

Two Autumns

Song cycle on haikus of
Basho, Buson & Shiki

Alexander Elliott Miller

Two Autumns

Duration: 13 minutes

Score in C

Program Note

Two Autumns is a song cycle based on haikus by Basho, Buson & Shiki composed in 2008. I choose five haikus that particularly spoke to me, and which, taken together, may suggest an image of a person outside at night with something troubling on their mind. Beyond that, it was not my intention to force any more of a story or "program" onto these works than is already present in each of them, and it is still my hope that each individual haiku may still be heard and appreciated as their original authors intended.

The first four haikus are set as relatively short movements attempting to preserve the aphoristic qualities of the original poems. The final movement, though, is musically at least twice as long as any of the preceding movements and something of a focal point for the piece, though it is only six words long. This setting stretches the text out syllable by syllable, allowing the painfulness in this haiku to draw out like a blade.

Instrumentation

Mezzo Soprano, or Soprano

Flute/Alto Flute

Clarinet in Bb

Percussion:

Vibraphone

Sizzle Cymbal

Crotales

1 Slit Drum

2 Woodblocks

Violin

Cello

Performance Notes

1. While this work was written with a mezzo soprano voice in mind, it may be sung by a soprano.
2. 1 Slit Drum is required, of relatively low pitch. In the third, fifth and sixth movements, this drum is paired with 2 woodblocks, all three instruments being notated on a single staff in the following configuration:

Slit Drum
lower pitched side of slit

Slit Drum
higher pitched side of slit

Woodblock #1
*lower pitched WB, but
higher pitch than Slit Drum*

Woodblock #2
higher pitched WB



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TEXTS

Harvest moon -
walking around the pond
all night long.

The old pond -
a frog jumps in,
the sound of water.

I don't know
which tree it comes from,
that fragrance.

- BASHO

The scissors hesitate
before the white chrysanthemums,
A moment.

- BUSON

I go,
you stay:
two autumns.

- SHIKI

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Two Autumns

mezzo (or soprano), flute, clarinet, violin, cello & perc.

Score in C

I.

Harvest Moon -
wandering around the pond
all night long. - BASHO

Alexander Elliott Miller

$\bullet = 60$

ALTO FLUTE
(sounding pitch): 3

Flute *p* (somewhat "shakuhachi-like") *mf* (bend)

Clarinet *ppp* ghostly, non espress. resonance for flute pitches

Mezzo-Soprano

Percussion Vibes w/bow motor off *ppp* ghostly, non espress. resonance for flute pitches

Violin

Cello

Fl. *dim.* 5 *p* 6 6

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

Fl. *pp* 3 3 *p*

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

12

12

Fl. *ppp*

Cl. *ppp* ghostly, non espress.

Mezzo *mf* (exhaling sound) *p* (roll "r") *mp* *p* *mf* *p* *ppp*

Har - - - vest Har - vest mm-----

Perc. take soft mallet

16

Fl. *pp*

Cl. *pp*

Mezzo *p* *ppp*

Perc. (Vibes) w/soft mallet *pp*

19

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo *mf* *p* *mp* *pp* *mf sub.*

walking walking walking walking walk

Perc. w/bow

22

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

pp

mf

ing king - king - king a - round walk - ing the pond

25

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

mf

walk - ing a roun - d the pon d walk - ing walk - ing - king - king

28

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

p

a - roun - d the pond

31

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

ff

mp

spoken, plain voice: -----

All Nigh - t

35

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

ppp

p

ppp

mf

p

whisper: mf

ppp

Lo - - - - ng

(Vibes) w/bow

All night lo - - - - ng

39

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

ppp sub.

mf sub.

ppp sub.

mf sub.

mf

ppp sub.

mf sub.

ppp sub.

42

Fl. *p*

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc. *to Slit Drums*

ppp

ppp

attacca:

II.

The old pond -
a frog jumps in,
the sound of water. - BASHO

46 ♩ = 100

46

A. Fl. **CHANGE TO FLUTE**

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc. **Slit Drum & Woodblocks**
medium hard mallets inside
crotales mallets outside

Vln. *pizz.* *ff* *p*

Vc. *pizz.* *ff* *p*

51

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

(Slit drum/WB)

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

mp marc.

pp

mp

p

ff

ff

mp

p

ff

ff

p

55

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

pp

mp

ff

ff

p

58

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

61

Cl.

Perc.

64

Cl.

Perc.

cresc.

f sub.

p

67

FLUTE: *pp*

CLARINET: *f*

Mezzo: *p*

Perc. (Slit drum/WB): *f* *pp* *p*

Crotales: *pp*

Vln. *arco* *fp* free bowing

Vc. *arco* *fp* free bowing

The

70

FLUTE: *ppp*

Mezzo: *ppp*

Perc. Crotales: *p* Slit Drum/WB: *p*

old pond the old

74

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

pon - d

f *mp sub.* *f*

mf *mp* *f* *mp*

molto vib. *mf* *ff* *f* *mp*

molto vib. *mf* *ff* *f* *mp*

sul pont. *pizz.*

3 6 3 3

77

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

a frog a frog a frog jumps in!

