

PROGRAM NOTES

Blackberries was written for the Eero Trio and is titled after the poem below which was written by my daughter, Sophie, at age ten, just as I was beginning work on this trio. Although the poem begins to describe a childlike, natural, and bucolic world, there is also a sense of impending change, mystery, and perhaps danger.

—Elena Ruehr

Blackberries

My hands fumble with the sticky berries as I plunk them into the small container.
My little fingers come to a juicy, ripe berry.
I stick it into my mouth as quickly as I can before my mother or father can see.
My sneakiness does not help me for the purple juice is all over my lips, cheeks, and chin.
The sun is high up in the summer sky, and no clouds roam.
The wind is meager as it tosses my long hair.
The marsh reeds and bog behind the blackberry bushes are invisible.
The Cape Cod air is sweet with salt and ocean scents.
A seagull cries above the marsh, looking for oysters to pry open.
Another bird, a hawk perhaps, circles an area not far from where I stand.
The cattails whip about as suddenly the wind becomes a rush.
My mother calls, and I scurry out of the brambles, trying not to get pricked by a sharp thorn.
I come to my bike, and we set off down the dirt road to our little cottage some ways away.

—Sophie Ruehr

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Pianist: Pedal markings are indicated specifically in some places. Please follow all markings indicated when learning the score, but once the basic sound is understood, feel free to alter markings at your discretion.

—Elena Ruehr

PUBLISHER'S NOTES

The part for B-flat Clarinet is included in the set. A piano part is also included at the composer's recommendation. The pianist may perform either from the score or from the part (19 vs. 15 page turns). Either way a page turner is required.

Elena Ruehr (b. 1963)

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Blackberries

for Violin (or Clarinet), Violoncello, and Piano

Elena Ruehr (BMI)

$\text{♩} = 138$

Violin

p *gliss.* *mp* *gliss.*

Violoncello

pp *mp* *gliss.*

Piano

$\text{♩} = 138$

p *3* *mp*

ped.

4

p *mp* *gliss.* *mf* *arco* *gliss.*

pizz.

p gliss. *gliss.* *gliss.* *p*

p *5* *mp*

7

mf *pizz.* *5* *f*

gliss. *gliss.* *gliss.*

mp *5* *mf*

10

p

arco

mp *mf*

13

mf *f* *f*

mp *mf*

ff *f*

16

ff *f*

The musical score is presented in three systems, each with a single melodic staff and a piano accompaniment consisting of two staves. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is not explicitly shown but appears to be 4/4 based on the note values. Measure numbers 10, 13, and 16 are indicated at the start of their respective systems. The melodic line features various note values including half notes, quarter notes, and eighth notes, often grouped with slurs and accents. The piano accompaniment provides a harmonic foundation with chords, moving lines, and triplet figures. Dynamic markings range from piano (*p*) to fortissimo (*ff*). A large, semi-transparent watermark reading 'Copyright is illegal' is oriented diagonally across the entire page.

19

2/4 3/2

22

3/2 3/4

f

8^{vb}
Ped.

25

3/4 2/2

f

mf

(8^{vb})

8^{vb}
Ped.

28

ff *mf*

31

f *molto*

34

p *pp* *mf*

p

8vb

Ped.

The musical score is divided into three systems, each containing a piano part and an orchestra part. The piano part consists of a right hand (RH) and a left hand (LH). The orchestra part includes a string section (Violins I, Violins II, Violas, Cellos, Double Basses) and a woodwind section (Flutes, Oboes, Clarinets, Bassoons). The score is in 2/4 and 3/4 time signatures. Dynamics range from fortissimo (ff) to pianissimo (pp). The score includes a watermark 'Copyrighted Material' and a 'Review Only' stamp.

37

f *mf* *f* pizz. *mf*

(8^{vb})

40

mf *f* *mf* *f*

p

(8^{vb})

43

mf arco *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

pp

Ped.

The musical score consists of three systems of staves. The first system (measures 37-39) shows a melody in the right hand with dynamics *f*, *mf*, and *f*, and a bass line with a pizzicato (*pizz.*) and *mf* marking. The second system (measures 40-42) continues the melody with dynamics *mf*, *f*, *mf*, and *f*, and a bass line with a piano (*p*) marking. The third system (measures 43-45) shows the melody with dynamics *mf*, *f*, *mf*, *f*, and *mf*, and a bass line with a pianissimo (*pp*) marking. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and accidentals.

