



Edition Schott

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**Bernard Rands**

b.1934

# Walcott Songs

for Mezzo-Soprano and Cello

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1

*Endings*

Things do not explode,  
they fail, they fade,

as sunlight fades from the flesh,  
as the foam drains quick in the sand,

even love's lightning flash  
has no thunderous end,

it dies with the sound  
of flowers fading like the flesh

from sweating pumice stone,  
everything shapes this

till we are left  
with the silence that surrounds Beethoven's head.

2

*Midsummer, Tobago*

Broad sun-stoned beaches.

White heat.  
A green river.

A bridge,  
scorched yellow palms

from the summer-sleeping house  
drowsing through August.

Days I have held,  
days I have lost,

days that outgrow, like daughters,  
my harbouring arms.

3

*The Fist*

The fist clenched round my heart  
loosens a little, and I gasp  
brightness; but it tightens  
again. When have I ever not loved  
the pain of love? But this has moved

past love to mania. This has the strong  
clench of the madman, this is  
gripping the ledge of unreason, before  
plunging howling into the abyss.

Hold hard then, heart. This way at least you live.

# WALCOTT SONGS

for mezzo-soprano and cello

Derek Walcott

Bernard Rands

## 1. Endings

♩ = 60 *tranquillo*

Voice: 
  
 Cello:

5 *p* Things do not ex - plode, *mp* they fail, *p* (s.v.) they

10 *pp* fade, (s.v.) *mp* they fail, *mf*

15 (s.v.) *p* they fade, *p* as

20

*mf* *p* *mf*

sun - light fades from the flesh, as the foam drains

pizz. arco pont. norm. gliss.

*mp* *mf* *f* *mp* *f*

3 3:2 5:4 3:2

7:4

24

*p* *mf* (*mf*)

quick in the sand, things do not explode, they

pont. norm.

*p* *f* *p sub.*

3:2 5:4 7:4

27

*mp* *mf* *dolce espr.*

fail, they fade, e - ven love's light - ning

pizz. arco gliss.

*f* *p sub.* *poco* *f*

3 3:2 3

30

*f* *p* *mp*

flash has no thun - der - ous end, things

pont. norm.

*f* *p* *mp*

3 3:2 3 3:2

7

34

*f* *mf* *f*

do not ex - plode, they fade, they fail, e - ven

*mf* *f*

3 3 3

*molto rit.* ----- *a tempo*

38

love's light - ning flash dies with the sound of flow - ers

*p* *sfz* *p*

41

fad - ing like the flesh from sweat - ing pum - ice stone,

*mf* *p* *poco* *pp*

44

things do not ex - plode they fail, they

*senza tempo* *a tempo* (♩ = 60)  
*ff* *senza dim.*  
*con ira* *stizzoso*

49

fade, eve - ry - thing shapes this till we are left with the

*mf* *mp* *p*

52

si - lence that sur - rounds Bee - tho - ven's head.

*p* *pp* *ppp*

\* = "stage whisper" (unvoiced) = spoken (voiced)

### 2. Midsummer, Tobago

♩ = 84 **rigoroso**

*f*

sun

pizz. (drum-like)  
sempre

*p* *f* *ff* *f*

6

heat scorched white

*ff* *f* *ff* *mp*

3 3

12

broad palms bridge

*ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff* *f*

3

18

house stoned days

*mf* *ff* *f* *p* *f*

3

24

beach-es white heat a bridge riv-er

*ff* *f* *ff* *f* *mf* *mp* *ff*

3

30 *mf* *f* *mp* *p* *f*

sum - mer yel - low Au - gust daugh - ters sun - stoned days held

*mf* *ff* *mf* *ff* *f*

35 *mp* *f* *p* a tempo

drows - ing days lost sleep - ing

*p* *mf* *ff* *f* *p* *p*

40 *mf* *mp*

sum - mer house through Au - gust

*f* *ff* *f*

45 *f* *p* *mp* 3

broad beach - es scorched yel - low like daugh - ters drows - ing

*ff* *ff* *mf* *ff*

50 *p* *rit.* *p* 3

through sleep - ing house green riv - er har - bour - ing

*mf* *ff* *f* *p* *mp* *ff* *p* *pp*

56 **a tempo**

*f* 3:2 3

days I have lost \_\_\_\_\_ sum-mer sleep - ing \_\_\_\_\_

*pp* ff f gliss.

62 3 p mf 3:2

\_\_\_\_\_ days I have held \_\_\_\_\_ har - bour - ing arms \_\_\_\_\_ days that out -

*f* ff *f* 3 *ff* mf *ff*

68 3 f 3:2 p

grow \_\_\_\_\_ sun - stoned beach - es scorched yel - low palms \_\_\_\_\_ a

*mf* ff mp *ff* p

74 3:2 p f 3:2

green \_\_\_\_\_ riv - er \_\_\_\_\_ Broad \_\_\_\_\_ sun-stoned

*pp* f ff *f*

81 p f 5:4

beach - - - es. \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ heat. \_\_\_\_\_

*ff* *f* 3 *ff* mp ff mf *ff*

89 *mp* *f*

A green riv - - - er. A bridge,

*mf* *ff* *mp ff* *mp ff* *f*

96 *f*

scorched yel - low palms from the sum - mer

*p* *ff* *f* *ff* *mf* *gliss.*

102 *p*

sleep - - - ing house drows - ing through Au - gust.