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

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

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

ff *ff*

clap: shout:

3 6 3 6 3

3 3 3 3

79

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

(Slit drum/WB)

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

whisper: mf (hiss)

the s the the s - - - - - oun - - - d

arco pont.

p

f sub.

p sub.

f sub.

ff growl

pizz.

ff

pizz.

ff

81

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

p sub.

f

growl f

the the s - - - oun - - -

f

mf

arco ord.

f

p sub.

f

arco ord.

p

f

83

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

shout!!! ff (over the top!!!)

shout, straining, higher pitch fff (way over the top!!!)

d sound! of!

Crotales:

marc.

fff marc.

fff

85

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

pp sub.

pp sub.

p (sprechstimme) comically indifferent

wa-ter

(Slit drum/WB)

mp

p

(sord.)

(sord.)

pp sub.

pp sub.

attacca:

III.

I don't know
which tree it comes from,
that fragrance. - BASHO

88 ♩ = 72

SORD.

Vln. *pp* *mf* *p* slightly off from Vc.

Vc. *pp* *mf* *p* slightly off from Vln.

Vln.

Vc.

97

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

I don't know

Perc. Vibes Sizzle Cymbal w/BOW

Vln.

Vc.

100

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

pp

pp

p

I ___ don't ___ know ___

Vibes

pp

mp

pp

mp

pp

104

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

mf

mf

p

pp

which tree ___ it comes from ___ which tree ___

Sizzle Cymbal w/BOW

pp

mf

mf

mf

108

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

oo which tree oo

pp

pp

112

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

oo oo oo oo oo oo

pp

pp

117

Fl. *ppp* *n*

Cl. *ppp* *n*

Mezzo *whisper: mp* < > *n*
that f - ra - gra - nce

Perc.

Vln. *ppp* *n*

Vc. *ppp* *n* *attacca:*

IV.

The scissors hesitate
before the white chrysanthemums
a moment. - BUSON

123 ♩ = 72

123

Fl. *ff*

Cl. *ff*

Mezzo *spoken freely:* *quieter:*
The scissors hesitate, before the white chrysanthemums a moment

Perc. *Vibes*
soft yarn *ff*

Vln. *senza sord.* *ff*

Vc. *senza sord.* *ff*

126

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Slit Drum & Woodblocks

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

f *fp* *f* *mp* *ff* *ppp sub.*

marc. *p sub.* *f* *fff ppp sub.*

p sub. *f* *fff ppp sub.*

Sizzle: Slit Drums:

129

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

pp *ppp*

Sizzle: Slit Drums: *pp* *p* *pp* *ppp*

Sizzle: Slit Drum/WB:

132 **CHANGE TO ALTO FLUTE**

Fl. *ppp*

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

mp
attacca subito:

V.

I go,
you stay -
two autumns. - SHIKI

135 ♩ = 80

135 **ALTO FLUTE**
(sounding pitch):

Fl.

Cl. *ppp*

Mezzo

Perc. **Vibes**
ppp
ord.

Vln. *tasto*
pp slow gliss.

Vc. *pont.* *ord.* *pont.*

ppp *poco cresc.* *mp* *pp*

139

Fl. *p* 3 6 6 *ff* *ppp*

Cl. *p* 6 6 *ff* 6 6

Mezzo

Perc. (Vibes) *pp*

Vln. *p* pont. 6 6 *ff* ord.

Vc.

142

Fl. *pp* *p* *ppp* 6 *ff*

Cl. *n* 6 *pp*

Mezzo *pp* hm

Perc. *ppp*

Vln. *ppp* *pp* *ff*

Vc. *n* *pp* *ff*

147

Fl. *mf p sub.* *pp*

Cl. *mf p sub.* *pp*
(grad. open mouth)

Mezzo
ah hm hm

Perc. Sizzle Cymbal *pp*

Vln. *mf p sub.* *pp*

Vc. *mf p sub.* *pp*

155

153

Fl. *mf p sub.*

Cl. *mf p sub.*

Mezzo
ah hm

Perc. *mp* Crotales *p* Vibes *pp*

Vln. *mf p sub.* *pp*
grad. gliss. sul D

Vc. *mf p sub.* *pp*
grad. gliss. sul C - - - - - sul G - - - - - sim.

158

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc. (Vibes)

Vln.

Vc.

p *mf* *p* *mp* *pp* *mp* *p*

hm ah hm ah hm ah hm ah

pp *n*

pp *n*

163

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc. Sizzle Cymbal

Vln.

