

# THE ABSENCE

DENISE LEVERTOV

KEN STEEN

*♩* = c. 128

Soprano

B $\flat$  Clar.

Violin

*mp*

4 *mf*

Here I lie a - sleep, here I lie a - sleep,

4 *mp*

pont. → ord. ord.

7 here I lie a - sleep or may - be I'm a - wake yet—

7 *p* *mf*

pont. → ord. pizz. *mf*

10

*mp*  
arco

13 *mf*

Here I lie a-sleep, here I lie— a-sleep, here I lie a - sleep or

13 *mp*

*fp*

17

may - be I'm a - wake yet— not a - lone and, not — a - lone, and yet,

17 *p* *mf* *mp*

*mf* *mp* *pizz.*

20

not a-lone— yet — it seems, not a - lone— and yet it seems by moon - light

24

here I lie — a - sleep, and yet it seems by moon - light I'm a-lone,

28

I'm a-lone, I'm — a - - - sleep, —

33 *mf*  
or

33 *trb* *mf*  
*fp*  
accel into trem.?

37  
may - be I'm a - wake yet— I'm a - lone,

37 *p* *mf* *mp*  
*mf*

40  
hard - ly hear - ing a brea - th be - side me. And those

40  
notate "th" and inhalation

43

shad-ows on the wall in-deed are not shad - ows on the wall, are not sha-dows,

pizz.

47

are not sha-dows on the wall but the

arco

52

fea-ther-weight danc - ing e - choes the fea - - -

*mp* *mf* *dolce espressivo* *pizz.* *p*

57

- - ther - weight danc - ing e - choes, of the

62

fea-ther-weight danc-ing e - choes of head-lights slid - - - ing

ord. → pont. ord.

*p*

67

by. Here I lie and

*pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

ord. → pont.

*pp*

72  
won - der what it has left me, what

72

77  
el - e - ment. (has it left?) Here I lie and won - der what

77

81  
el - e - ment, what el - e - ment. (has

81  
*p* pizz./strum

84

— it left?)

Musical notation for measures 84-86, vocal line. Measure 84 contains the lyrics "it left?". The music is in 4/4 time, with a half note followed by a quarter note with a sharp sign. Measures 85 and 86 are whole rests.

84

Musical notation for measures 84-86, piano accompaniment. The piano part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the left hand and quarter notes in the right hand, with various rests and accidentals.

88

Here I lie — and won - - - - der — what — it —

Musical notation for measures 88-92, vocal line. The lyrics are "Here I lie — and won - - - - der — what — it —". The music is in 3/4 time, featuring a mix of quarter and eighth notes with various accidentals.

88

Musical notation for measures 88-92, piano accompaniment. The piano part continues with a complex rhythmic pattern, including sixteenth notes and eighth notes, with a dynamic marking 'V' (forte) above the staff.

94

is — has — left — me. — Here I lie —

Musical notation for measures 94-98, vocal line. The lyrics are "is — has — left — me. — Here I lie —". The music is in 3/4 time, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

94

Musical notation for measures 94-98, piano accompaniment. The piano part continues with a complex rhythmic pattern, including sixteenth notes and eighth notes, with various accidentals.



99

99

Like nodding off... in mid-sentence  
maybe even yawning in the rests / yawn-singing!

103 *rit.*  
*pp*

a - - - - - sleep

*p*

103

*p*

106 (big yawn) *ppp* **G.P.**

(-ee) (-ee) (-ee) (-ee) (-ee) (-cep).

106

*ppp*

ord. → pont.

*ppp*

♩ = c. 112

113 *p* \_\_\_\_\_ *mf* \_\_\_\_\_ *f* \_\_\_\_\_

or may - be I'm a wake

*cresc. poco a poco*

*pizz.*

A Tempo: ♩ = c. 128

117 *mp* \_\_\_\_\_ *mf* \_\_\_\_\_

and won - der what el - e - ment,

*p*

*mf* (+ E on A string?) *mp*

121 \_\_\_\_\_

what el - e - ment. (has it left?) what

*mp*



Even slower: ♩ = c. 108

133

133

*ppp* *p*

*ppp* *pp* pizz.

Quizzically, exhausted - somewhat blusey... (*molto rubato*)  
Slightly slower still: ♩ = c. 96

138

*mp*

I can't re - mem - ber my

138

*pp*

*p*

♩ = c. 112

144

dreams by morn - ing. I

144

*ppp* *p*

*p*

150 *mp*

can't re - mem - ber. I

sul pont. pizz. *pp* *p*

156 echo cl.

can't re - mem - ber my dreams.

156

*p* *p* *p* *gl.* *pp* (eighth-note?) (trill?)

161

I can't re - mem - ber.

161

*p* ord. -> pont. ord.

