

Bradbury Sonata

1. Death in Mexico
2. That Woman on the Lawn
3. Pretend at Being Blind,
Which Calls Truth Near
4. Groon

The songs may be transposed freely. An ambitus is provided at the beginning of each song to facilitate determining the optimal tessiture.

Accidentals carry throughout the bar.

Metronome markings are guides only.

Rallentando indicates a gradual slowing of the tempo.

Ritardando is a less pronounced rallentando.

Ritenuto indicates an immediate slowing of the tempo.

Parlando does not indicate a change in vocal production but rather that natural speech rhythms and syllabic stresses should be used when interpreting note values and tempo.

The breath mark has its conventional meaning except when enclosed in parentheses, where it indicates a small, punctuating break in the musical line. A partial breath may be taken.

The tenuto mark indicates a slight lengthening of the note.

Bradbury Sonata

I: Death in Mexico

Ray Bradbury

Peter Schaffter

Lento (♩ = 55, ♪ = ♪ throughout)

I thought it strange to see them on the path That led them up in
sun and lem - on sha-dow Through winds that smelled of sum-mer and of
wine. I thought that they were on - ly pass - ing The
del - i - cate and fern - scrolled i - ron gates The win - ter white, the mar - ble
ce - me - ter - y Car - ry - ing their lunch in a lit - tle sil - ver case.
Mur - mur - ing, all, And chat - ter - ing, and smil - ing; One held a soft gui -
tar and touched it with a whorled thumb; And they were dark
birds wheel - ing south at win - ter's call. I

ritardando
a tempo, poco parlando
ritenuto *a tempo*
rallentando
poco agitato *ritenuto* *a tempo, dolce*
rallentando *poco più forte*

4/4 *poco agitato* *ritenuto* -----

saw them chew-ing tan-ger-ines and spit-ting seeds, I saw them move,

6/8 *a tempo, calmato* 6/4 *stringendo*

night a-mong day whi-tened stone. And the food that they ate u-pon was

4/4 *a tempo*

Death _____, And the sus-ten-ance they bore in a sil-ver box _____ Was the

rallentando ----- 6/4 *a tempo, giusto, dolce ma ritmico*

fos-sil im-print of a child _____. They car-ried her like jew-els o-ver-

3/4 4 1/2 / 4 5/8 3/4

head; The fa-ther bal-anced her __, head up __, gent-ly as a plume, a crat-ed

4/4 (i) *rallentando* ----- (i) 3/4 *più piano* 4/4 *affretando, poco parlando*

fea-ther __, a val-ley flower _____ an Ap-ril grass. And no one wept _____. But

(i) (i) *stringendo*

each was eat-ing of the air and of the day, As quick, as quick-ly as they could. They ate the

5/4 *a tempo, legato* 3

sky with eyes _____, and the wind with teeth _____, And the sun with their

3/4 *rallentando* ----- 3/8 3/4

flesh; And it was good to be a-live _____, If on-ly to be walking here _____ With

$\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ *più lento* $\frac{4}{4}$ *ancora più lento*

Death crowned u-pon their heads, Death de-li-cate as moss and leaf mold

$\frac{6}{4}$ **Poco più lento del tempo I** *lirico*

Borne in a box. With-in the box was run-ning and laugh-ter and dark hair, With-in the

$\frac{3}{4}$ *poco precipitando* $\frac{4}{4}$ *ritardando* $\frac{3}{4}$ *a tempo*

box was the eye of the an-te-lope and the breath of the moon, With-in the

$\frac{6}{4}$ *ritenuto* $\frac{4}{4}$ *a tempo*

box a fe-vered but cool-ing ap-ri-cot, a pear, With-in the box all life that e-ver

rallentando $\frac{3}{4}$ *poco più lento* (i)

was or e-ver comes to be, With-in the box some pic-nic

$\frac{4}{4}$ (i) $\frac{5}{4}$

tin-sel, sil-ver a-mu-let, moun-tain shade.

quasi parlato, senza misura **Tempo I** *come all'inizio*

They moved on with their mur-mur-ing gui-tar, I saw the great fern sha-dows of the i-ron gate blow shut. How

$\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

strange — I smiled — that I should think them pic-nick-ing, How strange to

$\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ *agitato* *a tempo*

think they car-ried wine a-bove their heads; For, in re-al-i-ty, Those

rallentando ----- $\frac{5}{16}$ ----- $\frac{15}{16}$ ----- *a tempo*

souls were eat - ing long be-fore the noon, And long af-ter the mid - night, They ate for -

$\frac{4}{4}$ (i) ----- $\frac{6}{4}$ ----- *ritenuto* -----

e - ver and ne - ver stopped their eat - ing.

