

After the Alphabets

Music by Robert Adámy Duisberg

Text by W.S. Merwin

(used by permission of the poet)

*“One is trying to say everything
that can be said for the things one loves
while there is still time.”*

– W.S. Merwin

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Gently ♩ = 64

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

Piano

3

p *a tempo*

I am try - ing to de - ci - pher the lan - guage of in -

p *a tempo*

I am try - ing to de - ci - pher the lan - guage of in -

p *a tempo*

I am try - ing to de - ci - pher the lan - guage of in -

p *a tempo*

I am try - ing to de - ci - pher the lan - guage of in -

mp

7

sects They are the tongues of the fu - ture they des -

sects They are the tongues of the fu - ture they des -

sects They are the tongues of the fu - ture they des -

sects They are the tongues of the fu - ture they des -

poco rit. *p*

10

a tempo
cribe build-ings as food they can de - pict dark wa - ter

a tempo
cribe build-ings as food they can de - pict dark wa - ter

a tempo
cribe build-ings as food they can de - pict dark wa -

a tempo
cribe build-ings as food they can de - pict dark

a tempo
cribe build-ings as food they can de - pict dark

trm

13

f

and the veins of trees they can con-

f

— and trees they can con-

f

- ter and trees they can con-

f

wa - ter and trees they can con-

f

f subito

16

ritardando

vey what they do not know and what is known at a di-stance and what no-bo-dy

ritardando

vey what they do not know and what is known at a di- stance and what no bo - dy

ritardando

vey what they do not know and what is known at di - stance and what no - bo - dy

ritardando

vey what they do not know and what is known at a di-stance and what no-bo-dy

p

ritardando

4 **Piu mosso** ♩=68

20 *f*

knows they have terms for mak-ing mu-sic with legs they can re -

knows they have terms for mak-ing mu-sic with legs they can re -

knows they have terms for mak-ing mu-sic with legs they can re -

knows they have terms for mak-ing mu-sic with legs they can re -

Piu mosso ♩=68

23

count chang - ing in a sleep like death they can sing with wings they can

count chang - ing in a sleep like death they can sing they can

count chang - ing in a sleep like death they can sing with wings

count chang - ing in a sleep like death they can sing with

Slower and freely ♩ = 60

27

sing with wings the spea-kers are their own
 sing with wings
 they can sing with wings the spea-kers are their
 wings with wings

Slower and freely ♩ = 60

pp

31

mean ing own mean - ing in a
p the spea-kers are their own mean - ing in a
 own mean - ing own mean - ing in a gram - mar
p the spea-kers are own mean - ing in a gram - mar

34

gram-mar with out hor-i-zons they are whol-ly ar-

gram - mar with-out hor - i - zons they are whol-ly ar-

with out hor-i - zons they are whol - ly

with out hor-i - zons they are whol - ly

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

37

ti-cu-late they are ne-ver im-por-tant they are ev' - ry thing they are

ti - cu- late they can sing with wings they are

whol - ly they are ne-verim-por- tant they are

whol - ly they can sing with wings

mf

3

3

3

40

molto ritardando *ff*

ev' - - ry thing — they can sing with

molto ritardando *ff*

ev' - ry they are ev' - - ry thing — they are

molto ritardando *ff*

ev' - ry ev' - ry thing they can sing with

molto ritardando *ff*

they are ev' - ry thing — they can sing with

molto ritardando *ff*

42

wings

ev' - ry thing

wings

ev' - ry thing

attacca

8vb