

Four Haiku

for a cappella SATB choir

RUSSELL NADEL

(2007)

Duration: c. 4'00"



Texts:

taken from the work *The essential haiku: versions of Basho, Buson, and Issa*.*

I. Spring

The end of spring
lingers
in the cherry blossoms.
- Yosa Busōn, 1716-1874

III. Fall

Early fall –
the sea and the rice fields
all one green.
- Bashō

II. Summer

Clapping my hands –
with the echoes the summer moon
begins to dawn.
- Bashō, 1644-1694

IV. Winter

The snow is melting
and the village is flooded
with children.
- Kobayashi Issa, 1763-1827

Program Notes:

This work is an original setting of four haiku by three of the greatest Japanese haiku masters, Bashō, Yosa Busōn, and Kobayashi Issa. I set all four haiku using the same few traditionally “Japanese” musical features, which unifies the sound of the work as a whole. All the melodic and harmonic material in each movement is built around a different traditional Japanese pentatonic (five-note) scale, which gets its distinctly Asian sound from the half-steps between some of the pitches. Every movement also utilizes the characteristically Japanese musical devices of heterophony, where the same melodic line, with slight individual variations, is performed simultaneously by two or more performers; ornamentation, particularly with leaping grace note figurations; and of course, silence.

This work was commissioned by and is dedicated to Maestro Jon Washburn and the marvelous Vancouver Chamber Choir of Vancouver, BC, Canada. The VCC premiered *Four Haiku* on May 4, 2007, in Vancouver.

– *Russell Nadel*
March 2007

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FOUR HAIKU

I. Spring

Basho*
Buson
Issa

RUSSELL NADEL

Lento (♩ = 56) **poco rit.** **a tempo** **rit.** **a tempo**

Soprano: The end of spring lin gers

Alto: Ends The end of spring

Tenor: Spring spring ends The

Bass: Spring ends

5

S. lin - gers in the cher - ry, cher - ry blos - soms.

A. lin - gers in the cher - ry blos - soms, cher - ry blos-soms

T. end of spring lin - gers cher - ry blos-soms

B. lin - gers in the blos-soms cher - ry blos-soms

8

S. *f* div. cher - ry blos - soms

A. *mf* *f* in the cher - ry blos - soms, spring

T. *mf* *p* *f* spring lin - gers in the cher - ry blos - soms

B. *mp* *p* *f* div. blos - soms
lin - gers in the cher - ry blos - soms, lin - gers in the *ff* spring ends

poco a poco rit.

11

S. *f* *mf* unis. lin - gers in the cher - ry blos - soms lin - gers

A. *mp* lin - gers the end of spring

T. *mp* blos - soms the end of spring

B. *mp* *f* *mp* unis. spring lin - gers the end of spring

II. Summer

Allegro movendo (♩ = 108)

mp *ff* *mp* *mf* *p*

Soprano
[k]* [k] [k] [k]

Alto
[k]* [k] [k] [k]

Tenor
[k]* [k] [k] [k] Clap-ping my hands, Clap-ping my hands,

Bass
[k]* [k] [k] [k] Clap-ping my hands, 2 clap-ping my hands, 2

4 *f marcato* *mf*

S. Clap - ping my hands, Clap - ping my hands, —

A. *f marcato* *mf*
Clap - ping my hands, Clap - ping my hands, —

T. Clap-ping my hands, Clap-ping my hands, Clap-ping my hands,

B. clap-ping my hands, 2 clap-ping my hands, 2 clap-ping my hands, 2

* Explosive, short k sound (blast of air), with no shwa or vowel sound afterwards. All notes with x noteheads should be performed with this sound.

7

S. *f* *legato*
with the e - - - - - choes

A. *f* *mp*
with the e - - - - - choes e - - - - -

T. *mf*
Clap-ping my hands, clap-ping my hands, clap-ping my

B. *f*
clap-ping my hands, clap-ping my hands, clap-ping my hands,

10

S. *mp dolce*
with the e - choes the sum - mer moon

A. *p* *mp*
- choes e - choes Clap - ping my hands,

T. *mp* *mf*
hands, clap-ping my hands, clap-ping my hands, clap - ping my hands,

B. *p* *mp* *p* *mf* *f*
clap-ping my hands, clap-ping my hands, clap-ping my hands,

III. Fall

Molto lento (♩ = 44)

p *mp*

Soprano
Ear - ly fall, ear - ly fall, ear - - ly the

Alto
p
Ear - ly fall, ear - ly fall, ear - ly fall

Tenor
p
Ear - ly fall, ear - ly fall, ear - - ly fall

Bass
mf
Ear - ly fall, the sea

5

S.
sea and the rice fields

A.
mp *p chiaro*
the sea and the rice fields the sea and the rice fields

T.
mp
the sea and the rice fields

B.

8

S. *mp*
all one green, all one green, green,

A. *p chiaro* *mf* 3
the sea and the rice fields all one green, one green, one green,

T. *mp*
one green,

B. *p* *mf div.*
All one green,

12

S. *p* *rit.* *div.*
ear - ly fall, ear - ly fall, sea all one green.

A. *p*
ear - ly fall, ear - ly fall, rice fields all one green.

T. *p*
ear - ly fall, ear - ly fall, rice fields all one green.

B. *mp unis.* *div.*
all one green.

IV. Winter

Allegro leggiero, chiaro (♩ = 144) ♩ = ♪ *sempre* *p* > *pp* *p* > *pp*

Soprano Snow is mel-ting,

Alto Snow is mel-ting,

Tenor *mp* Snow, snow, *mf* Snow is mel-ting,

Bass *mp* Snow, snow, *mf* Snow is mel-ting,

9 *mp* *f* *p*

S. Snow is mel-ting, mel-ting.

A. *mp* *f* *p* Snow is mel-ting, mel-ting.

T. *mp* *f* *p* The snow is mel-ting, mel-ting,

B. *mp* *f* *p* The snow is mel-ting, mel-ting,

13

S. *mf* *ff*
 The snow is mel-ting, and the vil-lage is flood-ed with chil- dren.

A. *mf* *ff*
 The snow is mel-ting, and the vil-lage is flood-ed with chil- dren.

T. *p* *f*
 mel - ting snow, snow,

B. *p* *f*
 mel - ting snow, _____

19

S. *mp* *f* *p* *f sub.*
 The snow is mel-ting, snow, _____ chil- dren,

A. *mp* *f* *p* *f sub.*
 The snow is mel-ting, snow, _____ chil- dren,

T. *p* *p* *f sub.* *p* *mf sub.* *f* *div.*
 Snow, snow, mel-ting, mel-ting, mel-ting, and the vil-lage is flood-ed with chil- dren,

B. *p* *p* *f sub.* *p* *mf sub.* *f*
 Snow, snow, mel-ting, mel-ting, mel-ting, and the vil-lage is flood-ed with chil- dren,