$\frac{5}{4}$ *agitato* ----- *poco ritenuto* ----- *a tempo*

E - ven as I _____, Hur - ry - ing in an i - cy wind _____, Sculled

$\frac{4}{4}$ ----- *stringendo* ----- $\frac{3}{4}$ ----- *rilassati leggermente*

down the qui - et a - va-lanche of cob-bledstreet and hill Eat-ing of the

$\frac{2}{4}$ (i) ----- $\frac{3}{4}$ ----- *più mosso* ----- $\frac{4}{4}$ *cres. alla fermata*

clear air, and drink-ing of the mel-low wind, And eat-ing of the blue sky And

stringendo ----- $\frac{3}{4}$ ----- (i) ----- *rallentando* -----

tak - ing the gold - en dust with my mouth And feed-ing the yel - low sun to my

$\frac{11}{8}$ ----- *a tempo senza misura, parlando* ----- $\frac{3}{4}$ ----- $\frac{3}{4}$ ----- *Più lento del tempo I*

soul _____. I passed a cof - fin shop _____ Where ham - mers were tick - ing like clocks. I

$\frac{4}{4}$ ----- $\frac{3}{4}$ ----- $\frac{4}{4}$ -----

woke in the night so hun - gry so hun - gry _____ that I wept.

II : That Woman on the Lawn

Ray Bradbury

Peter Schaffter

3 Adagio (♩ = 58,
4 ♩ = ♩ throughout)

Some - times, gone late at night____ I would a - wake and hear My

4 **4** *poco ritardando* **3** *a tempo*
mo-ther in a - no - ther year and place Out walk - ing on the lawn so late____ It

4 **4** *poco ritardando* *a tempo*
must have been near dawn yet dark it was The on - ly light then____ in the

5 **8** **3** **8** **4** **4**
ges - ture of the stars Which wheeled a - round in mo - tion - ings so

poco ritenuto **2** **4** *a tempo* *pù forte*
soft They took your breath to see; And there u - pon the grass Like

6 **4** *rallentando* *pù piano* **4** *a tempo*
ghost with dew-washed feet she was A maid a - gain, a - lone, quite

3 **4** *a tempo* **6** **4**
sin - gu-lar____ so young ____ I wept I wept____ to see her there so

7 **8** *poco più mosso* **4** *poco accelerando* *a tempo*
strange So un-re - late to me____, so spe-cial to her-self____, So un-touched by the

4/4 *rallentando* ----- 3/4 ----- *attaca*
fervore, poco precipitando

world, so ev - a - nes - cent, free, With some-thing wild come up in

ritardando ----- *a tempo* -----

cheeks And red to lips And flash-ing in the eyes___; It fright-ened me It

5/4 *rallentando* ----- 4/4 **Moderato** (♩ = 94)

fright-_____ tened me. Why should she wan - der with - out per - mit___, Per-

5/4 6/4

mis-sion say - ing go or do not go From us or an - y oth - er_____...?

