

Six Songs from the Red Planet

Tom Baker

Soprano, Flute, Piano and Cello

Frog Peak Music (2001)

- I. Neret Scandes (A Farmer's Song from Hellas)
- II. No Epel (A Civil War Tune from Amenthes)
- III. Sa elon ni Voles (A Cowboy's Ballad from Tharsis)
- IV. Ho Noem (A Lullaby from Memnonia)
- V. Rowd dan Dosund (A Dance Tune from Thaumasia)
- VI. Leev Lanag (A Spiritual from Noachis)

Translations by Alissa Rupp

Commissioned by and dedicated to Hope Wechkin

Performance Notes:

Accidentals last throughout the measure, and apply only to that register.

Program Notes

Beginning in 1965 radio-telescope engineers working in the desert near Sante Fe received a series of transmissions that were eventually traced to the planet Mars. It is believed that these transmissions were sent several million years ago, and that they originated as regional folk songs from six different geographical areas on the planet.

These song settings were inspired by the original melodies and syllables received in the mid 60's. The translations are by Alissa Rupp, an earth-based poet and linguist who was chosen by scientists to interpret the songs received in the transmission. Rupp's poems are not literal translations, but instead are meant to be representative of the spirit and intent of the original Martian songs.

For pictures and information about the various regions, visit the web site of the recent Mars explorer, www.msss.com. Unfortunately, the musical transmissions are still highly controversial, and do not appear on the official NASA web site.

Translations by Alissa Rupp
Neret Scandes
A Farmer's Song from "Hellas"

(Chorus)
Neret scandes takas!
Gusary sculems!
Sory fo darish,
taftens ni ilos.

Cala ot enox cala plu het powl.
Cala astinag dosie
fo nugam.
Nectury naptel enops stal nilos.

(Chorus)

Ti yam eb het salo.
Ti yam eb het sanot.
Ti yam eb het duner,
asinag noste si salo sumic.

(Chorus)

No Epel
Civil War Tune from "Amenthes"

No epel fo nyam ganishu;
fo het, okol ta frist fo het.
Hatt okol,
het edad diwe.
Adirem.

Neces fo tunare;
het et nomo, rean thry.
Nishing letes nishing nod erweh.
Chestren het pehas.
Adirem.

Sa elon ni Voles
A Cowboy's Ballad from "Tharsis"

Sa elon ni voles
ni peles voler onon,
sag rom voled,
dan voles awis,
het sier.

(Chorus)
Lapalid omo.
Het zehad nal.
Galad vela,
nishi het sah.

Nidot hatt ti neyam:
eh yal liweh shi,
dimm ni nevdaran.

(Chorus)

(Chorus)
Come brush away the red dust!
Did deep through the rocky shale!
When the salt and the sulfur are cleared,
the undersoil is precious.

The growing season brings the delights of the soil.
Work alongside your fellow farmers
during the long day.
Come the moonlight we will celebrate.

(Chorus)

We'll dance to the music of the rock in the field.
The plants we sow will sing to us.
If only we listen,
the river is the sound of life itself.

(Chorus)

Of the death-mask at day's end;
anguish, frozen in time.
Of this unforgettable stare,
of this last glance.
I dream.

Of the gruesome survey at dawn;
anguish alive, the living numb.
Of indescribable trenches.
Of incongruous sunshine.
I dream.

The cowboy dreams
of love's embrace,
of an admiring gaze,
of a lazy day,
of escape from the dust.

(Chorus)
The camp is quiet.
The moon is red and gold.
He rests in the wind shadow,
bracing himself for the coming day.

In dreams it is clear:
once there is true love,
the heart is spoiled for adventure.

(Chorus)

Ho Noem
A Lullaby from "Memnonia"

Ho noem, ho noem,
oson uyo lashel
dan het tu.

Ho noem, no noem,
oson uyo lashel
dan het ra.

Hatt ahster,
hatt lepush,
noly sivonis ni daha.

Hatt oyur,
hatt seye,
noly sivonis ni daha.

Ho noem, ho noem,
oson uyo lashel dan het ra.

Rowd dan Dosund
A Dance Tune from "Thaumasia"

Rowd dan dosund hatt dilub awen gont,
het trovex fo gascim, vewa es het.
Astymer sumic sinrig mort fo het nog.

Het labess yarsing wo kila ro stim
ranodu het yad veneg denur.
Rowd dan dosund hatt dilub awen gont.

