

Light Poem

for mezzo-soprano and piano

David Gompper

LIGHT POEM

I'm in a phone booth in Saratoga Springs.
 The water tastes awful, but very helpful.
 You aren't answering, whatever I'm asking.
 I'm asking right now why you aren't answering.
 It's pleasure, pain, or just love of quiet.
 You're not answering; I've got coins for nothing.

I'm going to stamp out my feelings for you,
 post them in a letter like a long shaft
 brought to your box by fanjet airlines.
 On a plain chair, arms flapping, I'm winging
 to that heaven of babies, that stellar
 interstellar galaxy of persuasions, those

fine passions eclipsed by sunshine
 but now, in the dark, all that we see
 and all that we ever wished for, swore for,
 lied and cheated and stole for.
 I'm sending you tomorrow the letter of today,
 a little dried-up light from far away.

Marvin Bell
 from "The Escape Into You"

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Light Poem, on a poem by Marvin Bell, was commissioned by and written for Katherine Eberle, and premiered at the Interlochen Arts Camp, Michigan, July 22, 1997. The original version was written for mezzo-soprano and harp.

15

wa - ter tastes aw - ful, but ve - ry help - ful but ve - ry

Pno.

18

help - ful

Pno.

23

You are - n't an - swer - ing what - ev - er I'm ask - ing

Pno.

27

I'm ask - ing right now why you aren't an - swer - ing

Pno.

31

It's plea - sure - pain or just love - of qui - et

Pno.

35

You're not an - swering

Pno.

40

I've got coins for no - thing

Pno.

43

Pno.

45

Pno.

47

Meno mosso ♩ = 104

Pno.

51

I'm going to stamp out my feel - ings for you —

Pno.

54

post them in — a let - ter like a long shaft

Pno.

57

brought to your box, by fan-jet air-lines

Pno.

59

on a plain chair arms flapping, I'm winging to that

Pno.

62

heaven of babies, that stellar

Pno.

64

in-ter-stellar galaxy of per-

Pno.

66

sua - sions, — those — fine

Pno.

68

pas - sions e - clised — by sun —

Pno.

70

— shine —

Pno.

72

but now in — the dark

Pno.

75

all — that — we see and all that — we ev - er wished for —

Pno.

79

swore for lied and cheat - ed and stole — for

Pno.

84

f *ff*

Pno.

89

I'm send - ing you to - mor - row — the let - ter of to - day

Pno.

p

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.*

93

A lit - tle dried up light

Ped.

97

from a far a - way

Ped. Ped.

100

Ped. Ped.