

SCOTT BLASCO

CANTICLES 3:1
“IN MY BED BY NIGHT”

FOR VOICE AND GUITAR OR PIANO

2018

ABOUT THE MUSIC

The book of *Canticles* (or *Song of Songs*) has a peculiar place in scripture. Not a historical narrative, collection of wisdom sayings, or prophetic text, its closest kin is perhaps found in the Psalms—also a collection of poetic writings. Oddly enough, the Psalms are clearly intended to be sung, while *Canticles* is not (in spite of its name). Such a rapturous celebration of romantic, indeed erotic, love is unlike any other biblical text. Its inclusion in the canon of scripture might be put down to its traditional interpretation as a parable of the relationship between God and Israel—and later, between Christ and his Church. My approach to setting these verses is to attempt to capture both meanings, the romantic and the spiritual, as equally sacred and profoundly complementary.

Canticles was commissioned by Ruth Carver and Brendan Bondurant. Initially intended as a small song cycle of perhaps four numbers, as I read and re-read the texts in various translations, more and more individual verses added themselves to my list of candidates for inclusion. Eventually, I decided to make it a long-term project, adding a song here and there as time and inspiration allowed, leaving programming and order to the discretion of performers. “In my bed by night” was completed in January of 2013, and revised January 2018.

DURATION: c. 4’30”

VERSIONS IN THIS DOCUMENT:

This score contains versions for voice (Bb3-F5) and guitar and for voice (C4-G5) and piano. The latter is arranged from the original guitar accompaniment. For transpositions of the piano version for lower or higher voice, please contact the composer through his website at scottblasco.com.

GUITAR PERFORMANCE NOTE:

Canticles is written for an alternate guitar tuning of all perfect fourths (E, A, D, G, C, F). The score is written at sounding pitch. It may not be impossible, but will certainly be much more difficult, to perform it in standard tuning!

for Ruth Carver and Brendan Bondurant

Canticles

Canticles 3:1, "In my bed by night"

Scott Blasco
(b. 1978)

Slow and focused (♩ = 80) **p**

Mezzo-soprano

Guitar

mf *p*

6

my_ bed, in my_ bed_ by night_____ In my_ bed_ by night___ I sought_

13

mp *ametric, lightly separated*

him. By night_____ I sought him, him, whom my soul lov - eth___ I sought him,___

mp

19

sim. *p* ♩ = ♩

him, whom my soul lov - eth:___ I sought him.---

p *mf* > *p* *mf* > *p*

24

più mosso *a tempo* *accel.* *a little faster* (♩ = 92)

mf *p* *mf* *f*

29 *f* *mp*
Him, whom my soul lov - eth: I sought him, and found

32 *f* *mp*
him not. I sought him, and

35 *f* *p*
found him not.

38 *p*
and

40
found him not.

42 *pp* *mf*

for Ruth Carver and Brendan Bondurant

Canticles

Canticles 3:1, "In my bed by night"

Scott Blasco

(b. 1978)

Slow and focused (♩ = 80)

Voice *p*
In my床, in my床 by

Piano *mf* *p*
Ped. freely throughout (very resonant)

8
night In my床 by night I sought him. By night I sought him,

mp

16 *ametric, lightly separated* *sim.* *p*
him, whom my soul lov - eth I sought him, him, whom my soul lov - eth: I sought him.

22 *pù mosso* *a tempo* *accel.* *a little faster* (♩ = 92)

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

29

f *mp*

Him, whom my soul loveth: I sought him, and found him not.

f *mp* *f*

l.h.

33

f *mp*

I sought him, and found him him not.

f *mp*

l.h.

36

p

p

all l.h.

39

p

and found him not.

p

42

pp