

# JUDITH SHATIN

## *Patterns*

Soprano and Piano



## *Patterns: Program Notes*

*Patterns*, a monodrama for soprano and piano, is a setting of the poem of that name by Bostonian Amy Lowell (1874–1925). Lowell broke many of the patterns imposed upon her by society. Although she was not allowed to attend college, she lived her life on her own terms and became a highly regarded poet and author. I have been drawn to her poetry for a long time, and *Patterns* seemed especially apt when opera singer Amy Johnson and I discussed texts. The societal patterns the narrator rails against range from the garments that imprison her body to the "... pattern called a war..." that catches her fiancé in its maw. She plays wondrously with patterns in the poem, at times with dazzling internal rhymes ("... daffodils/bright blue squills"). But she also breaks patterns. She shifts line lengths, and inserts unexpected repetitions and line breaks. With all this local brilliance she creates a powerful arc that I reflect in my setting. *Patterns* begins with the narrator walking in her blossoming garden, where she complains of being corseted in stiff brocade. She goes on to describe her soft body beneath as she dreams of a meeting with her lover. Alas, it is not to be, and she explodes with anguish over his death and cries out against the pattern that is war. In this arc, Lowell nonetheless celebrates the cycles of nature, from flowers in full bloom, to the asters of fall, to snow. *Patterns* was commissioned by, and is dedicated to, Amy Johnson.

### *Performance Notes*

Accidentals apply within the register within the measure.

### *Piano Notation*

S Silently depress notes

+ Mute the string

 Pluck string with fingernail

N Scrape fingernail along string, an inch or two, with direction from back towards front

 Symbol over muted note – move along the string towards the back of the piano; more harmonics will result.

#### Premiere Performance

Amy Johnson, Soprano & Kathleen Kelly, Piano  
Patricia Corbett Theatre  
College-Conservatory of Music  
Cincinnati, OH  
September 10, 2019

# Patterns

By Amy Lowell

I walk down the garden paths,  
And all the daffodils  
Are blowing, and the bright blue squills.  
I walk down the patterned garden paths  
In my stiff, brocaded gown.  
With my powdered hair and jewelled fan,  
I too am a rare  
Pattern. As I wander down  
The garden paths.

My dress is richly figured,  
And the train  
Makes a pink and silver stain  
On the gravel, and the thrift  
Of the borders.  
Just a plate of current fashion,  
Tripping by in high-heeled, ribboned shoes.  
Not a softness anywhere about me,  
Only whale-bone and brocade.  
And I sink on a seat in the shade  
Of a lime tree. For my passion  
Wars against the stiff brocade.  
The daffodils and squills  
Flutter in the breeze

Bewildered by my laughter.  
I should see the sun flashing from his sword-hilt  
and the buckles on his shoes.  
I would choose  
To lead him in a maze along the patterned paths,  
A bright and laughing maze for my heavy-booted lover,  
Till he caught me in the shade,  
And the buttons of his waistcoat bruised my body  
as he clasped me,  
Aching, melting, unafraid.  
With the shadows of the leaves and the sundrops,  
And the plopping of the waterdrops,  
All about us in the open afternoon  
I am very like to swoon  
With the weight of this brocade,  
For the sun sifts through the shade.  
Underneath the fallen blossom  
In my bosom,  
Is a letter I have hid.  
It was brought to me this morning by a rider from the  
Duke.  
“Madam, we regret to inform you that Lord Hartwell  
Died in action Thursday sen’night.”  
As I read it in the white, morning sunlight,  
The letters squirmed like snakes.

As they please.  
And I weep;  
For the lime tree is in blossom  
And one small flower has dropped upon my bosom.

And the splashing of waterdrops  
In the marble fountain  
Comes down the garden paths.  
The dripping never stops.  
Underneath my stiffened gown  
Is the softness of a woman bathing in a marble basin,  
A basin in the midst of hedges grown  
So thick, she cannot see her lover hiding,  
But she guesses he is near,  
And the sliding of the water  
Seems the stroking of a dear  
Hand upon her.  
What is Summer in a fine brocaded gown!  
I should like to see it lying in a heap upon the ground.  
All the pink and silver crumpled up on the ground.  
I would be the pink and silver as I ran along the paths,  
And he would stumble after,

“Any answer, Madam,” said my footman.  
“No,” I told him.  
“See that the messenger takes some refreshment.  
No, no answer.”  
And I walked into the garden,  
Up and down the patterned paths,  
In my stiff, correct brocade.  
The blue and yellow flowers stood up proudly in the sun,

Each one.  
I stood upright too,  
Held rigid to the pattern  
By the stiffness of my gown.  
Up and down I walked,  
Up and down.

In a month he would have been my husband.  
In a month, here, underneath this lime,  
We would have broke the pattern;  
He for me, and I for him,  
He as Colonel, I as Lady,  
On this shady seat.  
He had a whim  
That sunlight carried blessing.  
And I answered, “It shall be as you have said.”  
Now he is dead.

