



**Micro Pro Musica Press
San Francisco, California**

**William Severson Compositions
MPMP01008**

A Noiseless Patient Spider

Words by Walt Whitman (1819 — 1892)

Low Voice and Piano

By

William Severson (1941 —)

Version February 01, 2012

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1711 Second Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, California, 94105, USA

A Noiseless Patient Spider

by
Walt Whitman

A noiseless patient spider,
I mark'd where on a little promontory it stood isolated,
Mark'd how to explore the vacant vast surrounding,
It launch'd forth filament, filament, filament, out of itself,
Ever unreeling them, ever tirelessly speeding them.

And you O my soul where you stand,
Surrounded, detached, in measureless oceans of space,
Ceaselessly musing, venturing, throwing, seeking the spheres to connect them,
Till the bridge you will need be form'd, till the ductile anchor hold,
Till the gossamer thread you fling catch somewhere, O my soul.

Bio of the composer

William Severson at age 8 negotiated piano lessons before informing his parents in a small mountain town in California, but waited until he was 27 to begin vocal lessons in Hawaii when singing with the [Honolulu Chorale](#). His vocal lessons were somewhat successful as he sang 1976-7 season with the [Tanglewood Festival Chorus](#), which is a volunteer professional chorus associated with the Boston Symphony in Massachusetts. His parents insisted that he have a livelihood so he has a degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley, and worked in the computer field for forty years. He really has not mixed computers with music except to be one of the partners of [Micro Pro Musica Press](#). It uses computers to engrave music including his own compositions and arrangements and offer them over the internet. He is performing around the greater Bay Area with the [Golden Age Ensemble](#). He has had permanent singing gigs in churches in the San Francisco Bay Area for about 20 years. He started to compose in 1979 and was a founding member of the [Society of Gay and Lesbian Composers](#) [no longer active]. He has studied composition under [Rebeca Mauleon-Santana at CCSF](#). He has had some compositions performed at Society of Gay and Lesbian Composers concerts and [San Francisco Composers Chamber Orchestra](#) here in the San Francisco Bay Area and by local choruses. He is a member of [the Irregular Resolutions](#) composers group in SF

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A Noiseless Patient Spider

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Walt Whitman (1819 — 1898)

William Sevenson (1941 —)

Andante ♩ = 52

Musical score for the first system. It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a whole rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, a quarter note B3, a quarter note A3, and a quarter note G3. The piano accompaniment starts with a whole rest, followed by a half note G3, a half note F3, and a half note E3. The lyrics are: "A noise - less pa - tient spi - der, I".

Musical score for the second system. The vocal line begins with a measure rest, followed by a quarter note G3, a quarter note F3, a quarter note E3, a quarter note D3, a quarter note C3, a quarter note B2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note G2. The piano accompaniment continues with a half note G2, a half note F2, and a half note E2. The lyrics are: "mark'd where on a lit - tle pro - mon - tor - y it stood".

Musical score for the third system. The vocal line begins with a measure rest, followed by a quarter note G2, a quarter note F2, a quarter note E2, a quarter note D2, a quarter note C2, a quarter note B1, a quarter note A1, and a quarter note G1. The piano accompaniment continues with a half note G1, a half note F1, and a half note E1. The lyrics are: "i - sol - at - ed, Mark'd how to ex - plore the va - cant".

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8

vast sur-round - ing, It launch'd forth

Rea

9

fil - a - ment, fil - a - ment, fil - a - ment, out of it-self,

11

E - ver un-reel - ing them, e - ver tire - less-ly speed - ing

13

them.

sfz

Rea

mf

16

And you O my soul where you

p

20

stand, Sur - round - ed, de -

22

tached, in mea - - - sure - less o - ceans of

24

space, Cease - less - ly mus - ing, ven - tur - ing, throw - ing,

f

26

seek - ing the spheres to con - nect them, —

28

mf

Till the bridge you will need be form'd, till the

p

30

duc - tile an - chor hold, Till the gos - sam - er thread you

32

ff

fling catchsome-where, O my soul.

ff *sfz*