

JUDITH SHATIN

Three Summers Heat

Soprano or Mezzo and Electronics



Program Note

Three Summers Heat, whose title and inspiration comes from the sultry summer lyrics of fifth-century Chinese poet Tzu-yeh, is scored for soprano or mezzo and electronics. Commissioned by the Barlow Foundation, for the Sistrum Ensemble, it was premiered by Marilyn Boyd DeReggi at the Synthèse 89 Bourges Festival in France. She requested a piece inspired by summer for a program built around the seasons and I decided to focus on summer. Tzu-yeh's lyrics are brief but telling and the seven contrasting poems I chose link cycles of nature with those of human feelings. They also speak to the evanescent nature of all.

I would like to thank Marilyn Boyd DeReggi for the English language samples used in the electronics and to Professor Anne Behnke Kinney for the Chinese ones. The English translations, by Lenore Mayhew and William McNaughton, are used with permission from the Charles E. Tuttle Company. *Three Summers Heat* was recorded by Susan Narucki on the Centaur label on the CDCM Computer Music Series. The piece is also available in an acoustic version for soprano or mezzo, flute, viola and harp commissioned by the Azure Ensemble and their director flutist Susan Glaser, creating a different timbral world, where my goal was the same: to create a sonic atmosphere that meets the poetic one. For more information, visit www.judithshatin.com –JS

I. Just now the sea-green banners fly
Late spring's already spilled away.
Forest magpies change to summer
tropes,
And from the wood just now the loud
cicadas cry.

II. Just now the early peach is red;
Will beauty mean that mine won't
please,
But go unlooked for and ungathered
Like dropped flowers from mid-summer
trees?

III. It's midsummer and too hot to walk.
My thoughts are tight as tangled silk.
I take a boat and drift among the lilies
And scatter them in Rose Hibiscus Lake.

IV. Summer earth is windless. Heat still
presses.
Sparse clouds cluster when night skies
come.

Thick leaves are hiding two joined hands
And the gaudy gourd covers the plum.

V. Light clothes, few clothes
No brocade for me.
These are hot and howling winds
If these devil days of summer ever pass,
You've my promise
I will powder, rouge and dress.

VI. I remember desire like white light
And that you left as though you longed
to stay.
Whispy mists half-hide the lotus flowers
I see the blossoms but the color blurs.

VII. I lift my head and look at Tung trees
Those flowers I love the most of all.
I wish that we had neither storm nor
snow
And Tung trees had a thousand years to
grow.

Three Summers Heat

1.

JUDITH SHATIN

Joyous

6 *mf* *mf* 6 *mf* *f*

Ah— Ah— Ah—

9 *mf* *f* *match tape dynamics* 6

Mm— Ah— shì— jian dài— qing fan—
shì— jian dài— qing fan—

6 6 6

san chun yi— fù— qing lin— que gai— chu diao Lin— zhong xia— chan ming
san chun yi— fù— qing lin— que gai— chu diao Lin— zhong xia— chan— ming

10 *mf* 9

just now, just now, just now the sun green ban— ners fly,

soaring *mf* 3 6 *f*

fly

mf 5 2 4 *gentile mp* 3

Late spring's al-read-y spilled a-way For-est mag-pies

7 4 4 2 *mf* *mp*

change__ to sum-mer tropes,__ and from the wood, and from the wood just now

11 *f* 3 *mf* < *f* *mf* *p* *mf*

the loud ci-ca-das ci-ca-das cry chan ming

chan ming

4 3 3 3 4

Wistful *mf* *sighing*

Ah

7 4 4

mf

Hm Just now the ear - ly peach

3 7 6 4

is red; will beau - ty mean that mine won't please

5 9 6

mf *f* *mf*

But go un - looked for and un - gath - ered, un - gath - ered Like dropped flow - ers

(soft cymbal) (cymbal)

4 6 8

mf *p*

from mid - sum - mer trees,

6 9

mp *morendo*

mid - sum - mer trees

14 11

Shimmering *p* *focused, non. vib* *, mp*

It's mid sum - mer, sum - mer

18

mp *mf*

mid sum - mer, sum - mer It's mid sum - mer

PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

15 5

mp *mf*

and too hot to walk, to walk My thoughts _____

4 6 5

f *mf*

my thoughts are tight, my thoughts are tight, _____ my thoughts are tight.