In Summer and in Winter I shall walk  
Up and down  
The patterned garden paths  
In my stiff, brocaded gown.  
The squills and daffodils  
Will give place to pillared roses, and to asters, and to  
snow.  
I shall go  
Up and down,  
In my gown.  
Gorgeously arrayed,  
Boned and stayed.  
And the softness of my body will be guarded from  
embrace  
By each button, hook, and lace.  
For the man who should loose me is dead,  
Fighting with the Duke in Flanders,  
In a pattern called a war.  
Christ! What are patterns for?

# PATTERNS

Amy Lowell

Judith Shatin

**Insouciant** ♩ = 64

Soprano

Piano

*mf*

S

**Urgent**

**A Tempo**

I walk down the

gar - den path,

I walk down the



20

20

Increasingly sardonic

23

*mf*

*mf*

I walk down\_\_\_ the pat-terned gar - den paths in my stiff bro - ca - ded

*mf*

*S.P.*

27

gown with my pow-dered hair and jew - - eled fan. I

31

too\_\_\_ am a rare pat - tern. As I

*mp*

35

wan - der down the pat-terned paths, Wan-der down the pat - terned

37

paths

40

45 Animated *mf*

My dress\_\_ is rich - ly fig - ured\_\_ and the train makes a



49

pink and sil - ver stain on the grav - el and the thrift of the bor - ders

54

Just a plate of cur - rent

58

fash - ion Trip - ping by trip - ping by in high - heeled rib - boned

62

shoes Not a soft - ness

66 **Sprechstimme**

a - ny - where a - bout me, not a soft - ness

70 **Angry**  
**ord. *f***

a - ny where a - bout me on - ly whale - bone and bro - cade

73 on - ly whale - bone and bro - cade, whale - bone and bro -

75 **Depressed**

cade, on - ly whale - bone and bro - cade. and I

79

sink in a seat in the shade of a lime tree,

82

for my pas - sion wars, for my pas - sion wars a-against the

86

stiff bro-cade a-against the stiff bro - cade a - gainst the stiff bro -

89

cade.

*mp* *mf* *f* *tr* *mf* *f* *ff*

*f* *mf* *ff*

*f* *mf*

91 *mf* 3 3 3

The daf - fo - dils and squills \_\_\_\_\_

95 8va 3 3 3

flut - - - ter \_\_\_\_\_ in the breeze \_\_\_\_\_ as they please.

8va L.H. R.H. L.H. R.H.

98 3 3 *pp*

101 Dejected *mf* 3 3

And I weep \_\_\_\_\_ and I weep \_\_\_\_\_

*f*

105 *mf*

and the lime tree\_\_ is in

L.H. L.H.

108

blos - som\_\_ and one small flow - er\_\_

L.H. L.H.

112

had dropped in - to my bo - som.

115 , More Cheerful

*p* *mf*

119 *mf* 3

And the splash - ing — of the

122

wa - ter drops — in the mar - ble ba - sin comes

125

down the gar - den paths, the drip - ping nev - er stops.

130 *Gentle* *mp*

Un - der - neath my stif - fened gown is the

*mp* 3

134

soft - ness of a wo - - - man bath - ing in a

137

mar - ble ba - sin a ba - sin in the

141

midst of hedg - es grown so thick she can - not

145

see her lov - er hid - ing but she gues - ses he is near for the

The musical score is for a piece titled 'Patterns' by John Williams. It is written for voice and piano. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 2/4. The score is divided into four systems, each starting with a measure number (134, 137, 141, 145). The vocal part is in treble clef, and the piano part is in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The score includes various musical notations such as triplets, sixteenth notes, and dynamic markings like *mf*, *f*, and *mp*. A large diagonal watermark 'PERFORMANCE' is visible across the score.

150

slid - ing of the wa - ter seems the strok-ing

*mf* *mp*

154

of a dear hand u - pon her.

*mf*

159

What is sum-mer in a fine bro-ca - ded gown

*mf* *mp*

164

A Tempo *mf* *f* *mf*

I should like to see it ly - - - ing in a

*p* *f* Gradually mute string

6 5

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. The first system (measures 150-153) features a vocal line with lyrics 'slid - ing of the wa - ter seems the strok-ing' and a piano accompaniment with a forte (mf) dynamic. The second system (measures 154-157) continues the vocal line with 'of a dear hand u - pon her.' and the piano accompaniment with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The third system (measures 159-163) features the vocal line 'What is sum-mer in a fine bro-ca - ded gown' and the piano accompaniment with a mezzo-forte (mf) and mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic. The fourth system (measures 164-167) features the vocal line 'I should like to see it ly - - - ing in a' and the piano accompaniment with a piano (p) and forte (f) dynamic, including a 'Gradually mute string' instruction. The piano accompaniment includes various musical notations such as triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings. A large diagonal watermark 'PERUSAL SCORE NOT FOR PERFORMANCE' is overlaid on the score.



168

heap u-pon the ground, all the pink and sil-ver crum-pled on the

172

ground.