Vc.

mp *mf* *p*

mp *mf* *p*

mf *p*

hm → ah → hm → ah → hm → ah hm

pp *p*

mp *mf* *p*

mp *mf* *p* *n*

167

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

n

n

n poco cresc.

p

mf

immed. gliss.

hm ah hm ah hm ah ee ah ee ah

Crotales

p

p

n

p

p

171

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

mp

f

p

mp

f

p

mp

f

p

fp

f

p

f

p

ah ee ah ah ee I ahoh ahoh ahoh ah ah ee ahoh ahoh ahoh ah oh

(I)

mp

f

p

f

p

pp

175

Fl. *mf*

Cl. *mf*

Mezzo *mf*

Sizzle Cymbal
scrape w/handle

Perc. *p* *f*

Vln. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

ah ee oh ah ee

178

Fl. *pp*

Cl. *p* *mf* *p* *ppp*

Mezzo *mf*

Perc. *pp*

Vln. *pp* free bowing

Vc. *pp* free bowing

oh hm ah hm ah hm ah ee ah

182

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

pp

pp (clear)

p

pppp

ppp

ee go I go oow I

pppp

ppp

187

190

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

p

pp

p

ppp

f

mp

go go

Vibes

ppp

Slit Drum & Woodblocks

soft yam

f

p

p

ppp

molto

f

p

191

Fl. *mp* *mf* *p* *f*

Cl. *mp*

Mezzo *mf* *ah* *ee* *ee*

(Slit drum/WB)

Perc. *mp* *f* *p*

Vln. *mp* *f* *fp*

Vc. *mp* *f* *p*

195

Fl. *mp* *mf* *p* *f*

Cl. *mp*

Mezzo *mp* *freely* *f*
u ee u ee u ee ee u ee u

Perc. *mf* *p sub.* *f*

Vln. *mp* *f*

Vc. *mp* *f*

198

Fl. *f* *mp* *mf* *mp*

Cl. *mp*

Mezzo *mp* *f*
u ee u ee u ay

Perc. *f* *p* *p sub.* *mf*

Vln. *fp*

Vc. *f* *p*

203

202

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo *hiss: mp*
s

Perc. *Vibes* *pp*

Vln.

Vc.

205

Fl. *mf* *mp* 3 6 6

Cl. *mf* *mp*

Mezzo *f* *mp* *f*
 tuh s - tuh s tuh s -

Perc. (Vibes)

Vln. ric. *fz* *p* *fz* *p*

Vc. ric. *fz* *p* *fz*

208

Fl. *pp* *poco cresc.* 3

Cl. *pp* *poco cresc.* 3

Mezzo *mf* pitchless whisper *mp* 3
 tay hm ee u ee hm ee u ee u ee u ee u ("you")

Perc.

Vln. *pp* *pont.* *fz pp* *mf sub. p sub. mf sub.*

Vc. *pp* *pont.* *fz pp* *mf sub. p sub.*

212

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

f *mp*

stay ee u stay

p sub. *fz p sub.* *mf sub.* *p sub.*

fz p sub.

216

216

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Vibes

Perc.

Sizzle Cymbal

Vln.

Vc.

ff *p sub.* *mp*

I GO you stay

ff *pp*

ff marc. *p sub.*

ff marc. *p sub.*

220

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

(Vibes)

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

mf

you stay

3

n

3

227

224

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

pp

pp sub.

p

p

Crotales:

p

pp

p

p

6

Fl. *f* *mp*

Cl. *f* *mp sub.* *p*

Mezzo

Perc. Sizzle: *mf* *p* Crotales:

Vln. *f* *mp sub.* *p*

Vc. *f* *mp sub.* *p*

Fl. *ppp* (no cresc.)

Cl. *ppp* (no cresc.)

Mezzo

Perc. Sizzle: *ppp* (no cresc.)

Vln. *ppp* (no cresc.)

Vc. *ppp* (no cresc.)

simulate continuous gliss.

234

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc. (Sizzle Cymbal)

Vln.

Vc.

237

Fl.

Cl.

Mezzo

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

Fl. *mp* *ppp*

Cl. *p* *ppp*

Mezzo *p* *whisper: mp* *mf* *ppp*
mm Two Autumn s

Perc. Two Vibes w/bow *p* *p* muffle sound

Vln. *p* *ppp*

Vc. *mp* *ppp*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 241, features six staves. The Flute (Fl.) and Clarinet (Cl.) parts are in treble clef. The Flute part begins with a melodic line, followed by sustained notes marked *mp* and *ppp*. The Clarinet part provides harmonic support with sustained notes, also marked *p* and *ppp*. The Mezzo-soprano (Mezzo) part includes lyrics: "mm Two Autumn s". The vocal line starts with a *p* dynamic, followed by a *whisper: mp* section, a *mf* section, and ends with *ppp*. The Percussion (Perc.) part includes a snare drum part with the word "Two" and a Vibraphone (Vibes) part with a bow, both marked *p*. A "muffle sound" is indicated for the Vibraphone. The Violin (Vln.) part is in treble clef, playing sustained chords marked *p* and *ppp*. The Viola (Vc.) part is in bass clef, playing sustained chords marked *mp* and *ppp*. The score uses various dynamics and articulations to create a specific mood.