

Spoken by vocalist immediately before marimba begins:  
Black -- and brim-full of windy rain,  
and ice chunked out to break, and...

# Songs of Youth

A song cycle for baritone or bass and marimba

Text and Music by Mark Feezell / DrFeezell.com

## 5. Summer-soon Storm

**Baritone**  $\text{♩} = 134$   
*f* marcato

**Marimba**  $\text{♩} = 134$   
*f* marcato  
roll only if marked, *l.v. sempre*

fire sparked out to burn. Stat-ing, not ask - ing, mov-ing, not hes-i-tat-ing, run-ning, not

walk - ing, wash-ing old deb-ris of yes - ter-day gul-ly-dirt down, gul-ly-dirt down, gul-ly-dirt down in-to the sea.

A storm with win-ter on its breath, and sum-mer at its back, bring the flo-wers down!

*mp sub.* *f sub.* *fp* *f* *p* *f sub.* *fp* *f* *mf* *mp sub.* *mf* *mp sub.*

23 *mf* *mp*

Sum-mer-soon storm,

*mf* *mp sempre*

29

sum-mer-soon, to bring the flo-wers soon storm, sum-mer-soon storm,

*mf* *mp*

35 *mf*

sum-mer-soon storm to bring the flo-wers down, to bring the flo-wers down,

*mf*

41 *mp sub.* *sempre*

sum-mer-soon storm. Cra-zy flo-wers spack-led o'er the sky, (or is it the earth?)

*mp* *mf*

*sempre*  
(roll only if marked)



48

bound we are to this old dirt, but we will fly. Spring is good 'cause sum-mer-soon storms wash

*mp* *mf*

*sempre*



55

down ourwin - ter mush. Flo-wers come quick - ly when we wait - How long? How much? How late? This

*mp sub.* *mf sub.* *f sub.* *ff*

*mp sub.* *mf sub.* *f sub.*

61 *f sub.* *ff*

wind I know, this gale I taste blows fresh in from the Far - off Place.

*ff*

67 *mp sub.* *mf* *ff* *mf sub.*

Just right, salty fresh, a kick-ing horse with a bite to fight, what a night! sum-mer-son storm to bring

*ff sempre* *mf sub.*

73 *mp sub.* *f* *mf* *mp*

— the flo - wers bring the flo - wers Cra-zy flo-wers spack-led o'er the sky, sum-mer-son storm.

*mp sub.* *f* *mf* *mp*

80 *poco rit.* *p* *molto rit.*

sum-mer-son soon...

*poco rit.* *pp* *molto rit.*

# *Songs of Youth*

*A song cycle for baritone or bass and marimba*

Text and music by Mark Feezell / DrFeezell.com

*Songs of Youth* is a cycle of seven songs for baritone or bass and marimba. A five-octave, concert grand marimba is preferred, but the songs may also be performed on a quality four-octave marimba. Performers may elect to perform individual songs independently or the entire cycle in sequence (approximately 19-23 minutes).

The following timings are approximate:

1. Wandering (4:17)
2. The Bumblebee (1:40)
3. Wondering (3:23)
4. California Lullaby (4:00)
5. Summer-soon Storm (2:25)
6. Apart (3:40)
7. The Resonance of Memory (1:43)

The form of the cycle is generally palindromic, with the fourth song functioning as the center for the piece. This means that songs 1/7, 2/6, and 3/5 correspond in subject matter (contrasting but related topics) and principal tonal center (generally identical). The primary exception to this pattern is intentional: the last song doesn't return to the opening tonal center of the cycle, just as we never fully return to our youth. For further explanation of the use of palindromic/symmetrical formal units and bipolar tonal axes, see writing by and about the twentieth-century composer Béla Bartók.

Most of the marimba writing is admittedly not appropriate for a beginner. Even the fourth song, though not technically challenging, is musically demanding. All songs except for the second and seventh require four mallets. The sections in which the vocalist and the marimbist perform together demand rhythmic and tempo precision from both performers. Sections where one performer performs alone may be treated more flexibly. At all times, the drama of the texts should be the focal point of the performance.

*Mark Feezell*  
*December 1998*