Freely  
Flexible duration, ca. 8"

A Tempo  
*mf*

Start at a relaxed tempo  
Increase to mumuring  
32nd notes

176

pink and sil-ver as I run a-

179

long the paths. and

181

he would stum - ble af - - - - ter

183

be - wil - dered by my laugh - ter

186

I should see the sun flash - ing on the

189

buck - les of his shoes. I would choose to

PERUSAL SCORE NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

193

lead him in a maze a bright and laugh-ing maze til he

197

caught me in the shade and the but-tons of his waist-coat bruised my

201

Broaden?

bod-y as he clasped me ach-ing

205

melt-ing, un-a-fraid

8va

## 208 Sparkling

*mf*In the sha - dow — <sup>3</sup> of the

## 211

leaves and sun - drops and the plop - ping of the

## 215

wa - ter drops all a bout us — in the o - pen af - ter - noon

## 218

I am ve - ry like — to swoon — with the

221

weight of this bro - cade for the sun shifts through the shade.

225

, Agitated *mf*

Un-der - neath the fal-len blos-som in my bos-om is a

229

*f* *mf*

let-ter I have hid It was brought to me this morn-ing by a

233

rid - er from the Duke. "Ma-dam

238

we re - gret to in - form you that Lord Hart - well

242

died in ac - tion Thurs - day sev - en

246

night."

As I read in the

249

N.S.

PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

The musical score is written for a voice and piano. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 3/4. The score is divided into four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The first system (measures 238-241) features a vocal line with lyrics 'we re - gret to in - form you that Lord Hart - well' and a piano accompaniment with triplets and dynamics. The second system (measures 242-245) features a vocal line with lyrics 'died in ac - tion Thurs - day sev - en' and a piano accompaniment with triplets and dynamics. The third system (measures 246-248) features a vocal line with lyrics 'night.\"' and a piano accompaniment with triplets and dynamics. The fourth system (measures 249-252) features a vocal line with lyrics 'As I read in the' and a piano accompaniment with triplets and dynamics. A large diagonal watermark 'PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE' is overlaid on the score.

253

white morn - ing sun - light the let - ters \_\_\_\_\_ squirmed \_\_\_\_\_

8va - - - ,

tr

256

like snakes <sup>3</sup> Dark <sup>mf</sup> "An - y an - swer \_\_\_\_\_

261

Agonized **f** Listless **ff**

Ma - dam, "No" I told him "No."

8va - - - ,

267

See \_\_\_\_\_ that the mes - sen - ger takes some re - fresh - ment.

## Disbelieving

271 *mf* *f* *ff* *f*

No, no an - swer No, No, No! \_\_\_\_\_

*sfp* *mf* *f*

8<sub>6</sub>

## , Stumbling

276

*mp* *pp* *p*

3 3 3 3

280 *mp* *mf* *mp*

And I walk in - to the gar - den

3 3 3 3

## Gradually steely

284 *mf*

Up and down the

3 3 3 3



289

pat - terned path in my stiff cor - rect bro - cade

L.H.

*mf*

295

The blue and yel - low flow - ers

L.H.

*mf*

298

stood up proud - ly in the sun, Each one.

L.H.

*mf*

302

I stood up - right too, held ri - gid to the pat - tern

*mf*

*tr*

307 *f*

By the stiff-ness of my gown, the

309 *mf* , *Meno Mosso* *mf*

stiff - ness of my gown. Up and down I walk

L.H. L.H. R.H. N.S.

315 , *Dreaming*

up and down. In a

320

month he would have been my hus - band. In a

322

month \_\_\_\_\_ un - der - neath this lime. We would have broke the

326

pat - tern He \_\_\_\_\_ for me and I \_\_\_\_\_ for him.

331

In this shad - y spot he had a whim that sun - light \_\_\_\_\_ car - ried

335

bles - sing. And I an - swered "It shall be as

338 *f*

you — have said."

*f*

341 *Poco Meno Mosso*

*mp* *mf*

Disbelieving *mf* *ff* *Resigned* *mp*  $\text{♩} = 72$

Now he — is dead. In

*mf* *ff* *S* *mp*

8va

349 *mf*

sum-mer and in win-ter I shall walk Up and down the pat-terned gar-den

*mf*

353

paths in my stiff bro-ca - ded gown.

357

*mf*

The squills and daf-fo-dils will give

*p*

363

place to pil-lared ro-ses and to as-ters and to snow

*p*

367

*mp* *mf*

I shall walk up and down in my gown

8vb

372

gor - geous-ly ar-rayed, boned and stayed, and the

374

soft - ness of my bod - y will be

376

guard - ed from em - brace by each but - ton hook and

379

lace. For the man who should loose me is

PERUSAL SCOPE NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

382 *f*

dead fight - ing with the duke in

386 *rit. - - - -*

Flan - ders in a pat - tern called a war

Freely  
Explosive yell  
390 *fff* Ferocious *ff* *fff*

Christ! What are pat - terns for?

8vb - - - - -

8va - - - - -