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

108 *mp* *f* *3* *mp* *f* *3*

Days I have held, days I have lost,

*ff* *mf* *ff* *f* *mf* *ff* *f* *mf* *p*

114 *mf* *3* *pp*

days that out - grow, like daugh - ters, my har - bour - ing arms.

*mp ff* *mp ff* *f* *p* *p* *ff*

### 3. The Fist

♩ = 76 *flessibile*

*maestoso, espressivo*

*f*  $\rhd$  *mp*  $\lhd$  *f*  $\rhd$  *poco*  $\lhd$  *f* *pp*  $\lhd$  *f* <sup>3</sup>

*ff* <sup>5</sup> *p* <sup>6</sup> *f* *p* <sup>7</sup>

*f* *f* *arco* <sup>3</sup> *ff*

*ppp*  $\lhd$  *p*  $\rhd$  *pp* *mp*

<sup>1</sup>

*ppp* *f* <sup>6</sup>

4 *f* *risoluto*

The fist\_\_\_\_\_ clenched\_\_\_\_\_ round\_\_\_\_\_ my

*sfz p sub.* \_\_\_\_\_ *f* 3 \_\_\_\_\_ *mp* 5 \_\_\_\_\_

7

heart\_\_\_\_\_ loos - - - ens a

*f* \_\_\_\_\_ *p* \_\_\_\_\_ *mf* \_\_\_\_\_

*dolce* \_\_\_\_\_ *trm* \_\_\_\_\_ *espr.* \_\_\_\_\_

7:4 \_\_\_\_\_ 3:2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_

10 *p* *f* *p sub.* \_\_\_\_\_ *f* *mp* (echo)  
+ (humming)

lit - tle, and I gasp\_\_\_\_\_ bright - - - ness;\_\_\_\_\_ (m)\_\_\_\_\_

*p* \_\_\_\_\_ *mf* \_\_\_\_\_ *f* \_\_\_\_\_ *p* 7 \_\_\_\_\_

13 *mf* \_\_\_\_\_ *f* \_\_\_\_\_ (*f*) *risoluto*

(m)\_\_\_\_\_ but it

pont. 3:2 norm. trem. 3:2 norm. trem. pont.

\_\_\_\_\_ *mf* \_\_\_\_\_ *pp* \_\_\_\_\_

16 *mf* + (humming) *dolce espr.* 3 3 3:2

tight - ens a - gain.\_\_\_\_\_ (m)\_\_\_\_\_

*pizz.* \_\_\_\_\_ *arco* \_\_\_\_\_ *maestoso ma sotto voce* \_\_\_\_\_

*f* \_\_\_\_\_ *p* \_\_\_\_\_ *mf* \_\_\_\_\_ *p* \_\_\_\_\_ *mp* \_\_\_\_\_

19 *p* *mp* *mf* *f*

When \_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_

(echo)

*pp* *mp* *mf* *f*

22 *ff* *mp dolce* *p*

not \_\_\_\_\_ loved \_\_\_\_\_ the pain of love? \_\_\_\_\_ ev - er, ev - er, ev - er

*ff* *mp* *poco* *espr.* *p* *mp* *mf*

26 *f espansivo*

not loved the pain \_\_\_\_\_ of love? \_\_\_\_\_

*f* *espr.* *aggressivo* *trem.* *sfz* (*f*)

29

*più misterioso*  
*pont.* *norm.* *trem.* *pont.* *norm.* *furioso*

*mp* *ppp* *f* *ff*

32 *f* *ff*

But this, this, this has moved past love \_\_\_\_\_ to ma-nia, ma-nia.

*f*

34 **f** *aggressivo*

This has the strong clench of the mad - man,

*con la voce* norm. pont.

36 **ff** *pazzo furioso!*

this, this is grip - ping the ledge of un - rea - son,

*vagamente come in sogno, senza vibrato (humming)* flautando

39 **mp** **pp**

norm. pont. flautando

*poco*

43 **mp** **f** **ff** **f**

*con abbandonato* **ff** *port.* **f**

love, clench, pain, ma - nia, howl - ing be - fore

norm. pizz. (f)

45 **port.**

plung - ing howl - ing in - to the a - byss.

arco maestoso (echo)

*poco* **f** **mp** **f** **p**

vagamente, come in sogno  
senza vibrato

48 *mp* (humming)

(m) (m)

*mp*

52 *pp*

*mf* *f* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

55

*sfz* *sfz* *mp*

58

*cantabile*

*f* *pizz.* *arco maestoso*

*sfz (f)*

63 *f* risoluto

Hold \_\_\_\_\_

66 *rall.* -----

hard \_\_\_\_\_ then, \_\_\_\_\_ heart. \_\_\_\_\_

69 ♩ = 60 *meno mosso*

*f* a piacere

This way at least you live. \_\_\_\_\_

*ff* *ff* *arco* *ff* *5* *7* *3:2* *fffz (ff)*

*pizz.* (molto con vibrato)

73

*poco a poco più dolce* -----

*3:2* *3:2* *3:2*

à niente