

Four Lindsay Poems (2012)
for baritone and three clarinets

Nicholas Cline

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Baritone
Clarinet in Bb
Clarinet in A
Bass Clarinet in Bb

Score is written in C.
Duration: approx. 10 minutes

Nicholas Vachel Lindsay (1879-1931)
from The Congo and other Poems (1914)

I. The Haughty Snail-King

Twelve snails went walking after night.
They'd creep an inch or so,
Then stop and bug their eyes...And blow.
Some folks...are...deadly...slow.

Twelve snails went walking yestereve,
Led by their fat old king.
They were so dull their princeling had
No sceptre, robe or ring—
Only a paper cap to wear
When nightly journeying.

This king-snail said: "I feel a thought
Within...It blossoms soon...
O little courtiers of mine,...
I crave a pretty boo...
Oh, yes...(High thoughts with effort come
And well-bred snails are ALMOST dumb.)
"I wish I had a yellow crown
As glistening...as...the moon."

II. The Flower-Fed Buffaloes

The flower-fed buffaloes of the spring
In the days of long ago,
Ranged where the locomotives sing
And the prairie flowers lie low:

The tossing, blooming, perfumed grass
Is swept away by wheat,
Wheels and wheels and wheels spin by
In the spring that still is sweet.

But the flower-fed buffaloes of the spring
Left us long ago,
They gore no more, they bellow no more,
They trundle around the hills no more:--
With the Blackfeet lying low,
With the Pawnee lying low, lying low.

III. Crickets on a Strike

The foolish queen of fairyland
From her milk-white throne in a lily-bell,
Gave command to her cricket-band
To play for her when the dew-drops fell.

But the cold dew spoiled their instruments
And they play for the foolish queen no more.
Instead those sturdy malcontents
Play sharps and flats in my kitchen floor.

IV. The Mysterious Cat

I saw a proud, mysterious cat,
I saw a proud, mysterious cat
Too proud to catch a mouse or rat—
Mew, mew, mew.

But catnip she would eat, and purr,
But catnip she would eat, and purr.
And goldfish she did much prefer—
Mew, mew, mew.

I saw a cat—'twas but a dream,
I saw a cat—'twas but a dream
Who scorned the slave that brought her
cream—Mew, mew, mew.

Unless the slave were dressed in style,
Unless the slave were dressed in style
And knelt before her all the while—
Mew, mew, mew.

Did you ever hear of a thing like that?
Did you ever hear of a thing like that?
Did you ever hear of a thing like that?
Oh, what a proud mysterious cat.
Oh, what a proud mysterious cat.
Oh, what a proud mysterious cat.
Mew . . . mew . . . mew.

The Haughty Snail-King

Nicholas Cline

Slow, languid and shadowy ♩ = ca. 48

Baritone *p, in a hushed voice*
Twelve snails went walk - ing af - ter night

B♭ *molto sostenuto*
pp *p* niente *pp*

A *molto sostenuto*
pp *p* niente *pp*

Bass *molto sostenuto*
pp *p* niente *pp*

6 *p* *f* *pp* *mp* *poco rit.* *mf*
They'd creep an inch or so, then stop and bug their eyes and

B♭ *fp* *pp* *pp* *ppp*

A *fp* *pp* *pp* *ppp*

Bass *fp* *pp* *pp* *ppp* *sf*

11 **A tempo** *Very slow, molto rubato* (almost out of time)
blow. Some folks... are... dead-ly... slow.

B♭ inhale loudly, dramatically hold breath... *ppp* *molto* *ppp*

A inhale loudly, dramatically hold breath... *ppp* *molto* *ppp*

Bass inhale loudly, dramatically hold breath... *ppp* *molto* *ppp*

17 *Coolly, with motion* ♩ = ca. 96

Musical score for measures 17-22. The score is written for three parts: Bb (B-flat), A (Alto), and Bass. The time signature is 2/4. The tempo is marked 'Coolly, with motion' with a quarter note equal to approximately 96 beats per minute. The key signature has one sharp (F#). Dynamics include *f > p*, *pp*, *p < f*, *sf*, *mp*, and *p*.

Musical score for measures 23-28. The score is written for three parts: Bb (B-flat), A (Alto), and Bass. The time signature is 2/4. Dynamics include *f > p*, *pp*, *p < f*, *sf*, *mp*, and *p*.

29 *Relaxed, parlando* ♩ = ca. 72

Musical score for measures 29-34. The score is written for four parts: Baritone (Bar.), Bb (B-flat), A (Alto), and Bass. The time signature is 2/4. The tempo is marked 'Relaxed, parlando' with a quarter note equal to approximately 72 beats per minute. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The Baritone part has the lyrics: "Twelve snails went walk - ing yes - ter - eve led by their fat old king." Dynamics include *pp*, *mp*, *pp*, and *f*. The word *espressivo* is written above the Bb, A, and Bass staves.

34

Bar. They were so dull their prince - ling had no scep - tre robe or ring.

