. largs saw haggs. tongue saw luss. mull saw yell.

gliss. *mp*

l(l)air(r)g eigg eigg eigg eigg!

7

f gliss.

stoer saw strone. drem saw muck. gask saw noss. unst saw cults. ech(ch)t saw banff

gliss. *mf* *f*

stoer (rr) muck? ech(ch)t banff

10

mp gliss.
how far? ____

p
weem saw wick. trool saw twatt.

mp *mf* 3 3 3 3
from lar-go to lunga from jop-pa to skibo from ra-tho to

13

Sung *mp* 3
lar - go to lun ga lar - go

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
sho-na from ul - va to min-to from tin - to to tol - sta from sout - ra to mar-sco from bra - co to

15

mf 3
lar - go to lun ga lar - go

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
bar-ra from al - va to sto-bo from fo - go to fa - da from gi - gha to go - go from kel - so to

17 *mf*
what is it like there?

Spoken *f* *gliss.*
o - o - ch it's freu-chie, — it's wam-phray,

f
stro-ma from hir-ta to span-go. it's fai-fley, — it's fran-dy,

20 *p* 3
what do you

pp *gliss.* 3
it's — (ss) slid-de-ry.

pp *gliss.* 3
it's — (ss) slid-de-ry. s(sl)lid - de - r(r)y.

23
do?

p
we f(ff)oind - l(l)e and

mp
we

25

mf
f(f)ung-le, we scot-starv-it, arm-it, worm-it, whiff-let.
f
bon-kle and meig-le and max pof-fle. and e-ven we play at
mf

27

rit.
we sca-vaig,
cross-stobs, leu-chars, gor-bals, and fin fan, and there's aye
p

29

mf *a tempo*
what is the best of the coun-try?
p
if it's wet, tresh-nish and mish-nish.
a bit of til-quihly. tresh-nish and mish-nish.

33

rit.

and the worst?

f

p but marcato

blink-bon-ny! air - gold! thun-der - gay! scrish-ven, shis-kine, scrab-ster, and

f

p but marcato

blink-bon-ny! air - gold! thun-der - gay! scrish-ven, shis-kine, scrab-ster, and

36

pp a tempo

li-sten! _____ what's that?

mf

— sni-zort. — ca-ta-col — and wau-chope,

— sni-zort. —

39

mf 3

tell us a - bout _____ last night

mf gliss. *sensuously*

ne-ver heed them. well, _____ we _____ had a wee

mf gliss. *sensuously*

ne-ver heed them. well, _____ we _____ had a wee

42

p

but who _____ was there?

p

fe-rin-tosh and we lay on _____ the qui-raing. [^]

p

fe-rin-tosh it was pure _____ stron-ti-an! _____

45

pp

pe - ter moi - dart and crai - gen - ken - neth and cam - bus put - tock and

pp

and ecc - le much-ty and cor-rie hu - lish and

47

cresc.

clau-chan - vre - chan and stro - nach - lo - chan and au-chen - la-char

cresc.

bal - la - dol - ly and alt - na can - ny and

49 *accel.*

mf

and auch - ter - fe-chan and kin - loch - cul - ter and ard - na - whal - lie and

mf

tigh - na - cran - kie and til - lie - bru aich and kil - lie har - ra and in ver - van - nach and

51

f

and what was _____ the toast? _____

f

in - ver shug - gle and mach - ri shel-lach.

f

ach - na - tud - lem and inch - ta - mur-chan.

53

ff

schie-hal - lion!

Moving closer to singing, as wished

ff

schie - hal - lion! schie - hal - lion! _____ schie-hal - lion!

Moving closer to singing, as wished

ff

schie - hal - lion! schie - hal - lion! _____ schie-hal - lion!