

Three Love Songs

David Rendall

I

Jonathan Dove

Ecstatic ♩ = 126 (3+2)

Out - stretched be - fore our

eyes, Un - end - ing sky of a -

- zure blue Be -

p

Pedal throughout, change with harmonies

II

Troubled $\text{♩} = 138 (3+2)$

The musical score is for a piece titled "Troubled" with a tempo of 138 beats per minute (marked as 3+2). It is in B-flat major and 5/4 time. The score is divided into three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment.

System 1: The vocal line begins with a whole rest, followed by a half rest, and then a triplet of eighth notes: A, lone, in. The piano accompaniment features a continuous eighth-note pattern in the left hand, with a melodic line in the right hand. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *pp* (pianissimo) with a pedal instruction.

System 2: The vocal line continues with a triplet of eighth notes: dark- ened room, followed by a half rest, and then a triplet of eighth notes: I, sit. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern. Dynamics include *p* (piano).

System 3: The vocal line has a half note: you, followed by a half rest. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern. Dynamics include *p* (piano).

The score includes various musical notations such as rests, triplets, and dynamic markings. The piano part is characterized by a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand and a more melodic line in the right hand.

The background to *Three Love Songs* is suitably romantic. David Rendall met Diana Montague while they were singing in *Così fan Tutte* at the Metropolitan Opera. They married in 1990. Around that time, David wrote poems reflecting the dramas that led up to their marriage. Early in 1996, David asked me if I could set some of these poems to music, in time for their wedding anniversary. We met to practise the songs during breaks in his rehearsals at English National Opera, and performed them for Diana at their house in Hampshire on Saturday 24th February.

I gave the manuscript to David, as part of his gift to Diana. Although I kept a copy, I didn't notice that it only included the odd-numbered pages, so these songs have never appeared in print. (Until now, my earliest published song-cycle was *All You Who Sleep Tonight*, written later that same year.)

As far as I know, David did not perform these songs again, but from time to time he encouraged his son, Huw Montague Rendall, to consider them. He was happy to know that Huw was planning to bring them to life again. Sadly, he did not live to hear this performance.

Jonathan Dove, February 2026