46

f *mp* *pizz.* *mf*

mf

8^{vb}
Ped.

49

f *mf* *f* (pizz.)

mf

p

52

f

mp

The musical score is for a piano and bass duo. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system (measures 46-48) features a melodic line in the right hand of the piano with dynamics *f*, *mp*, *pizz.*, and *mf*, and a supporting bass line in the left hand with *mf*. The second system (measures 49-51) continues the melodic development with dynamics *f*, *mf*, *f*, and *pizz.* in the right hand, and *mf* and *p* in the left hand. The third system (measures 52-54) shows a more active bass line with *f* and *mp* dynamics. The score includes a watermark 'Copyright is illegal only' and a large diagonal watermark 'Copyright is illegal only'.

55

p *mp* *p* *mp*

arco

p *mp* *p* *mp*

p

Ped.

59

p *mp* *p* *mp*

p *mp* *p* *mp*

mp

Ped.

63

mf

mf

mp

Ped.

67

f *mf* *mp*

f *mf* *mp*

mf *mp* *p*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

71

p *mp* *pp*

p *mp* *pp*

pp *mf* *p*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

76 as at first

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

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

Ped. flutter pedal to m. 88

79

as at first

pp

mp *mf* *mp* *mf*

82

p *mp* *p*

mp *mf* *p*

85

mf

p

mp

88

mp

mp

p

Red.

91

p

mp

pp

p

mf

mp

flutter pedal to m. 105

94

mp

p

97

mp *p* *mp*

mf

100

p *mp*

f 3

f 3

103

p *pp*

p *pp*

p *pp*

Ped.

The musical score consists of three systems of staves. The first system (measures 97-99) shows a melody in the right hand with dynamics *mp*, *p*, and *mp*, and a bass line with *mf*. The second system (measures 100-102) features a melody with *p* and *mp* dynamics, and a bass line with *f* and triplet markings. The third system (measures 103) continues the melody with *p* and *pp* dynamics, and the bass line with *p* and *pp* dynamics, ending with a pedal point.

106

p *pp* *mf*

109

f *mf* *f* *mf* *3*

mp

112

f *mf* *f* *mf*

Red.

The musical score consists of three systems of staves. The first system (measures 106-108) shows a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, both starting with a half note and followed by a half note. Dynamics are *p* (piano), *pp* (pianissimo), and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The second system (measures 109-111) features a more active melody with triplets and a bass line with chords. Dynamics include *f* (forte), *mf*, and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The third system (measures 112-114) continues the melody and bass line, with dynamics *f* and *mf*. A 'Red.' marking is above measure 112. A large 'Copyrighted material' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

115

f *mf* 3

118

3 3

f *mf*

121

mp *mf* 3 *mp* *mf* *mp* 3

mp *mf* 3 *mp* *mf* *mp* 3

flutter pedal to m. 135

124

mf *mp* *mf* *mp*

127

mf *mp* *mf* *mp*

130

mf *mf* *mf*

The musical score consists of three systems of staves. The first system (measures 124-126) shows a piano accompaniment with a steady eighth-note bass line and a melody in the right hand. The second system (measures 127-129) continues the melody with triplets in the bass line. The third system (measure 130) features a triplet in the right hand and a sustained note in the bass line. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). A large 'Copyrighted Review Only' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

132

mp

mp

p

mp

135

p

Ped.

138

mp

p

142

p

145

mp *p*

mp *p*

148

f *mf* *pizz.* *f*

This musical score page contains measures 142 through 148. It is written for a piano with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate staff for the right hand. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and pizzicato. Dynamics include piano (*p*), mezzo-piano (*mp*), and forte (*f*). A large diagonal watermark reading 'Review is illegal' is overlaid on the page.

151

f *ff*

153

f

155

mf *p* *mp* *mf*

arco *p* *mp* *mf*

mf *p* *mf*

Dynamic markings: *f* (forte), *ff* (fortissimo), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *p* (piano), *mp* (mezzo-piano), *arco* (arco).

160

ff

ff

ff

f

163

f

f

f

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

166

ff

molto

p

ff

molto

p

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

169

172

175

mp

mp

mp