Leev Lanag
A Spiritual from "Noachis"

Leev lanag sala
lal hatt.
Iresnad uyo lastom
fo het uols.

Sa efel
avaret.
Hoyew.
Terab uto
dan yawa,
alem hatt alem.

Oh little one, oh little one,
soon you shall know the
brightness and the dust.

Oh little one, oh little one,
soon you shall know the
red darkness.

Now we rest,
Now we sleep,
only pretty visions in your head.

Catch your breath,
Close your eyes,
only pretty visions in your head.

Oh little one, oh little one,
soon you shall know the darkness.

Dance me beyond words,
round and through, close the circle.
Speak not tomorrow's promise.

If only dawn's fleeting music
were sung to us only.
Dance me beyond words.

Under a violet moon
we pray.
Our hope beckons us
ever nightward.

Faith travels
on unchanging wings.
Ruthless.
Our hope
is a glowing ember,
ever and forever.

Six Songs from the Red Planet

I. Neret Scandes (A Farmer's Song from Hellas)

Soprano
Ne - ret scan - des ta - kas
gu - sa - ry scu - lems
so - ry fo da - rish
taf - tens ni i - los.

Flute
mp *f*

Piano
mp *f*

Cello
mp *f*

5

S

Fl.

Pno.
p *mf*

Vlc.
p *mf*

9 *sprechstimme*
f

S Ca - la ot e - nox. Ca - la plu het powl. Ca - la a - sti - nag

Fl. *mf* 5

Pno. *Red.* *

Vlc. 5

13 *mf*

S do - sie fo nu - gam. Nec - tu - ry nap - - - tel

Fl. 5

Pno. *Red.* *

Vlc. 5

17

S e - - - nops stal ni - - - los.

Fl. 5

Pno. *

Vlc. 5

21

mf

S
Ne - ret scan - des ta - kas gu - sa - ry scu - lems so - ry fo da - ish taf - tens ni i - los.

Fl.
mp

Pno.
mp

Vlc.
mp

25

S

Fl.

Pno.
mf
Red. ----- * Red.

Vlc.
mf

29

S
Ti yam eb het sa - lo. Ti yam eb het sa - not. Ti yam eb het du - ner.

Fl.
mf

Pno.
* Red. ----- * Red. ----- * Red. ----- * Red.

Vlc.

33

S Ast - i - nag no - - - ste

Fl.

Pno.

Vlc.

37

S si sa - - - lo su - - - - mic.

Fl.

Pno.

Vlc.

41

S *mf* Ne - ret scan-des ta - kas gu - sa - ry scu-lem's so - ry fo da - rish *f* tal-tens ni i - los.

Fl. *mp* *f* *p*

Pno. *mp* *f* *p*

Vlc. *mp* *f* *p*

II. No Epel (A Civil War Tune from Amenthes)

♩ = 72

Soprano

Flute

Piano

Cello

ppp

pp *lv*

(Pedal for entire song)

5

S

Fl.

Pno.

Vlc.

lv *lv*

9

S

Fl.

Pno.

Vlc.

p *pp* *lv* *lv*

non-vib

No e - pel

13

S
fo ny - am ga - ni - shu; fo het, o - kol

Fl.

Pno.

Vlc.

l.v. *l.v.* *non-vib* *p* *pp*

17

S
ta frist fo het. Hatt o - kol,

Fl.

Pno.

Vlc.

pp *non-vib* *p* *l.v.*

21

S
het e - dad di - we.

Fl.

Pno.

Vlc.

p *non-vib* *pp* *p* *l.v.*

25

S *pp*
A - - - di - - - rem.

Fl. *pp*

Pno.

Vlc.

29

S

Fl.

Pno. *l.v.*

Vlc. *l.v.*

33

S *p*
Ne - ces fo tu - nar;

Fl. *p* non-vib *pp*

Pno. *l.v.*

Vlc. *l.v.*

37

S
het no - mo, rean thry. Ni - shing le - tes ni - shing nod er - whe.

Fl.

Pno.

Vlc.

41

S
Chest - ran het pe - has. A - - - di - - - rem. (m)

Fl.

Pno.