Bb

A

Bass

38

Bar. On - ly a pa - per cap to wear when night - ly jour - ney - ing. _____

Bb

A

Bass

43 *Coolly, with motion* ♩ = ca. 96

Bb

A

Bass

f > p *pp* *pp* *ppp* *p < f* *ppp*

pp *sfpp* *ppp* *f* *mp* *p* *ppp*

ppp *mp* *f* *ppp* *sf* *p > pp*

Bb

A

Bass

f > p *pp* *ppp* *p < f* *pp*

sf *ppp* *pp* *f* *pp* *pp*

pp *f* *pp* *sf*

55 *Slow, languid and shadowy* ♩ = ca. 48

Bar.

mp, in a thick, slow voice

This snail king said: "I feel a thought... with - in..."

Bb

A

Bass

molto sostenuto *pp* *p* *pp*

molto sostenuto *pp* *pp* *p* *pp*

molto sostenuto *pp* *pp* *p* *pp*

59

Bar. *mf*
it blos - soms soon... O lit - tle

Bb *p niente fp f pp p*

A *p niente fp f pp p*

Bass *p niente fp f pp p*

63

Bar. *mp p*
cour-ti - ers of mine... I crave a pret-ty boo... Oh yes..."

Bb *p pp pp*

A *p pp pp*

Bass *p pp pp*

69 Relaxed, parlando ♩ = ca. 72

mf, as an aside f

Bar. High thoughts with ef - fort come and well - bred snails are AL-MOST dumb!

Bb *pp mp pp pp mp pp*

A *pp mp pp sf*

Bass *pp mp pp pp*

Very slow, *molto rubato* (almost out of time) ♩ = ca. 48

74

Bar. *p* "I wish I had a yel - low crown... As glis - ten - ing... as... the moon."

Bb *ppp* *pp* *p* *p < f* *ppp*

A *ppp* *pp* *p* *p < f* *ppp*

Bass *ppp* *pp* *p* *p < f* *ppp*

*) glissando to highest possible note

81 *Coolly, with motion* ♩ = ca. 96

Bb *ppp* *f > p* *pp* *ppp* *p < f* *ppp*

A *pp* *sfpp* *ppp* *f* *mp* *p* *ppp*

Bass *ppp* *mp* *f > p* *ppp* *sf* *p > pp*

87

Bb *f > p* *pp* *ppp* *p < f* *pp* *ppp*

A *sf* *ppp* *pp < f* *pp* *pp* *ppp*

Bass *ppp* *pp* *f* *pp* *sfpp* *ppp*

The Flower-Fed Buffaloes

Nicholas Cline

Andante, flowing ♩ = ca. 66-72

Baritone

Bb

A

Bass

7

p, with bittersweet nostalgia

Bar. The flow-er-fed buf-fa-loes_ of the spring in the days of long a-go,

Bb

A

Bass

12

(♩ = ♩)

Bar. Ranged, where the lo-co-mo-tives sing_ and the prai-rie flow-ers lie low. The

Bb

A

Bass

pp (subtone)

17 (♩ = ♩)

Bar. *mp, dolce*
toss - ing bloom - ing per - fumed grass is swept a - way by the wheat,

B♭ *pp* *p, dolce* *pp*

A *pp* *p, dolce* *pp*

Bass *p espressivo* *pp* *pp*

21 (♩ = ♩) (♩ = ♩)

Bar. *mp* *mf* *p, with bittersweet nostalgia*
Wheels and wheels and wheels spin by in the spring that still is sweet.

B♭ *pp* *f* *p, dolce* *pp*

A *pp* *f* *p, dolce* *pp*

Bass *pp* *f* *pp* *pp*

25 (♩ = ♩) (♩ = ♩)

Bar. *p* *f* *mp, dolce* *mf*
But the flow-er-fed buf-fa - loes of the spring Left us long a - go, They

B♭ *pp* *f* *p, dolce* *pp*

A *pp* *f* *p, dolce*

Bass *pp* *f* *p, dolce* *pp*

poco accel.

(♩ = ca. 80)

30

Bar. *f*

gore no more, they bel-low no more, they trun-dle a-round the hills

B♭ *p* < *sf* *p* < *sf* *p* < *sf* *p* < *sf*

A *pp* < *sf* *pp* < *sf* *pp* < *sf* *pp*

Bass *pp* < *sf* *pp* < *sf* *pp* < *sf* *pp*

32 Slowly, *molto sostenuto* ♩ = ca. 44-48

poco rit.

Bar. *p*, in a hushed voice

no more. With the Black-feet ly ing low, With the Paw-nee ly ing low, ly ing low.

