

*Nuit de printemps & Un soir d'automne* for Soprano and Piano

Gabriella Canzani

(2024)

PERUSAL SCORE

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# *Nuit de printemps & Un soir d'automne* for Soprano and Piano

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Ca. 9' (*Nuit de printemps*: ca. 4' , *Un soir d'automne*: ca. 5')

## INSTRUMENTATION

Soprano (extended range: C4 - D6, with options for C4 - A5 range)  
Piano

## PERFORMANCE NOTES

While these two pieces are presented as a set, they may also be performed as individual pieces. Please note that in the occasional passages written in complex time (7/8, 9/8), the eighth note retains its tempo (subdivisions are indicated).

## PROGRAM NOTES

I wrote these two pieces while I was serving as the composer in residence for the vocal department at McGill University's *Schulich School of Music*. When writing vocal music, I always begin my process by reading a ridiculous amount of poetry; it is important to me that I connect with the text to a point where I feel that I can do it justice through my music. The poems *Nuit de printemps* (by François-René De Chateaubriand) and *Un soir d'automne* (by Antoine de Latour) immediately grabbed my attention when I first read them; they capture the feelings of awe and peace that I, too, experience when surrounded by nature. In addition, spring and fall happen to be my two favorite seasons, so I felt that these two poems would make a lovely set.

François-René De Chateaubriand describes, in *Nuit de printemps*, an evening during which he loses himself in the comforting aromas, sounds and new life that arrive with spring. As I set his poem to music, I did my best to illustrate, through changing textures and colours, his experiences as colourfully as he describes them. The clearness of the spring sky, the smell of the warm, humid air and the sound of birds singing; I created music that elicits the same feelings in me as these things.

*Un soir d'automne* opens with a dark, damp mood; Antoine de Latour describes (much more beautifully than this) a moment during which he is working on his poetry next to a stream, under the falling leaves. As I considered how to set this section of the poem to music, I settled on a somewhat "muddy" texture, with just a few too many notes in each chord. As the poem continues, the changing colours of the hillside, as well as the sunset on the lake, bring a beautiful change of mood, whose glorious colours I did my best to represent through my choices of chords and textures. In the middle of *Un soir d'automne*, Antoine de Latour writes of a mysterious white vessel that he believes to occasionally see; I translated this mysterious passage of the poem into a dream-like section.

**PERUSAL SCORE**

### Nuit de Printemps

Le ciel est pur, la lune est sans nuage :  
Déjà la nuit au calice des fleurs  
Verse la perle et l'ambre de ses pleurs ;  
Aucun zéphyr n'agite le feuillage.  
Sous un berceau, tranquillement assis,  
Où le lilas flotte et pend sur ma tête,  
Je sens couler mes pensers rafraîchis  
Dans les parfums que la nature apprête.  
Des bois dont l'ombre, en ces prés blanchissants,  
Avec lenteur se dessine et repose,  
Deux rossignols, jaloux de leurs accents,  
Vont tour à tour réveiller le printemps  
Qui sommeillait sous ces touffes de rose.  
Mélodieux, solitaire Ségrais,  
Jusqu'à mon cœur vous portez votre paix !  
Des prés aussi traversant le silence,  
J'entends au loin, vers ce riant séjour,  
La voix du chien qui gronde et veille autour  
De l'humble toit qu'habite l'innocence.  
Mais quoi ! déjà, belle nuit, je te perds !  
Parmi les cieus à l'aurore entrouverts,  
Phébé n'a plus que des clartés mourantes,  
Et le zéphyr, en rasant le verger,  
De l'orient, avec un bruit léger,  
Se vient poser sur ces tiges tremblantes.

- François-René De Chateaubriand

Translation by composer:

### A Spring Night

The sky is pure, the moon is cloudless:  
The night already pours, onto the calyx of flowers,  
The pearl and amber of its tears:  
Not a single zephyr stirs the foliage.  
Under a cradle, quietly seated,  
Where lilac floats and rests on my head,  
I feel my refreshed thoughts flowing  
In the perfumes that nature prepares.  
The shadows of the trees, in these whitening meadows,  
Slowly draw before resting,  
Two nightingales, jealous of each other's accents,  
Will take turns awakening spring  
Who slumbered beneath the rose tufts.  
Melodious, solitary meadow,  
You bring your peace to my heart!  
From the meadows, traveling through the silence,  
I hear in the distance, from a house full of laughter,  
The voice of the dog that growls and watches over  
The humble roof where innocence dwells.  
But what! already, beautiful night, I am losing you!  
Among the half-open skies of dawn,  
Phoebe's glow has but a dying clarity,  
And the zephyr, skimming the orchard,  
From the east, with a light noise,  
Comes to rest on these trembling stems.

