

Elmwood Perspectives

Sanford Dole

poems by
Mary Child

The title of this work refers to the Elmwood district of Berkeley, California, where I grew up. It was the home of poet, Mary Child, as well. I met her when I was a child attending St. John's Presbyterian Church. We had an affinity for one another as she had been a singer in her youth. When she was a young adult she lost partial hearing and had to stop singing. As a result, she redirected her creative energy into writing poetry. One day, when I was in high school, and she already in her late eighties, I received an invitation to stop by her house. There she presented me with a book of her poems titled *Mosaic in the Rain* that had been published locally. It is from this volume that the four poems of the cycle are taken. The two of us, from different generations but the same neighborhood, come together to offer our view of the world: **Elmwood Perspectives**.

Elmwood Perspectives

1. Under the Bridge

Mary Child

Sanford Dole
(1977)

calmly flowing ♩ = 60

Voice

Piano

mp

Who will hear _____ the dis-course of

5

Voice

Pno.

wa - ter _____ on peb-ble and stone?

9

Voice

Pno.

mf

Who will lis-ten for al-ter-nate voi-ces _____ for rise and fall _____ of li-quad ca-dence?

13

Voice

Pno.

p

For the flu - id phrase and the drowned word? Foot-steps rat-tle the floor of the bridge,

18 rit. . .

Voice

foot - steps crac-kle dry leaves.

Pno.

mf

22 *slower p* rit. . .

Voice

In the dis-tance a tra-vel-ler un-a-ware con - tin-ues his jour - ney.

Pno.

p *rit. . .* *a tempo mp*

27 *mp*

Voice

The wa - ters, the wa - ters con -

Pno.

31

Voice

tin - ue their long con - ver - sa - tions.

Pno.

34

Voice

Pno.

2. Margaret and Mary

1 *playful; childlike* ♩. = 92

Voice

My lit - tle nie - ces Mar-g'ret and Ma - ry dress them-selves up like Ma-dame du Bar - ry,

Pno.

5

Voice

Their taste in hats runs to felt and fea-thers but straw can be worn in all sorts of wea - thers.

Pno.

9

Voice

A dash of per - fume and ban-gle ear - rings,

Pno.

13

Voice

bright co-lore-d beads, strings and strings, An eve-ning bag with pow - der box, all for -

Pno.

17

Voice

got - ten their white half - socks.

Pno.

21 *slower* ♩. = 50

Voice

They feel their cos - tumes are quite com-plete in spite of plaid skirts and Ma - ry Jane feet,

Pno.

25 **A tempo**

Voice

Oh, child world half real, half fai - ry, Oh, charmed world of

Pno.

f

A tempo

28

Voice

Mar - g'ret and Ma - ry!

Pno.

3. In Retrospect

6
Mary Child

Sanford Dole

1

Voice

introspective ♩ = 96

Pno.

p

5

Voice

mp *mf*

Oh to be my - self a - gain to

Pno.

9

Voice

faster ♩ = 110 *A tempo*

p

touch the child who met the frog with glad sur - prise, The child

Pno.

faster ♩ = 110 *A tempo*

mf *p*

12

Voice

mf

who looked through un - spec - ta - cled eyes.

Pno.

4. This Day

Mary Child

7
Sanford Dole

1 *ff*

fast and energetic ♩ = 132

Voice: This Day! No word is

Pno. *f*

6

Voice: wor- thy of this day.

Pno.

11 *mf*

Voice: Crys - ta - line is too cold, too clear:

Pno. *mf*

16

Voice: Per - fect... too ex - ac - ting, too se - vere.

Pno.

21

Voice:

Pno. *f* *mp* *pp*

26

Voice

Pno.

mp *pp* *cresc.* *f*

33

Voice

Pno.

f

The air rinsed by rain, whit-led by

39

Voice

Pno.

wind, mel-lows in sun.

ff

45

Voice

Pno.

legato *mp*

49

Voice

Pno.

mf

Grass rolls green o - ver the hills while gar - dens

53

Voice

are a - drift with yel-low leaves.

Pno.

59

Voice

This day un - cal - en - dars the wea - ther,

Pno.

65

Voice

Brings fire of Spring

Pno.

slower

71

Voice

and wine of Fall

Pno.

rall.. - a tempo primo

78

Voice

to - ge - ther. This Day!

Pno.

f