

CHEN ZHANGYI
Three Nansi Songs
for mixed choir

I. Harping on what should be (*like a broken record*)

MUZIKSEA

Programme Notes

Harping on what should be (*like a broken record*), is an excerpt of 'A rant' from Pooja Nansi's debut poetry collection *Stiletto Scars*. My approach to setting her text is based on the line "like a broken record", where the opening music (and words) are cast upon repetitive loops that at one point playfully refers to the then-current popular TV tune - hokkien-styled "Un-un-un....believable." Of course, the gist of the text urges the reader to break out of the mold:

Why are there no poems telling us to
think think think dream dream dream
in crazy unpredictable free verse,
not in strict sonnets with rules or structure,
harping on what should be
like a broken record.

harping on what should be

(like a broken record)

With Angst $\text{♩} = 90$

Soprano *p* *mf*
Why are there no po - em - s tell - ing us to

Mezzo-soprano *p* *mf*
Why? no po - em - s tell - ing us to

Alto *p* *mf*
Why? Why? tell - ing us to

Tenor *p* *mf*
Why? Why?

Bass

Piano Reduction *p* *mf*
With Angst $\text{♩} = 90$

4 *f* articulate *mp* dolce
think, think, think, dream, dream,

f articulate *mp* dolce
think, think, think, dream, dream,

f articulate *mp* dolce
think, think, think, dream, dream,

f articulate *mp* dolce
think, think, think, dream, dream,

f articulate *mp* dolce
think, think, think, dream, dream,

f articulate *mp* dolce
think, think, think, dream, dream,

f articulate *mp* dolce
think, think, think, dream, dream,

Musical score for measures 8-11. It consists of five vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "dream in crazy un un". The piano part features a complex harmonic structure with many accidentals and ties.

Musical score for measures 12-15. It consists of five vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "pre - dic - ta - ble free". The piano part features a complex harmonic structure with many accidentals and ties, including triplets in the right hand.

15

(♩ . = ♩) Strict; Predictable ♩ = 60

verse, not in strict son-nets with rules or

verse, not in strict son-nets with rules or

verse, not in strict son-nets with rules or

free verse, not in strict son-nets with rules or

free verse not strict

(♩ . = ♩) Strict; Predictable ♩ = 60

19

A Tempo ♩ = 90

struc - ture on what should be

struc - ture harp - ing on what should be

struc - ture harp - ing on what should be harp - ing

struc - ture harp - ing on what should be

son - nets harp - ing on what should be

A Tempo ♩ = 90

like a bro - ken re - cord. like a bro - ken re - cord.

like a bro - ken re - cord. like a bro - ken re - cord.

on harp - ing on like a bro - ken re - cord. like a bro - ken re - cord.

harp - ing harp - ing on what should be

harp - ing on what should be

(like a broken record)

27 *f dim.* think, think, think, think, think, think, think, think, think, think, think,

f dim. think, think, think, think, think, think, think, think, think, think, think,

f dim. think, think, think, think, think, think, think, think, think, think, think,

f dim. think, think, think, think, think, think, think, think, think, think, think,

f dim. think, think, think, think, think, think, think, think, think, think, think,

f dim. think, think, think, think, think, think, think, think, think, think, think,

This page is intentionally left blank.

To purchase the score, please visit
www.muziksea.com

MUZIKSEA

43

gradually more glottal

(♩ = ♩)

Predictable ♩ = 60

(♩ = ♩)

un un-un-un-pre-dic-ta-ble

un un-un-un-pre-dic-ta-ble

un un-un-un-pre-dic-ta-ble

un un-un-un-pre-dic-ta-ble

un un-un-un-pre-dic-ta-ble

Predictable ♩ = 60

46

(♩ = 90)

on what should be harp - ing on what should be harp - ing

on what should be harp - ing on what should be harp - ing

on what should be harp - ing on what should be harp - ing

on what should be harp - ing on what should be harp - ing

on what should be harp - ing on what should be harp - ing

(♩ = 90)

49 (♩ = 60)

rit.

(♩ = 90)

harp - ing harp - ing on like a

harp - ing harp - ing harp - ing on like a

harp - ing harp - ing harp - ing harp - ing harp - ing on harp - ing

harp - ing on harp - ing on harp

harp - ing on harp - ing on

(♩ = 60)

rit.

(♩ = 90)

bro - ken re - cord. re - cord.

bro - ken re - cord. re - cord.

on like a bro - ken re - cord. re - cord.

ing harp - ing on what should be, like a bro - ken

harp - ing on what should be, like a bro - ken

