

I HATE CONTEMPORARY MUSIC – MANUEL TORRALBA

Preface

In January 2024, after discovering Leonard Bernstein's wonderful song cycle *"I Hate Music"* for soprano and piano, I decided to write my own song cycle for the first time ever, including lyrics, called *"I Hate Contemporary Music"*.

This set of four songs explores the complex relationship between the female protagonist and contemporary music. Each of these songs has its own unique palette of colors and, in some cases, eccentricities.

Warnings from Daddy: Lighthearted, fun song in which she talks about the horrors of contemporary music and her duty to pursue this career because it's the only one that pays.

I'm a good girl: Slow and mysterious song with very somber coloring. It's almost like an inner monologue between the protagonist's mind and the outside world.

Mischievous thoughts: Very fast tongue-twister with lots of rhythm changes and very percussive elements in the piano part.

I hate contemporary music?: With almost the same tempo as the first song, our character has changed. She finally seems to love all the characteristics of this music. It looks like she was under her father's hate spell for contemporary music.

Warnings from Daddy

Every morning my daddy used to tell me to beware of those weird dark songs, those high-pitched melodies, those metrically complex rhythms, those badly written songs.

It's contemporary music, and I hate it. I hate that music, but I like the cash, but I like the money, but I keep the change, the coins, the loot, the copper, the silver, the gold! I like the green, but I hate to sing.

I'm a good girl

Men from the streets always tell me that I'm a good girl. I like to be sung, not shouted. I like lukewarm baths and oils dripping through my skin.

Frequently I daydream of a full red moon where every cycle gets refurbished, and all the streets get crammed with dances and songs.

I am a good girl, and I like to sing as if my voice were on the edge of a star.

Mischievous thoughts

I allow the hollow to swallow my thoughts despite being callow when I myself wallow on doing it so.

If I wallow in my thoughts allowing the hollow to swallow, would I be as callow as a young crow learning about the shadow?

I detest tongue-twisters. They drive me mad!

I hate contemporary music?

Everything my daddy told me is wrong, there are no weird dark songs or complicated melodies, rhythms and tunes.

I hate contemporary music! At least that's what I thought... May be hot or cold, may be sweet or salty, may be sour, or bitter, or nutty or spicy. All these flavors can mix in your tongue, ears, nose, eyes, and touch!

Thank you, Bernstein, ...

I hate contemporary music

for soprano and piano

Words and music by

Manuel Torralba

I. Warnings from Daddy

Joyfull with moderation, gay ♩. = 66

mp in good spirit

Voice

Eve - ry mor - ning

Piano

p bright *l.h.*

8

mf freely *p* In tempo

my dad-dy used to tell me to be - ware of those weird - dark - songs,

mf sostenuto *p* vivid

12

cresc.

of those high-pitched me - lo - dies,

cresc. *mf* *p*

14

f sharp, assertive

of those me-tri-cal-ly com-plex rhythms,

f *mf* *mp* *mf*

21 *Rythm ad lib. (ideally irregular)* *In tempo*

those bad - ly writ - ten songs. *colla voce*

p (arpeggiated as slow as possible)

26 *freely, (preferably unhurried)* *p cresc.*

It's con - tem - po - ra - ry mu - sic, and I hate it. I hate that mu - sic, but I

28 **Allegro** ♩ = 100

like the cash, but I like the mo - ney, but I keep the change, the

p cresc.

31 *ff* *p like a diva, slowly*

loot, the cop - per, the sil - ver, the gold! I like the

ff *mp* *p slowly!*

8th

33 *with hateful airs* *soft*

green, _____ but I hate to _____ sing. _____ *8va*]

ppp like an echo

II. I'm a good girl

With thoughts of delusion ♩ = 40 *p pale*

Men from the streets al-ways tell me _____ that I'm a good girl.

pp luminous

8vb] *8vb*] *8vb*] *8vb*]

5 *una corda*

I like to be sung, not shou-ted. _____ I like _____ luke-warm baths and

8vb] *8vb*] *8vb*]

9 *accel.* *A tempo*

oils drip-ping through my skin. _____

8va] *8va*] *8va*]

p humourless

14 **mp** with a somber colour

Fre-quent-ly I day-dream of a full red moon where eve - ry cy - cle gets re - fur - bished,

18 **rall.**

— and all of the streets get crammed with dan - ces and songs.

22 **Tempo I** **mp** with intention

I am a good girl, — and I like to — sing — as

p pale

26 **cresc.**

if my voice was at the edge of a star.

f **p**

III. Mischievous thoughts

As quickly as possible

8^{va}

ff ferocious

8^{vb}

3

mp misbehaving

I al - low the hol-low to swal-low in my thoughts

ff pesante

p sub

6

(Sprechgesang)

f

mp

de - spite being — I al -

mf

p

8

ugly

low the hol-low to swal-low in my thoughts de -

cresc.

8^{vb}

10 *f* *mp* *f* *p* *mf*

spite being cal-low when I my-self wal-low when do-ing it so.

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mp*

12 *mf cresc.* *ff*

I wal-low my-self on do-ing it so.

p cresc. *f*

15 *mp* naughty and precise *ff*

If I wal-low in my thoughts al-lo-wing the hol-low to swal-low,

p *mf* *p*

18 *mf* *ff* *p*

if I wal-low in my thoughts al-lo-wing the hol-low to swal-low,___

5 *6*

21 *mp* *3* *3* *3* *3*

would I be as cal - low as a young crow

fp *always legato* *5* *5* *5* *5*

23 *3* *p*

lear - ning a - bout lear - ning a-bout the sha - dows?

5

25 *fff* *mf* *rit.*

I de - test tongue-twists, tongue

ff pesante *p sub.*

28 *A tempo* *mf* *whispering*

twists they drive me mad!

mf *ff* *p dry*

8^{vb}

IV. I hate contemporary music?

In high spirits, with determination ♩. = 72

p golden *l.h.*

6 *molto rit.* *A tempo* *p*

Eve - ry - thing — my

f *p dolce*

12 *mf freely* *in tempo*

dad - dy told me is — wrong there are no weird dark songs

l.h.

16 *p cresc.*

or com - pli - ca - ted me - lo - dies, —

p *mf* *p*

leggiere

18 *f ad lib.* *(mp) showing off*

rhythms and tunes. I hate con-tem-po-ra-ry mu-sic! At least that's what I

mf *p*

Allegro ♩ = 100

23 *p cresc.*

thought: May be hot or cold, may be sweet or sal-ty, may be sour or bit-ter, or

p cresc.

27 *f* *poco rall.* *gliss.*

nut-ty, or spi - - cy.

f *8va* *15ma*

29 *A tempo* *mp cresc.* *ff*

All of these fla-vors can mix in your tongue, ears, nose, eyes and touch!_

f *p cresc.* *f* *8vb* *fff* *8vb*