- François-René De Chateaubriand

### Un soir d'automne

Une source à mes pieds roule son eau limpide,  
Et mêle son murmure à celui de mes vers.  
Tandis qu'autour de moi tombe la feuille humide  
Du saule qui déjà sent le froid des hivers.

A l'autre bord du lac, une beauté timide  
Dessine, en se jouant, ces coteaux encoverts  
Qui disputent en vain à son crayon rapide  
Et leurs mille détours et leurs lointains divers.

Et parfois je crois voir une blanche nacelle  
S'en venir d'enie à moi pour retourner vers elle,  
Et la muse, au milieu, nous sourit en passant,

Et verse tour à tour de sa coupe bénie,  
Aux changeantes lueurs du jour qui va baissant,  
La lumière sur l'un, sur l'autre l'harmonie.

- Antoine de Latour

Translation by composer:

### An Autumn Evening

Clear water flows through a spring at my feet,  
And mingles its murmur with that of my verses,  
While around me damp leaves fall  
From the willow that already feels winter's cold.

On the other side of the lake, a timid beauty  
Playfully draws on the green hillsides  
Which dispute in vain against its quick pencil  
And their thousand twists and turns.

And sometimes I think I see a white vessel  
Approaching me before departing again,  
And the muse, in the middle, smiles at us,

And pours repeatedly from its blessed cup,  
As the glimmers of the waning day fluctuate,  
The light on one, harmony on the other.

- Antoine de Latour

# Nuit de Printemps for soprano and piano

Gabriella Canzani  
Text by François-René De Chateaubriand

Tempo I ♩ = 72 Serene, pure

Flute

Piano

*p*

8va

5

Fl.

*p*

Le ciel est pur, la lune est sans nu-age:

Pno.

*p*

8va

9

Fl.

*mf*

Dé-jà la nuit au ca-lice des fleurs Ver-se la perle

Pno.

*cresc.*

*mf*

*rit.* ..... (16) Tempo II ♩ = 52 Flowing

Fl. 13 *p* *mp*  
et l'ambre de ses pleurs; Au-cun zé-phyr n'a-gite le feuil-

Pno. *dim.* *p* *mp*

Fl. 17  
-lage. Sous un ber-ceau, tran-quille-ment as-sis, Où le li-las

Pno.

Fl. 20 *mf*  
flotte et pend sur ma tête, Je sens cou-ler mes pen-sers ra-fraî-chis

Pno. *cresc.* *mf* *dim.* *pp*



32 *f* *rit.* *p* A Tempo I ♩ = 72 Like a bird

Fl. pose,

Pno. *f dim.* *pp*

34

Fl. Deux ros - sig - nols, ja - loux de leurs ac - cents, Vont

Pno.

36 *mf* *rit.*

Fl. tour à tour é-veil - ler le print - temps Qui som-meil - lait sous ces touffes de

Pno. *cresc.* *mp*

40 A Tempo I ♩ = 72

39 *p*

Fl. *rose.* Mé - lo - dieux,

Pno. *pp*

41 *mf*

Fl. so - li-taire Sé - grais, Jus - qu'à mon cœur vous por-tez vo - tre

Pno. *cresc.*

43

Fl. *paix!* Des \_\_\_\_\_ prés

Pno. *mf*

45

Fl. *mp*

aus - - si - - tra-ver-sant le si - lence, J'en-tends au

Pno.

47

Fl. *mf* (49)

loin, vers ce ri-ant sé - jour, La voix du chien qui gronde et

Pno. *mp* *mf*

50

Fl. *mf*

veille au - tour De l'hum-ble toit qu'ha-bite l'in - no -

Pno.