4/4 *rallentando* ----- 5/4 (9) ----- **Andante, poco 2 affretando**
(♩ = 84) 4

Was she___, Or my God, was - n't she our moth - er? How dare she walk, a

5/4 3/4

vir - gin fresh once more With - in a night that hid her face How dare dis -

4/4 3/4 *rallentando* -----

place us in her thoughts and will?! How dare dis - place us in her thoughts and

4/4 **Tempo I** 3/4 (♩ = 58) 4/4 *poco ritenuto* -----

will?! And some-times e - ven still, late nights, I think I hear her soft tread on the

3/4 ----- *a tempo*
pù forte 5/8 *allargando ma non troppo* Δ

sill And wake to see her cross the lawn Gone wild with wish - ing,

7/8 Δ Δ 4/4 *ritenuto* 3 Δ 3/4 *a tempo*

dream-ing, want-ing And crouched down there un - til dawn Wash - ing her

hair with wind, Pay - ing____ no mind to the cold Wait - ing____ for some bold

3/4 5/4 *rallentando* 3/4 *a tempo*

strange man To rise up like the sun And strike her beau - teous blind! And

3/4 *poco a poco rallentando al fine*

weep - ing____ I call out to her; Oh, young girl there, Oh,

4/4 3/4 4/4

sweet girl in the dawn! I do not mind__, no, no. I do not mind.

III : Pretend at Being Blind, Which Calls Truth Near

Ray Bradbury

Peter Schaffter

Allegretto (♩ = 106, ♪ = ♪ throughout) *poco ritenuto* -----, *a tempo*

The backyard of my mind____ is filled this sum-mer morn - ning With a

poco ritenuto -----

soft and hum - ming tide The gen - tle glide and sim - mer, the

frail____ trem - or - ing of wings in - vi - si - ble which pause u - pon the air, Sub -

pochissimo ritardando -----

side, then come a - gain at mer - est whis - per____ To the lip of flower,

ritardando ----- **Moderato** $\frac{6}{4}$ (♩ = 90)

to the edge of won - der; They do not tear a - sun - der, their pur - pose

sim - ple Is to wa - ken me to wan - der with - out look - ing Ne - ver think - ing on - ly

poco allargando

feel - ing____ Thoughts can come long af - ter break - fast____ ... Now's the time to

poco veloce *molto ritenuto* $\frac{2}{4}$ ----- **Tempo I**

press the air a - part And stand sub merged by pol - len sift - ings____ And the

ritardando $\frac{4}{4}$ ----- *poco meno mosso*



drift-ings of those oiled and sound-less wings Which scrib-ble waves of ink and wa-ter



Flour-ished eye-wink flut-ter-ing and scur-ry Par-a-dox of poise and hur-ry,



Stand-ing still while spun-wound-burst-ing to de-part, Swift mi-grat-tions



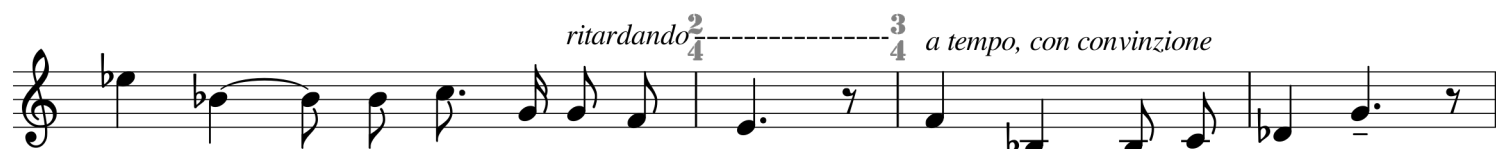
of the heart of un-i-verse Which surfs the wind and pul-ses awe;



Thirst-ing bird or art-ful thought the same, Sight, not star-ing,



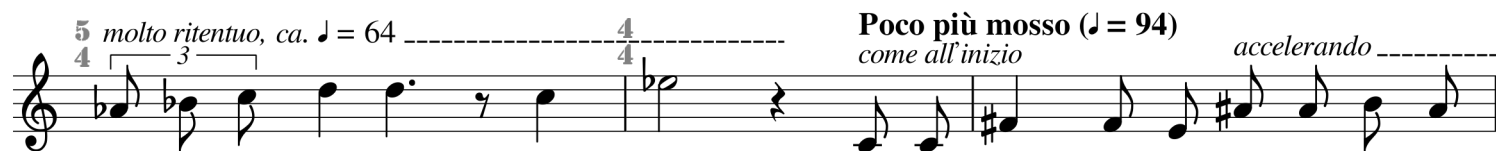
wins the game, Touch but do not trap things with the eyes,



Glance off en-cour-ag-ing sur-prise; Do-ing and be-ing...



