

Whitman Canons

Walt Whitman

David Harris

"Thou Reader"

$\text{♩} = 100$

Choir 1
Thou reader throb - best

Choir 2
life and pride and love

Choir 3
(fore) for thee the fol - low - ing

C 1
throb - - - best

C 2
the same as I there - fore

C 3
fol - low - ing fol - - - low - ing chants.

last time, hold fermata, then middle and low parts sing "therefore" out of time and hold, fading through "form"

Split the full choir into 3 and 4 parts such that high and low voices are together on each part.
For the one non-canonic section, arrange parts in standard TTBB fashion.

Thou Reader

Thou reader throbbest
life and pride and love the same as I,
Therefore for thee the following chants.

Song of Myself #27

To be in any form, what is that?
(Round and round we go, all of us, and ever
come back thither.)

Song of Myself #30

All truths wait in all things,
They neither hasten their own delivery nor resist it,
[They do not need the obstetric forceps of the surgeon,]
The insignificant is as big to me as any,
(What is less or more than a touch?)

To The States

To the States or any one of them, or any city of the States,
resist much, obey little,
Once unquestioning obedience, once fully enslaved,
Once fully enslaved, no nation, state, city of this earth, ever
afterward resumes its liberty.

from "Song of Myself #27"

Unlike the others, this one ends after two repeats.

As each line gets to the percussion after the second repeat, they stay on the percussion (line 4)

7 $\text{♩} = 80$

C 1 

C 2 

C 3 

C 

9

C 1 

C 2 

C 3 

C 

11

C 1
8
what is that? what is

C 2
8
and round and round we go all of us round and round and round and round and round

C 3
ev - er come back e - ver come back

C
11
P pzz-k-a pah P pzz-k-a pah pff-k P pzz-k - a pah P pzz-k - a pah pff - k

Detailed description: This system contains measures 11 and 12. Part C1 (Soprano) has lyrics 'what is that? what is'. Part C2 (Alto) has lyrics 'and round and round we go all of us round and round and round and round and round'. Part C3 (Tenor) has lyrics 'ev - er come back e - ver come back'. Part C (Percussion) has rhythmic notation with 'x' marks and dynamic markings 'P' and 'pff-k'.

13

C 1
8
that? To be

C 2
8
and round and round and round and round and round and round we go round we go

C 3
come back thi - - - ther,)

C
13
P pzz - k-a pah P pzz - k-a pah pff - k pffff P pah P

Detailed description: This system contains measures 13 and 14. Part C1 (Soprano) has lyrics 'that? To be'. Part C2 (Alto) has lyrics 'and round and round and round and round and round and round we go round we go'. Part C3 (Tenor) has lyrics 'come back thi - - - ther,)'. Part C (Percussion) has rhythmic notation with 'x' marks and dynamic markings 'P', 'pff - k', 'pffff', and 'P pah P'.

from Song of Myself #30

The first time sing as written, during each repeat, improvise the rhythm, close to original at first, slowly pulling apart.
The canon enters after several repeats (conductor chooses).

Continue repeated section, getting softer, through the beginning of the second canon entry.

15 Slower, somewhat out of time, standard TTBB ♩=60 back to 3 pt canon

C 1 All truths wait in all things, They nei -

C 2 All truths wait in all things, The

C 3 All truths wait in all things, (What?

C All truths wait in all things,

19

C 1 ther hast - en their own de - - li - ver - y

C 2 in - sig - ni - fi - cant is as big as big to

C 3 What? What? is less or more?

23 decresc. last chord,
cut off after first perc. cell

C 1 nor re - sist it, nor re - sist it,

C 2 me as big to me as an - y

C 3 is less or more than a touch a touch?)

27 $\text{♩} = 100$ one voice on percussion,
two repeats b/f choir 1 enters, continue throughout

C 1 $\text{♩} = 100$
8 To the states or an - y one of them, or

C 2 $\text{♩} = 100$
8 Once un - - -

C 3 $\text{♩} = 100$
8 once en - slaved, no

C $\text{♩} = 100$
27 P prrr - rit - uh puh pah puh tit - ah - e - - - - ver

C 1 $\text{♩} = 100$
8 an - y cit - y of the states re - sist much,

C 2 $\text{♩} = 100$
8 ques - tion - ing o - be - di - ence, once ful - ly en -

C 3 $\text{♩} = 100$
8 na - tion, state, ci - ty of this earth

C $\text{♩} = 100$
31 aft - er re - sumes its

35

C 1
8
o - bey lit - tle, re - sist much,

C 2
8
slaved, once ful - ly en - - - - - slaved

C 3
ci - ty of this earth no ci - - - ty of this earth

C
35
li - - - ber - ty its li - - - ber - ty, li -

39

C 1
8
o - bey lit - tle, (To the) *ff* half time TTBB
Li ber - ty Li - ber - ty

C 2
8
Li ber - ty Li - ber - ty -

C 3
of this earth Li - ber - ty Li - ber - ty

C
39
ber - ty To the Li - ber - ty Li - ber - ty

last time all rest on beat 2