5 11

mp

As tan - gled silk I take a boat

3 5 10

mf

I take a boat, I take a boat, I take a boat and drift, _____

9 8

mp drift a-mong the li - lies *mf* and drift a - mong the li - lies and

6 9

scat - ter then, and scat - ter then, scat-ter, scat - - - ter then

4 9

scat - ter then, *mp* scat - ter then *legato, peaceful* in Rose Hi - bis - cus

23

Lake, *p* in Rose Hi - bis - cus Lake. *a piacere vib. to non vib.*

4.

Sultry **mf** **(mf)**

breathily whisper slightly voiced sum - mer sum - mer earth is

summer (whispered) summer summer sum' summer

mf non vib. **mp** **f** **mf** ord.

wind - less, wind - less Heat, Heat still

Heat

f **mf intense** **mf**

Pres - ses Heat still pres - ses sparse clouds clus - ter

(whispered) Heat (temple blocks)

mp **spoken** **mf**

when night skies come thick leaves, thick leaves are hid - ing two joined hands

Mi ye xia dense texture

5 *mp* joined hands *warm mf* and the gaud - y gourd 8

7 *mf* and the gaud - y gourd, gaud-y gourd *f* cov - ers the plum. 6
chen zhu li

5. *Wild* 3 2 3
loud, dense

f jazzy and hard-edged 2 9
Light clothes, few clothes, Light clothes, few clothes,

3 5

no bro - cade for me no bro - cade,

5 7 2

no bro-cade, Light clothes, few clothes, no bro - cade for me these are hot,

intense spoken quality

7 7

increasingly wild sprechstimme these are hot and howl - ing, hot and howl - ing howl - ing howling,

repeat at different pitches

(wind, rattling)

15 4

These are hot and howl - ing, hot and howl - ing winds, howl - ing winds

7 5 4

If these dev-il days — dev-il days — of sum-mer, of sum-mer,

4 5 6

of sum-mer ev-er pass *slyly* you've my prom-ise I will pow-der, rouge, and dress

Poignant 4 3 3

spoken I remember drawn out into a sigh

desire, de - si - re

I remember desire I remember desire, desire

2 6

mp wistful

I re - - - mem - - - ber

Like white light I remember desire I remember desire like

de - si - re like white light

white light

like white light, like white light

(scattered points)

And that you left, And that you left, left

And that you left, you left, as though you longed to stay,

And that you left
And that you left
And that you left

left as though you longed to stay

9 3

mp

As though you longed to stay,

As though you, And that you left

As though you longed to stay
As though you longed to stay
As though you longed to stay

14

mp

As though you longed to stay

left

7 8 3

p *f* *dejected* *mf* *resigned* *spoken, breathy stretch "s" sounds*

to stay left And that you left wispy mists

And that you left as though you longed to stay
(whispy mists)
(lotus flowers)

14

mp *f* *mf*

whisp - y mists half hide, hide the lo - tus flow - ers.

(scattered points)

whispy mists half-hide the lotus flowers wispy mists, wispy mists wispy mists half-hide the lotus flowers

7 3 4

f *mf* *mp*

half hide the lot - us flow - ers I see, I see, I

I see the blos - soms

7 2 6

f *mf* *mp* *mf*

see I see the blos - soms, the blos - soms, But the col - lor, But

I see the blossoms but the color blurs

9 11

mf

the col - or blurs blurs

6 6

mp

the col - or blurs.

7.

5 7 8

Yang tou kan tong shu Tong hua t'e ke lien quan tian wu shuan xue

5 6 7

mf *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

I lift my head, I lift my head to

wu zi jie qian nian

4 5 4

f

look at Tung trees those flow - ers I love

3 5 8

mf *f*

the most of all, flow-ers I love the most of all

3X

mf < *f* 5 7

I wish that we had neith - er storm nor snow, storm not snow

mf expansive 5 5

And tung trees, and Tung trees

8 8 *mf* cresc. al fine

had a thou sand years, Tung trees had a thous - and years

10 4

to grow, to grow, to grow.