Your Staccato Ways
(Songs on Poems of Karen Schoemer)

for female voice and piano

1. Couplets
2. Flatland
3. Little Womb
4. Hotel Minor
5. Takeoff

by
Kyle Gann
2013
Your Staccato Ways (2013)

Range:
\[\text{\textcopyright\textsuperscript{\textregistered} Treble Clef with Notes} \]

For female voice only

Duration: 13 minutes
Couplets

Karen Schoemer

Stately

\( \text{\textit{j} = 100} \)

Voice

Piano

It's quiet on this mountain ledge as if the rock were thinking

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Poem "Couplets" © Copyright 2013 by Karen Schoemer
about how they came to rest where they rest.

asking why this peak and not another

with its view of river, fields, and steeples

and not another in the slow aftermath.

Couplets
or stilled anticipation of motion do they

note the haze of spring or the peculiar brown of March grass

do they remember he hotel that stood here bridal

white in the morning light? or rue carvings

Couplets
and glacial teeth do they consider themselves

- a monument to the wind or consider themselves

tent themselves with the camaraderie of silence as

Couplets
I do not having you to

slight ritard.....

tell this to

June 24 - July 1, 2013
Germantown, NY

Couplets
Flatland

Hushed, ghostly

The view draws me here
Though it isn't much to look at

Plowed fields furrowed and dark
Cob litter stalks

a slanted fence
or-chard trees
planted in rows

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Poem "Flatland" © Copyright 2013 by Karen Schoemer
limbs bent to another's design Forcing my eyes upward toward clouds purple and skirmishing and mountains dead ahead Their eons drifting down

Flatland
Waves of repetition break against that which will not move.

I'm always here. I just don't know it.

Flatland

July 16-24
Germantown, NY
Little Womb

Karen Schoemer

Calm, unhurried
\( \text{\textit{j} = 108} \)

Berthed in this

in general, the fifths and fourths in the right hand should
be softer and more delicate than the sonorous bass

placid pond I am calm

Float - ing

turtle - domed nostrils tipped

Slow and la - zy

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Poem "Little Womb" © Copyright 2013 by Karen Schoemer
am be·nign

The cyc·lo·ra·ma spins

on gears of sea·sons and years a ver·dant ver·ti·cal plane of

Little Womb

&
Little Womb

trees shrubs and a grassy wading-in spot

Black-birds catch an updraft on stiffened wings.

Buck-shot robins puncture the sky.
I join the festivity of surfaces where this is this,

an island mind, delicately severed by a watery line.
Voices:

\[ \textit{lightly, non-legato} \]

\[ \text{Cars glide down the bridge over-pass} \]

\[ \text{slivered tops sliding in and out of view} \]

\[ \text{Their slient rhythm soothes me,} \]

Evenly and with subtle syncopation, not too fast

\[ \textit{mp} \]

\[ \text{slightly, non-legato} \]

Karen Schoemer

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Poem "Hotel Minor" © Copyright 2013 by Karen Schoemer
like bells in a mini ma-list composition muted and sprung from

heavenly nests, minute ly variegated, plu-va-ital against the drone.

I wait and watch the cars fulcrum across the cement anchor

rage down a ramp of rust and peel ing blue wait for you

Hotel Minor
with your staccato ways__ here and gone wait for the mirrored ding

of the elevator for your staggered__ footstep in the hall

for the rattle of handle and suck of card in slot, for your running

hands and mouth____ that leaves me black and blue____ I wait

Hotel Minor
in a room with a door that remains a door and a window

that remains fixed

on this segment of bridge as these strange bell

less tones calm my shaking hands

Hotel Minor
almost without ritard

in the metallic morning light.

July 3-9, 2013
Germantown, NY

Hotel Minor
Takeoff

Karen Schoemer

Gently rocking

\( \text{j} = 52 \)

Voice

On the left heads turn left

Piano

We wait for that lift that brings optimism and for

getting Out side the win - dow trees break in-to a run A boy says

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Poem "Takeoff" © Copyright 2013 by Karen Schoemer
"Dad-ya we're going fast"

A blast from a noz zle the

smell of plaid the strain and pitch of me-tal and wire

The strange ness of stran-gers ac- ce-le-rates in-to me the al-most

touch-ing and I re-mem-ber that cal-cu-la-ted word you used to

Takeoff
lift me
the play - thing I im - bued_ with e - ver -

ab - sent you

What is sta - tion - a- ry

an-i-mates What is hea - vy light-ens What is le - vel up -
Love is in the air.

July 10-15
Germantown, NY