

for Oliver

April Rain Song

Langston Hughes

from *Spring Revels*

Elizabeth Alexander

(♩ = 84-88)

S Solo

S

A

T

B

p lightly

lop* lop lop lop lop lop

p lightly

lop* lop lop lop lop lop lop

p lightly

lop* lop lop lop lop lop

p lightly

lop* lop lop lop lop

(for rehearsal only)

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of the musical score. It features five vocal staves (S Solo, S, A, T, B) and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 84-88. The music is in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are 'lop* lop lop lop lop lop'. The vocal parts are marked with 'p' (piano) and 'lightly'. The piano accompaniment includes a rehearsal section.

5

S Solo

S

A

T

B

mp

Let the

lop lop lop lop lop lop

lop lop lop lop lop lop

lop lop lop lop lop

lop lop lop lop

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of the musical score, starting at measure 5. It features the same five vocal staves and piano accompaniment. The tempo remains quarter note = 84-88. The music is in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are 'Let the'. The vocal parts are marked with 'mp' (mezzo-piano). The piano accompaniment continues.

* The final "p" is designed to close the vowel quickly, and should not be articulated.

9

S Solo rain

S lop lop lop lop lop

A lop lop lop lop lop lop lop

T 8 lop lop lop lop lop lop

B lop lop lop lop lop

13

S Solo kiss you.

S Lop lop lop Lop lop lop

A Lop lop lop lop lop lop

T 8 Lop lop lop lop lop lop

B Lop lop lop lop lop

17 *mp* (9)

S Solo Let the rain _____ beat up - on your head with

S Lop lop lop lop lop

A Lop lop lop lop lop lop

T Lop lop lop lop lop lop

B Lop lop lop lop lop

21 *poco rit.* (9)

S Solo sil - - - - ver li - - - - quid

S Lop lop lop lop lop

A Lop lop lop lop lop lop

T Lop lop lop lop lop lop

B Lop lop lop lop lop

25 **a tempo**

S Solo
drops.

S
Lop lop lop lop lop

A
Lop lop lop lop lop lop lop

T
Lop lop lop lop lop lop

B
Lop lop lop lop lop

Piano accompaniment

29 **mp**

S Solo
Let the rain sing you a

S
Lop lop lop lop lop

A
Lop lop lop lop lop lop lop

T
Lop lop lop lop lop lop

B
Lop lop lop lop lop

Piano accompaniment

42

S
lul - la - by, lul - la - by, lul - la - by, lul - la -

A
— lul - la - by, lul - la - by, lul - la - by,

T
8 - by, lul - la - by, lul - la - by, lul - la - by,

B

The piano accompaniment for measures 42-47 consists of a treble and bass clef system. The right hand plays a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand plays a harmonic accompaniment of eighth and quarter notes.

48

S
- by, lul - la - by, lul - la - by, lul - la - by,

A
lul - la - by, lul - la - by, lul - la - by, lul -

T
8 lul - la - by, lul - la - by, lul - la - by, lul - la -

B
mp
The rain _____ makes _____ still pools on the side - walk

The piano accompaniment for measures 48-53 continues with the same texture as before. The bass line in measure 48 includes the dynamic marking *mp* (mezzo-piano). The right hand continues with a melodic line, and the left hand provides harmonic support.

54

S lul - la - by, lul - la - by, lul - la - by, lul - la - -

A - la - by, lul - la - by, lul - la - by, lul - la -

T - by, lul - la - by, lul - la - by, lul - la - by, *(mp)*

B *(mp)*

The

60

S - by, lul - la - by, lul - la - by, lul - la - by,

A - by, lul - la - by, lul - la - by, lul - la - by,

T lul - la - by, lul - la - by, lul - la - by, lul -

B rain _____ makes run - ning pools, run - ning pools in the gut - ter.