A Tempo: ♩ = c. 112

*rit.*

A Tempo: ♩ = c. 112

167

my <sup>3</sup> dreams by morn - ing.

*ppp*

*pizz.*

*mp*

*rit.*

172

I can't re - mem - ber.

*p* *p* *pppp*

ord. → pont.

*p* *mp* *pp*

A Tempo: ♩ = c. 128

177

what el - e - ment, what

*mf* *p*

*mf* + E on A string *mp*

180 *p*

el - e - ment. (has \_\_\_\_\_ it left?) what el - e - ment, I lie \_\_\_\_

*mf*

183 *mf*

\_\_\_\_ and won - der what el - e - ment. (has \_\_\_\_\_ it

pizz./strum *sim.*

*mp*

186 *f* *mf*

left?) \_\_\_\_\_ May - be, as \_\_\_\_ Fra - zer

*p* *f* *mf*

*f*

190

tells, \_\_\_\_\_ as Fra-zer tells, \_\_\_\_\_ as he tells, \_\_\_\_\_ May-be, as Fra-zer

*mf*

194

tells, \_\_\_\_\_ my soul flew out in that mo-ment, flew \_\_\_\_\_ out in

*pizz.*

197

that mo-ment, flew out in that \_\_\_\_\_ mo-ment \_\_\_\_\_ of

*f* *mp*

*f*

*f*

*pizz.*



201

al - most - sleep. \_\_\_\_\_ If \_\_\_\_\_

*p*

8va

205

it should go \_\_\_\_\_ back to the scenes and \_\_\_\_\_ times \_\_\_\_\_ back

5

*tr*

208

to the scenes and \_\_\_\_\_ times \_\_\_\_\_ of its wars and los - ses, \_\_\_\_\_

repeat "and losses..."

*tr*

3

212

wars and losses, its wars

216

and losses,

222

back to the scenes and times of its wars,

226

back to the scenes and times of its los -

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of music, measures 226-228. It features a vocal line in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The melody starts with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. There are rests in measures 227 and 228. The lyrics "back to the scenes and times of its los -" are written below the notes. The time signature changes to 3/4 in measure 227 and back to 4/4 in measure 228.

226

Detailed description: This block contains the piano accompaniment for measures 226-228. It consists of two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. It features a melodic line with triplets and slurs. The lower staff has a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature, with a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes and chords. The time signature changes to 3/4 in measure 227 and back to 4/4 in measure 228.

229

ses and its wars and

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of music, measures 229-231. It features a vocal line in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of half notes and quarter notes. The lyrics "ses and its wars and" are written below the notes. The time signature is 3/4 throughout this system.

229

Detailed description: This block contains the piano accompaniment for measures 229-231. It consists of two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature, with a melodic line featuring slurs and a triplet. The lower staff has a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature, with a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes and chords. The time signature is 3/4 throughout this system.

236

los ses

*pp*

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of music, measures 236-238. It features a vocal line in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of half notes and quarter notes. The lyrics "los ses" are written below the notes. A dynamic marking of *pp* is placed above the final measure. The time signature is 4/4 throughout this system.

236

*p* *pp*

Detailed description: This block contains the piano accompaniment for measures 236-238. It consists of two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature, with a melodic line featuring slurs and a dynamic marking of *p*. The lower staff has a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature, with a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes and chords, ending with a dynamic marking of *pp*. The time signature is 4/4 throughout this system.

242

242

246 *mp*

250

250

255  
back to the scenes and times of its wars and los - - -

255  
*p*

258  
ses, my soul flew out in that mo - - - ment,

258

261  
how would I ev - er lure it

261

265  
back? \_\_\_\_\_ It would, it would be,

265  
pizz. pizz.

269  
it would be look-ing

269  
pizz. pizz.

272  
*f*  
for some - thing, \_\_\_\_\_

272  
*mp*  
*f*

276

*f* *p*

281

It would, It would, it —

*p* *tr* *pizz.* *pp* *mf*

Broaden: ♩ = c. 98

285

would be — too — con - cen-trat-ed to

*mf* *mp* *f* *mp* *mf*

A Tempo: ♩ = c. 128

*rit.*

A Little Slower: ♩ = c. 114 *p* <

288

hear me. \_\_\_\_\_ 0

288

*ppp*

*ppp*

294

moon, watch - ing ev - ery - thing. \_\_\_\_\_ de -

294

*p*

*p*

298

lay my soul \_\_\_\_\_ in the gar - - - - den a -

298



302

mong the white flow - ers un - til the cold

302

*tr*

*rit.* Broaden: ♩ = c. 98

306

air be - fore sun - rise makes it glad to come back to

306

*pizz.*  
*mp*

311

me through the screens.

311