Vlc.

pp

pp

III. Sa elon ni voles (A Cowboy's Ballad from Tharsis)

♩ = 92

mp

Soprano
Sa e - lon ni vo - les ni pe - les

Flute
mf mp p mp

Piano
mp p p

Cello
mf p
pizz. Red. arco

5

S
vo - ler o - non, sag rom vo - led, dan vo -

Fl.
p mp p mp p

Pno.
mp p mp

Vlc.
mf p
pizz. arco

9

S
les a - wis, het si - er.

Fl.
mp p mp

Pno.
mp p

Vlc.
mp mf mp
pizz. Red. arco

13 *p*

S
La - pa - lid o - mo. Het ze - had nal. Ga - lad ve - la,

Fl.

Pno. *p*

Vlc. *pizz.* *p*

17

S
ni - shi het sah. Ni - dot hatt

Fl.

Pno. *mp* *p*

Vlc. *mf*

21

S
ti ne - yam: eh yal li - weh shi, dimm

Fl.

Pno. *mp* *p* *mp*

Vlc. *arco* *mp* *mf* *pizz.* *p*

25

S
ni nev - da-ran. La - pa - lid o - mo. Het ze - had

Fl.
p *p*

Pno.
p *mp*

Vlc.
arco *mp* pizz.

30

S
nal. Ga - lad ve - la, ni - shi het sah.

Fl.
pp *ppp*

Pno.
p *pp*

Vlc.
p *pp*

IV. Ho noem (A Lullaby from Memnonia)

♩ = 60 *p*

Soprano

Piano

pp

Ho no - em,

4

S

Pno.

ho no - em, o - son u - yo la - shel dan het tu.

7

S

Pno.

Ho no - em, ho no - em, o - son u - yo la - shel

10

S

Pno.

dan het ra.

13

S *pp*
Hatt ah - ster, hatt le - pesh,

Pno.

16

S *p* *mp*
no - - - ly si - vo - nis ni da - - - ha.

Pno. *pp* *mf* *pp*

19

S *pp* *p* *mp*
Hatt o - yur, hatt se - ye, no - - - ly si - vo - nis ni da -

Pno.

22

S
ha.

Pno. *mf* *pp* *molto ritard*

25

S

a tempo

p

Ho no - em,

Pno.

And.

28

S

ho no - em, o - son u - yo la - shel dan het ra.

Pno.

And. *And.*

31

S

molto ritard

8va

Pno.

And.

V. Rowd dan dosund (A Dance from Thaumasia)

♩ = 144

Soprano

Flute

Cello

mf

3

S

Fl.

Vcl.

5

S

Fl.

Vcl.

6

S

Fl.

Vcl.

mf

Rowd dan do - sund hatt di - lub a - wen gont,

9

S

Fl.

Vcl.

het tro - vex ga - scim, ve - wa es het.

11

S

Fl.

Vcl.

A - sty - mer su - mic sin - rig mort het nog.

13

S

Fl.

Vcl.

14

S

Fl.

Vcl.

Het la - bess yar - sing wo ki - la ro stim

17

S

Fl.

Vcl.

ran - o - du het yad ve - nag de - nur.

19

S

Fl.

Vcl.

Rowd dan do - sund hat di - lub a - wen gont.

21

S

Fl.

Vcl.

22

S

Fl.

Vcl.

VI. Leev lanag A Spiritual from Noachis

$\bullet = 60$

Soprano *pp* Leev la - nag *pp* sa - - - la

Flute *ppp*

Piano *pp* *8va* *And.* (for entire song)

Cello *ppp* mute

5

S *pp* lal hatt. Ir - e - snad u - yo

Fl. *ppp*

Pno. *pp* *8va*

Vlc.

9

S *pp* u - - - yo *pp* la - - - stom

Fl. *pp* *ppp*

Pno. *pp* *pp* *8va*

Vlc. *ppp*

13

S fo hel uols. *pp* Sa e - fel

Fl.

Pno. *pp* *pp*

Vlc. *ppp*

17

S *pp* a - va - ret. *pp* Ho - - - yew

Fl. *ppp* *ppp*

Pno. *pp* *pp*

Vlc.

21

S Te - - - rab u - to *pp* dan ya - wa,

Fl. *pp*

Pno. *pp*

Vlc.

25

S

pp

a - - - - - lem, hatt a - - - - - lem.

Fl.

ppp

8^{va}

Pno.

pp

Vlc.

28

S

Fl.

pp

ppp

8^{va}

Pno.

pp

Vlc.