66

S
lul - la - by, lul - la - by, lul - la - by, lul -

A
lul - la - by, lul - la - by, lul - la - by, lul - la -

T
- la - by, lul - la - by, lul - la - by, lul - la -

B
mp
The rain plays a

72

S
- la - by, lul - la - by, lul - la - by, lul - la -

A
by, lul - la - by, lul - la - by, lul - la - by,

T
- by, lul - la - by, lul - la - - by, lul - la - by, _____

B
lit - tle sleep_ song, _ lit - tle sleep_ song_ on our roof at

Opal Palmer Adisa, poet ◦ Margaret & George Alexander, parents ◦ Yehuda Amichai, poet ◦ Bjorn Arneson, generous web designer ◦ Scott Bates, poet ◦ Abbie Betinis, composer/colleague ◦ Dennis Blubaugh, music dealer ◦ Michael deVernon Boblett, poet ◦ Ray Bradbury, writer ◦ Norbert Capek, visionary ◦ e. e. cummings, poet ◦ Philip Dacey, poet ◦ Emily Dickinson, poet ◦ Evelyn Dudley, poet ◦ Rob Eller-Isaacs, minister/writer ◦ Sophia Lyon Fahs, writer ◦ Richard M. Fewkes, writer ◦ Peshya Gertler, poet ◦ Richard S. Gilbert, minister/writer ◦ Jack Gallagher, composer/teacher ◦ Paul Gerike, proofreader ◦ Steve Harper, technical advisor ◦ Steve Hawkins, generous web designer ◦ Edie Hill, composer/colleague ◦ Langston Hughes, poet ◦ Mark Humphrey, piano technician ◦ Karel Husa, composer/teacher ◦ Kalidasa, poet ◦ Garrison Keillor, storyteller ◦ Denise Levertov, poet ◦ George Ella Lyon, poet ◦ Jonathan Machen, artist ◦ Edna St. Vincent Millay, poet ◦ J. David Moore, composer/colleague ◦ Joan Wolf Prefontaine, poet ◦ Gerald Rich, poet ◦ Carl Sandburg, poet ◦ King Sigismund III, religious reformer ◦ Steven Stucky, composer/teacher ◦ Rabindranath Tagore, poet ◦ Howard Thurman, civil rights leader/writer ◦ John Greenleaf Whittier, poet ◦ Theodore Tuckering Williams, poet ◦ Daniel Winter, pianist/teacher ◦ Nancy Wood, poet ◦ Yehudi Wyner, composer/teacher ◦ Paul Adams, technical advisor ◦ Opal Palmer Adisa, poet ◦ Margaret & George Alexander, parents ◦ Yehuda Amichai, poet ◦ Bjorn Arneson, generous web designer ◦ Scott Bates, poet ◦ Abbie Betinis, composer/colleague ◦ Dennis Blubaugh, music dealer ◦ Michael deVernon Boblett, poet ◦ Ray Bradbury, writer ◦ Norbert Capek, visionary ◦ e. e. cummings, poet ◦ Philip Dacey, poet ◦ Emily Dickinson, poet ◦ Evelyn Dudley, poet ◦ Rob Eller-Isaacs, minister/writer ◦ Sophia Lyon Fahs, writer ◦ Richard M. Fewkes, writer ◦ Peshya Gertler, poet ◦ Richard S. Gilbert, minister/writer ◦ Jack Gallagher, composer/teacher ◦ Paul Gerike, proofreader ◦ Steve Harper, technical advisor ◦ Steve Hawkins, generous web designer ◦ Edie Hill, composer/colleague ◦ Langston Hughes, poet ◦ Mark Humphrey, piano technician ◦ Karel Husa, composer/teacher ◦ Kalidasa, poet ◦ Garrison Keillor, storyteller ◦ Denise Levertov, poet ◦ George Ella Lyon, poet ◦ Jonathan Machen, artist ◦ Edna St. Vincent Millay, poet ◦ J. David Moore, composer/colleague ◦ Joan Wolf Prefontaine, poet ◦ Gerald Rich, poet ◦ Carl Sandburg, poet ◦ King

A LOT OF HARD WORK & CREATIVITY WENT INTO BRINGING THIS MUSIC TO YOU...



...AND SOME OF IT WAS EVEN MINE.

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87 **a tempo** 11

S Solo
S
A
T
B

the rain (n)
p (n)
lop lop (n)
lop lop lop
lop lop lop
p (n)

April Rain Song is the opening song in the three-movement work **Spring Revels** (SEA-006-00), which was commissioned in 1993 by The Festival Choir of Madison, with support from the Wisconsin Arts Board.

April Rain Song

Langston Hughes

Let the rain kiss you.
Let the rain beat upon your head with silver liquid drops.
Let the rain sing you a lullaby.


The rain makes still pools on the sidewalk.
The rain makes running pools in the gutter.
The rain plays a little sleep-song on our roof at night ---

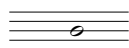
And I love the rain.


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Performance Notes

In the measure marked **senza misura**, the musical material of a free rhythmic nature. Notes with identical rhythmic values need not have exactly the same durations, but should be sung lyrically. The following durations may be considered suggestions rather than mandates:

 = 1 second or less

 = 2-4 seconds

 = Duration of measure