

Five Short Songs (1986)
for mezzo-soprano, viola and piano
Text by American Imagist poets

1) Blackbird

Among the twenty snowy mountains,
The only moving thing
Was the eye of the blackbird.

(Wallace Stevens)

2) After Working

After many strange thoughts, thoughts
Of distant harbors and new life,
I came in and found the moonlight lying in the room.

(Robert Bly)

3) November Night

Listen...
With faint dry sound,
Like steps of passing ghosts,
The leaves, frost-crisp'd, break from the trees
And fall.

(Adelaide Crapsey)

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4) In a Station of the Metro

The apparition of these faces in the crowd;
Petals on a wet, black bough.

(Ezra Pound)

5) Night

If I think of a horse wandering about sleeplessly
All night on this short grass covered with moonlight,
I feel a joy, as if I had thought
Of a pirate ship ploughing through dark flowers.

(Robert Bly)