Tempo III ♩ = 90 Soaring

53

Fl. *cence.* Mais... quoi! dé... jà,

Pno. *mp*

56

Fl. *f* belle... nuit, je te perds!

Pno.

59

Fl. *mp* Par - mi les... cieux

Pno. *p*

*molto rit.*

62

Fl. *f*

à l'au - rore en - trou - ver

Pno. *cresc.* *f*

64 A Tempo I ♩ = 72 Gracefully

Fl. *f*

Phé - bé n'a plus que des clar-tés mou - rantes, Et le

Pno.

66

Fl. *mp*

zé - pavr, en ra - sant le ver - ger, De

Pno.

68

Fl. l'o - rient, a - vec un bruit lé -

Pno. *mp*

70

Fl. - ger, Se - vient po -

Pno.

72

Fl. ser sur

Pno. *p*

74

Fl. *ces.* *tiges*

Pno. *dim.*

76

Fl. *trem - blantes,* *trem -* *molto rit..*

Pno.

78

Fl. *blantes.*

Pno. *pp*

# Un soir d'automne for soprano and piano

Gabriella Canzani (b.2001)  
Text by Antoine de Latour

Tempo I ♩ = 50 Gently, with rubato

Flute

Piano

3

Fl.

Pno.

*molto rit.*

*p*

Une

5

Fl.

Pno.

*A Tempo I ♩ = 50*

source à mes pieds roule

7 *mf* *molto rit.*

Fl. son eau lim - - - ple,

Pno. *cresc.* *mp*

9 **Tempo II** ♩ = 72 *mp*

Fl. Et - - - mêle son mur - mure à - - - ce -

Pno.

12 *rit.* *pp*

Fl. lui de - - - mes vers,

Pno. *dim.* *pp*

14 **Tempo I** ♩ = 50 Excitedly

Fl. *p*  
Tan - dis qu'au-tour de

Pno. *p*

16 *mf* *f*  
moi tombe la feuille

Pno. *cresc.* *mf*

18 *molto rit.* *p*  
hu - - - - - mide Du

Fl.

Pno. *dim.* *p*

20 A Tempo II ♩ = 72 Cold and dark

Fl. *saule* qui dé - ja sent le froid des hi -

Pno. *pp*

24 *rit.* - - - - - 25 Tempo II ♩ = 72 Like a sigh of relief

Fl. *vers.*

Pno. *mp*

28 *molto rit.* - - - - - *mp*

Fl. *À*

Pno.

32 **Tempo II** ♩ = 72 Soaring and free, with rubato

Fl. *l'autre bord du lac, une beauté*

Pno.

35 *mf*

Fl. *ti - mide Des sine en se jou - ant, ces co*

Pno. *mf dim.*

38 *p* *mf*

Fl. *eaux en-core verts Qui dis-puent en vain à son cra - -yon ra -*

Pno. *p* *mf*

41

Fl. *f*

- pide et leurs mille dé-tours et leur loin-tains

Pno. (2+2+3) (3+2+2+2) *dim.*

44

Fl. *rit.* *p* *mf*

di-vers. Et par-fois je crois

Pno. *p* *mp*

45 Tempo III ♩ = 92 Mystical and free

47

Fl.

voir une blanche na-celle S'en ve-

Pno. *8va*

50

Fl. - nir d'elle à moi pour re - tour - ner vers

Pno.

52

Fl. elle, Et la

Pno. *pp* *cresc.*

54

55

Fl. muse, au

Pno. *mf*

57

Fl. *f*

mi - - - - - lieu

Pno. *cresc.*

60

Fl. *molto rit.*

nous sou - rire en pas - - -

Pno. *dim.*

62

Fl. *mp*

sant,

Pno. *pp*

64 **Tempo I** ♩ = 50 Slowly floating away

Fl.

Pno.

67 **p**

Fl.

Pno.

70 **mp**

Fl.

Pno.

73 *mf* *p*

Fl. Aux — chan - geantes lu - eurs du jour qui va bais - sant,

Pno. *cresc.* *mf dim.* *p*

76 Nostalgic, far away

Fl. *pp* *mp*

La lu - mière sur l'un, sur

Pno. *pp* *cresc.*

79 *molto rit.*

Fl. l'autre l'har - mo - nie.

Pno. *mp* *dim.*