

Justin Leo Kennedy

Richard

for voice and piano

Program Notes

Taken from:

King Henry VI Part 3, Act 5 Scene 6

These are the words Richard speaks right after stabbing an already dead King Henry for a second time. As I read this scene I felt I was witnessing a man make the transition from an already evil person to an all out sinister monster.

In this passage Richard declares that he will make his mind crooked and unnatural like his body. Since he has the physical form of a monster he figures he may as well adopt the psyche of one. He then denounces any and all ties to family and/or love and proclaims himself alone. After that he issues warnings to all the people he plans to murder.

The line I found most disturbing was “And then, to purge thy fear, I’ll be thy death.” With that line I felt Richard declared he would strike such fear in Clarence’s heart, that when he finally did commit the murder, it would relieve Clarence. It would almost be like a favor.

So I tried my best to make the music ominous, obsessive, relentless, and vicious in order to compliment the text.

TEXT

Richard:

Then, since the heavens have shaped my body so,
Let hell make crook’d my mind to answer it.
I have no brother; I am like no brother;
And this word ‘love,’ which graybeards call divine,
Be resident in men like one another
And not me: I am myself alone.
Clarence, beware; thou keep’st me from the light:
But I will sort a pitchy day for thee:
For I will buz abroad such prophecies
That Edward shall be fearful of his life,
And then, to purge thy fear, I’ll be thy death.
King Henry and the prince his son are gone:
Clarence, thy turn is next, and then the rest,
Counting myself but bad till I be best.
I’ll throw thy body in another room
And triumph, Henry, in thy day of doom.

William Shakespeare

April 26, 1564 (date of baptism) - April 23, 1616

Richard

Taken from King Henry VI Act V Scene 6

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

JUSTIN LEO KENNEDY, Op. 8
(2008)

♩ = 50

Bass

Piano

p

pedal freely

8vb

3 (free time)

B

Pno.

(8vb)-1

B

Pno.

4

Ominously
p

Then since the hea - vens

f *mp* *p*

8vb

8 *mp* *p* *p*

B
 have shaped my bo - dy so, Let hell

Pno.

mp *p*

(8^{vb})

12 *pp* *p* *mp*

B
 - make crook - ed my mind to an - swer

Pno.

(8^{vb})

16 *p* ♩ = 140 *With Ferocity*

B
 it.

Pno.

f *ord.* *ord.*

percussively

(8^{vb})
 no pedal

20

B

Pno.

(8vb)

24

B

mf *f*

I have no bro-ther, I am like no bro-ther, And this word

Pno.

mp

(8vb)

28

B

love _____ love _____ which gray - beards call di -

Pno.

(8vb)

32

B

vine, _____ be re - si - dent in men like one a - no - ther

Pno.

(8^{vb})-----

36

B

And not me, not me, not me, not me: _____

Pno.

p *f*

(8^{vb})-----

pedal freely no pedal

40

B

I _____ am my - self a - lone.

Pno.

(8^{vb})-----

44

B

Pno.

(8vb)

49

B

Pno.

pedal freely

53

B

Pno.

no pedal *pedal freely*

57 *mp* *mf*

B
 Cla - rence, be - - - - ware;

Pno. *p*

61 *mp* *mf*

B
 — Thou keep'st me from the light:

Pno.

65 *f*

B
 — But I will I will I will sort a pi-tchy day for

Pno. *mf*

no pedal

69

B

thee For I will I will I will buz a - broad such proph -

Pno.

73

B

e - cies That Ed - - - - ward shall

Pno.

77

B

be fear - - - - ful of his

Pno.

81

B

life

Pno.

84

rallentando

$\text{♩} = 50$ *Baleful, Seething*

B

Pno.

mp

8vb
pedal freely

88

p

B

And then to purge thy fear

Pno.

p

8vb

93 *mf* *pp*

B

I'll be thy death

Pno.

8vb

98 *Accel.*

B

Pno.

cresc.

(8vb)

102 $\bullet = 140$ *Psychotically*

B

Pno.

f

no pedal

105

B

Pno.

108

B

Pno.

f

King Hen - ry _____

111

B

Pno.

mf

_____ and the prince his son are gone _____ gone _____

8vb-----

115

B

gone _____ Clar - ence thy turn _____

Pno.

(8^{vb})-----

119

B

_____ is next (t) and then the rest count - ing my - self _____

Pno.

(8^{vb})-----

122

B

_____ but bad till I be

Pno.

(8^{vb})-----

* In measure 119 put the "t" of the word "next" on beat four and pronounce it strongly. The desired effect is a sharp attack of the consonances in the word "next" so strong pronunciation of the "x" is encouraged as well.

125

B

best I'll throw thy bo - dy in

Pno.

(8vb)

128

B

an - oth - er room And tri - - - - umph,

Pno.

8vb

132

B

Hen - ry, in thy day _____ of

Pno.

(8vb)

136 *ff*

B

doom.

Pno.

(8^{vb})

The image shows a musical score for a voice and piano. The voice part (B) is on a single staff with a bass clef. It features a long note with a fermata, starting at measure 136. The dynamic marking *ff* is placed above the staff. The piano part (Pno.) consists of two staves with bass clefs. The upper staff has a complex accompaniment with many notes and dynamic markings. The lower staff has a simpler accompaniment with fewer notes. A dashed line below the piano part indicates an 8^{vb} dynamic level.