

musings II: heartbreak?

by Hannah Cai Sobel

text inspired by the queer and reflective conversations I share with Reuben Golley Newman

“musings II: heartbreak?” for soprano, clarinet, viola, cello, and piano, is the second piece I’ve written using text inspired by conversations I’ve shared with my dear friend, personal poet, and beard husband, Reuben Golley Newman. Reuben and I share in our experiences of anxiety, queerness, and socialization, but we deeply differ in the way we are perceived by the world. “musings II: heartbreak?” explores snippets of thoughts we have expressed in the week after I broke up with my partner of two and a half years, as I tried to process the emotions I felt like I was supposed to be feeling, as well as the emotions I was actually feeling.

1. cry
something about crying queers
2. fire
it's all on fire
3. pretty
I've never written a song about pretty green eyes
4. colors
I'm running out of colors to inhabit
5. ovaries
my stomach ache is back. I hope my ovaries stay in check because if I need another ultrasound, I won't have someone to call to fuck me in the nearest closet
6. right
I think you did the right thing
7. tears
there's something in my brain about tears and demise
8. her
I implied or said this already but fuck her for saying that

musings II: heartbreak?

*text inspired by the queer and reflective conversations Reuben Golley Newman
and I had in the week after I broke up with my partner of three years*

Hannah Cai Sobel

$\text{♩} = 58$

1. cry

This section starts with a vocal line in 4/4 time, marked *mf*. The lyrics "s - ome-thing a-bout," are followed by a dynamic *f cresc*, with "some-thing, some-thing a-" on the next beat. The instrumentation includes a clarinet (Cl.) playing sustained notes, a viola (Vla.) with glissandos, a cello/violoncello (Vc.) with glissandos and grace notes, and a piano (Pno) providing harmonic support. The piano part includes a dynamic *mf* and a final *f*.

5

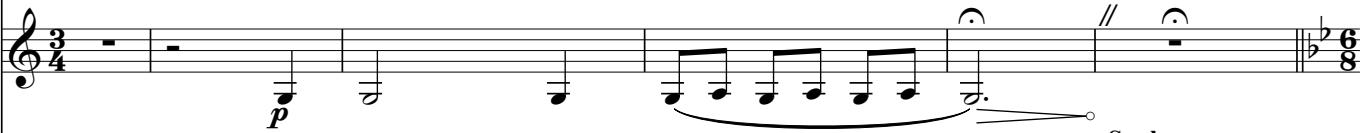
The vocal line continues with "bout" (in 4/4), "cry" (in 6/4, with a glissando), and "queers" (in 3/4). The instrumentation remains consistent with the previous section, featuring sustained notes from the clarinet, glissandos from the viola and cello, and harmonic patterns from the piano.

$\text{♩} = 108$

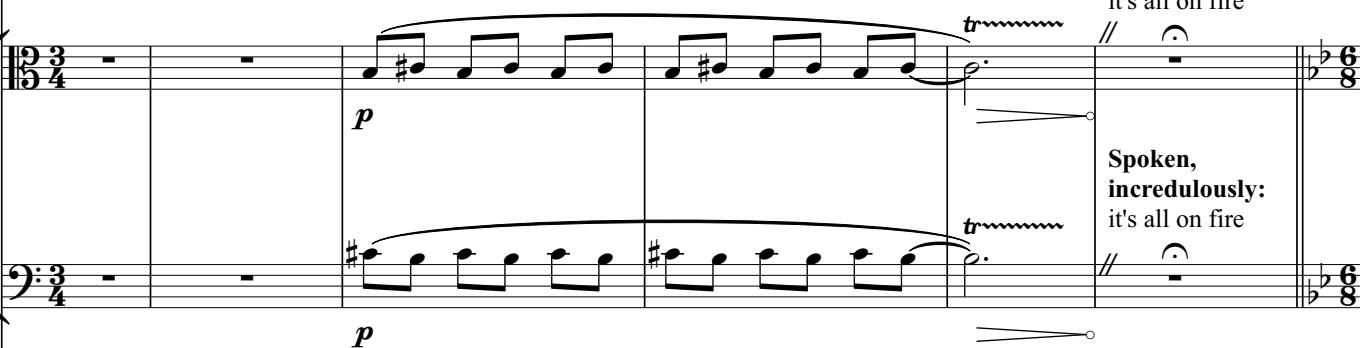
2. fire

Voice 

*Spoken,
incredulously:
it's all on fire*

Cl. 