B♭ *fp* < *f* > *pp*, without nuance

A *fp* < *f* > *pp*, without nuance

Bass *fp* < *f* > *pp*, without nuance

Andante, flowing ♩ = ca. 66-72

38

B♭ *p* *p* *mf* > *p* *pp* < *fp* *pp*

A *p* *mp* *mf* > *p* *pp* < *fp* *pp*

Bass *p* *mp* *mf* > *p* *pp* < *fp* *pp*

Crickets on a Strike

Allegretto, very sweetly (♩ = c. 72)

Nicholas Cline

Baritone

mp, as if telling a humorous story

3/4 2/4 3/4

The fool-ish queen of fair-y - land From her milk-white throne in a li-ly-bell,

*) ca. 2-3 sec. *pp* < *p* *pp* < *p* *pp* < *p* *pp* < *p*

B♭

A

Bass

*) Enter as indicated and establish a freely repeating pulse of "chirps." Alignment of pulses with other players should be avoided.

ca. 2-3 sec. *pp* < *p*

8

Bar.

Gave com-mand to her cri - cket-band To play for her when the dew drops fell.

2/4 3/4

pp < *p* *pp* < *p* *pp* < *p* *pp* < *p*

B♭

A

Bass

pp < *p* *pp* < *p*

13

Bar.

mf

But the cold dew spoiled their in-stru-ments And they play for the fool-ish queen no more. In- pitch only

pp < *p* *pp* < *p* *pp, secco* *p*

B♭

A

Bass

pp < *p* *pp* < *p* *pp, secco* *p*

pitch only → airstream + pitch

19 2/4

Bar. *stead those stur-dy mal-con-tents play sharps and flats in my kit-chen floor.*

B♭ *airstream + pitch* *airstream only*

A *pitch only* *airstream + pitch* *airstream only* *f*

Bass *key click only* *mf* *f*

pp < p *f*

25 *March tempo, somewhat brutish* (♩ = ca. 120)
 "The Preacher and the Slave" (a.k.a. "Pie in the Sky")

B♭ *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

A *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Bass *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

33

B♭ *p* *f* *pp* *f* *p* *f* *gliss.* *ff*

A *p* *f* *pp* *f* *p* *f* *ff*

Bass *p* *f* *pp* *f* *p* *f* *ff*

The Mysterious Cat

Nicholas Cline

Slow, misterioso tenebroso ♩ = ca. 54

Baritone

To be chanted/intoned in the manner of a wild, diabolical auctioneer. Always nasal, bright vowels. The character is more important than the precise pitches or rhythms.

Clarinet in A

Bass Clarinet in Bb

Hurried, rushing parlando ♩ = ca. 108-120

5

Bar.

mp, nasal

I saw a proud my-ster-i-ous cat, I saw a proud my-ster-i-ous cat,

Bb

ppp

Slow ♩ = ca. 54

9

Bar.

Too proud to catch a mouse or a rat. mew,— mew,— mew.

Bb

pp *mf* *ppp*

A

pp *mf* *ppp*

Bass

ppp *pp*

(subtone)

13

Bb *ppp* *p* *pp* *ppp* *p* *pp*

A *ppp* *p* *pp* *ppp* *p* *pp*

Bass *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *pp*

Hurried ♩ = ca. 108-120 **poco rit.** **A tempo** **poco rit.**

17 *mp*

Bar. But cat - nip she would eat, and purr, But cat - nip she would eat, and purr,

poco rit.

Bb *pp* *ppp*

A *pp* *ppp*

Very quickly, with snap ♩ = ca. 120+ **Slow** ♩ = ca. 54

21 *f* *pp* *3* *3* *3*

Bar. and gold - fish she did much pre-fer. mew, mew, mew.

Bb *pp* *mp* *espressivo*

A *ppp* *mp* *espressivo*

Bass *ppp* *pp* *mp*

(subtone)

26 Broadly, dreamily *poco rubato* ♩ = ca. 88

mf

Bar. *I saw a cat 'twas but a dream, I saw a cat 'twas but a dream,*

like an old, leaky accordion

B♭ *pp*

A *like an old, leaky accordion* *pp*

Bass *like an old, leaky accordion* *pp*



poco accel. (♩ = 92) **Slow** ♩ = ca. 54

28

Bar. *Who scorned the slave that brought her cream. mew, mew, mew.*

B♭ *pp* *ppp*

A *pp* *ppp* *mp*

Bass *pp*

33

Suddenly hurried ♩ = ca. 108-120

31

Bar. *mp*

Un-less the slave were dressed in style, Un-less the slave were dressed in style,

Bb *mp*

A *ppp* (port.)

Bass *f, wild* *ppp* *ppp* *slow gliss.* *slow gliss.*

Slow ♩ = ca. 54

37

Bar. *pp*

And knelt be-fore her all the while. mew, _ mew, _ mew.

A *ppp* *slow gliss.*

Bass *ppp*

41 Hurried ♩ = ca. 120+

Bar. *mf asking the audience*

Did you ev-er hear of a thing like that? Did you ev-er hear of a thing like that? Did you ev-er hear of a thing like that?

Bb *pp*

A bit slower ♩ = ca. 108-120

44

Bar.

A

Bass

50 *Slow, misterioso tenebroso* ♩ = ca. 54

Bar.

A

Bass

poco rit.

54

Bar.

Bb

A

Bass