

knowledge believes memory

soprano solo

Taylor Brook

Concert Notes

Knowledge believes memory was written as part of the “Young Artist Overture” in connection with Soundstreams Education and Outreach programme. An excerpt from *Light in August* by William Faulkner, the text is a poetic description of how memories are transformed and continue to affect a person’s life long after the memories fade. The text is sung with only the vowels the first time through, then with only the liquid consonants that do not demand a break in the tone, and finally the text is sung in its entirety the third and final time. By following this sequence, the text takes form as a memory sinking into one’s mind. As well, it draws the listener into making a greater effort to comprehend the text in performance. The melismas that follow the chanted text unfold the melody in the way the text unfolds, where the complete melody is not heard until the very end of the work.

Memory believes before knowing remembers.

Believes longer than recollects, longer than knowing even wonders.

— William Faulkner

Notes on Performance

Although the work is written without bar lines, the singer should feel the slow and steady quarter-note beat throughout the performance. This steady beat can be subject to slight alteration; however, this should be thought of as a nuance to improve expression rather than a perceptible change in tempo. Concerning pitches, when singing this piece it is important to always keep the Bb in mind and sing all other pitches in relation to it.

The first setting of the text where only the vowels are sung is meant to sound like throat singing, and the performer should take a more nasal tone where the overtones of the sound come out more clearly. The second setting of the text where only the hard consonants are omitted should be in between the overtone singing and the western style. The final setting should be sung with utmost clarity of the text.

s.v. (senza vibrato) - Sing in straight tone or minimal vibrato.

v.o. (vibrato ordinario) - Sing with normal amount of vibrato.

♯ - quarter tone sharp

♭ - quarter tone flat

- A straight line between two notes indicates a glissando for the duration of the note on which the line begins.

- Grace notes are to be sung before the beat.

- Slurs mark phrases rather than portamento.

- Accidentals are always given, except in the case of a repeated note.

- A dotted line between two vowels signifies a gradual change from the first to the second.

The following is a pronunciation guide for the letters used in this composition from the International Phonetic Alphabet with General American (sometimes called Standard Midwestern or American Broadcast) vowel phonology.

Consonants		Vowels		Diphthongs	
v	voice, have	a	father		
m	man, ham	i	see		
n	no, tin	ɛ	bed[3]		
l	left, bell	e	era	aʊ	now
r	red	ɜ̃	bird		
w	we	o	dove		
		ʌ	run, enough		
		ɔ	law, caught		
		ʊ	put, wood		
		u	soon, through		
		ə̃	winner		

knowledge believes memory

for Jessica Wise

Taylor Brook

slow and rhythmic ♩ = 55

S.V. *p* *mp* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp*
E - u - i - a - i - i - o - o - e - i - e - o

S.V. *mp* *p* *mf* *p* *v.o.* *p* *f* *mf* *p* *f* *p*
a - i - a - o - e - e - o - e

S.V. *p* *mf* *p* *v.o.* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*
a - o - e - o - o - i - e - o - o

S.V. *mf* *mp* *p* *mf* *pp* *v.o.* *mp* *f* *mp* *p* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *pp*
m - e - m - u - r - i - a - l - i - i - o - n - o - e - r - i - m - e - m - o

S.V. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *f* *pp* *v.o.* *pp* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *f* *pp*
a - l - i - l - a - o - e - r - e - o - l - e

S.V. *mp* *f* *pp* *mp* *mf* *mp* *f* *pp* *mp*
l - a - o - e - n - o - i - i - v - e - w - o - n - o

S.V. P \leftarrow mp \rightarrow P \leftarrow mf \rightarrow pp V.O. mp \leftarrow f P \leftarrow mp \rightarrow P

me - mo - ry be - lieves be - fore know - ing re - mem - bers

f \leftarrow mf \rightarrow P \leftarrow f \rightarrow mp f \rightarrow P \leftarrow mf \rightarrow pp

(a)

S.V. P \leftarrow mf \rightarrow P \leftarrow mf \rightarrow pp V.O. mf \leftarrow mp \rightarrow P

be - lieves long - er than re - col - lects

f \leftarrow f \rightarrow ff P \leftarrow fp \leftarrow f \rightarrow pp

(a)

S.V. mp \leftarrow f \rightarrow pp V.O. mf \leftarrow pp \rightarrow ff

long - er than know - ing e - ven won - ders

mf \leftarrow ff \rightarrow P \leftarrow mf \rightarrow P \leftarrow ff P \leftarrow f P \leftarrow f \rightarrow P \leftarrow fff \rightarrow pp

(a)