*Spoken,
incredulously:
it's all on fire*

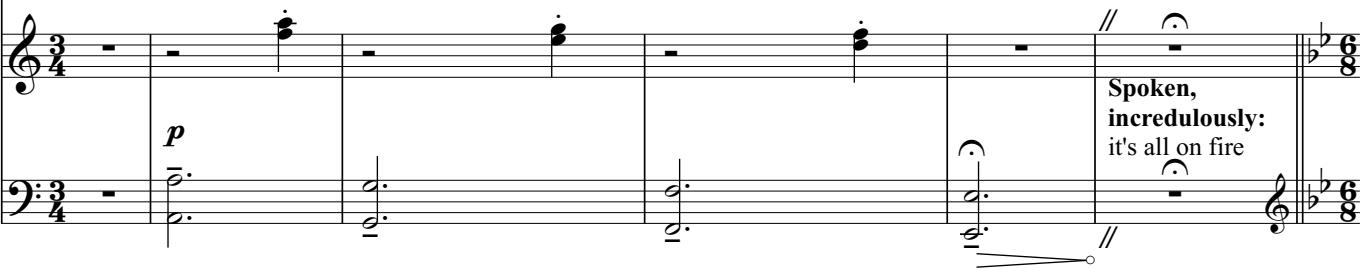
Vla. 

*Spoken,
incredulously:
it's all on fire*

Vc. 

*Spoken,
incredulously:
it's all on fire*

 $\text{♩} = 108$

Pno. 

*Spoken,
incredulously:
it's all on fire*

J. = 44
 3. pretty

legato
mp
legato
mp

Vla.
 Vc.
 Pno.

5
 Voice
 Cl.
 Vla.
 Vc.
 Pno.

mf
Ah
mp

8

Voice

Cl.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

11 Spoken: I've never written a song about pretty green eyes

Voice

Cl.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

1

4. colors

Cl.

repeat the pattern til the end

Vla.

repeat the pattern til the end

Vc.

Pno.

*tap quarters somewhere on the wood
where it will resonate; repeat til the end*

5

5

mf

Voice

I'm running out of colors I'm running I'm running I'm running out of colors to inhabit

Cl.

mf

Vla.

mf

Vc.

mf

Pno.

5. ovaries

 $\text{♩} = 72$ Spoken: my stomach
ache is back

1

Voice

Cl.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

$\text{♩} = 72$

mf

I hope my ov-a-ries stay in check

sul pont.

mp

sul pont.

mp

mf

6

f*gradually slip into angry shouting*

Voice

be - cause

if I need another ultrasound,
I won't have someone to call

to fuck me in the
nearest closet

Vla.

ord.

Vc.

ord.

Pno.

f

f

f

f

f

f

6. right

Voice *desperately* **f**

I think, I think, I think you did the right thing

Cl.

Pno.

7. tears

8

1

mp

Voice

There's some-thing in my brain, some-thing in my brain, there's

Cl.

improvise on these harmonics at a steady pace throughout

mp

Vla.

mf

improvise on these harmonics at a steady pace throughout

Vc.

mf

Pno.

5

f

Voice

some-thing in my brain a - bout tears, tears and de-mise

Cl.

f

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

f

8. her

9

1

Spoken: I implied or said this already...

Voice

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

pizz.
f
pizz.
f

mp

8

Voice

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

but fuck her for say-ing that.

arco.
mp

arco.
mp

mf