These the true twins of e-ter-nal see-ing. Do-ing be-ing



Think-ing comes la-ter. For now bal-ance at the e-qua-tor of morn's

mid - night With word - less wel - come bec - kon in the days But shout

Tempo I

not nor make mo - tion Trem - ble not the sea nor o - cean of be - ing Where thoughts in

round - ed flight fast - flee - ing Stone - peb - ble - skip a - cross the sur - face of calm

rallentando

mind; Pre - tend at be - ing blind which calls truth near... Un - til the hum - ming - birds The

molto ritenuto e piano *ancor rall.* *a tempo* *come all'inizio* *dim.*

hum - ming - birds The hum - ming - birds Ten bil - lion gy - ro - scopes Swoop in to

Più animato (♩ = 114)

più forte

touch, Spin, Whis - per, Bal - ance, Sweet mi - gra - tions of gos - sip in each ear.

poco ritenuto **Vivace (♩ = 126)**

IV : Groon

Ray Bradbury

Peter Schaffter

12
8 **Scherzando** (♩ = 98) *poco ritenuto* ----- *a tempo*

What is the Groon? My young dog said. What is the Groon ____; Is it

rit. --

live, is it dead? Did it fall from the Moon, Has it arms, legs, or head? Does it walk____, Or

(ritardando) ----- **15**
8 *rallentando* ----

sham-ble and am-ble or stalk? Does it grum-ble or mum-ble or whis-per like snow? Is it

12
8 *rallentando* ---- *a tempo*

dust, is it fluff? Is it snuff For a ghost that will sneeze it - self in - side out, Then,

9
8 **5**
8 **15**
8

out-side in, turn-a-bout____! ? What is the Groon? My young dog said. What is the

4 ♩ = ♩. **3**
4 **4**

Groon? Can it walk on the wall? Will it rise, stay____, or fall? Does it moan____,

groan____, and grieve____? What tracks does it leave When it walks in the dust And makes

ritardando ---- *a tempo*

prints by the light By the mold-y old light of the Moon? What's the Groon? Is it he,

9 $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ *poco ritenuto* ----- *a tempo*

she, or it? Does it sprawl, crawl, or sit___? Does it sprawl, crawl, or sit___? Is it

12 $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ (i)

shaped like a crawl or a claw of a hoof? Does it tread like a toad in the road? Or

3 $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ 4 **Meno mosso** ($\text{♩} = 120$)

min-gle on the shin-gle high path of___ our roof? There, a-loof does it tap in the night

ritardando --- 9 $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ *più mosso* (ca. $\text{♩} = 90$) *rall.* --- 12 $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

And go down out of sight___ in the rainfun-nel spout? Is it strange go-ing in___, But

(rall.) ----- **Tempo I** ($\text{♩} = 98$)

e - ven more strange com-ing out? What is the Groon? My young dog said.

poco ritenuto ----- *meno mosso* (ca. $\text{♩} = 88$) *molto ritenuto* **Poco più lento del tempo I** ($\text{♩} = 94$)

What is the Groon___? Has it sha-dows to spare___? Is it rare? Does it

12 $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ (i)

croon for a loved one, oh, much like it-self Put a - way on a shelf In a grave or a tomb Where it

(i)

shut - tles a loom, Spins new shapes for it - self Made of

(i) *rallentando* ----- *meno mosso* (ca. $\text{♩} = 88$)

moon - moss and lint, Sparked with In - di - an flint Struck from

poco accelerando -----

I - di - an graves Where old In - di - an braves Put their

(accel.) ----- *(1)* *(1)* *rallentando* ----- *a tempo*

bones up on stilts Where their mum-my dust silts Join the cornstalks in dance__? And the

wind off the hills Chills wild smokes from the rooves And the

rallentando ----- *a tempo*

dust churned from hooves of ghost hor - ses stormed by In the

ritenuto e rallentando ----- *5* *4* *più piano*
stravagante, a piacere

mid - dle of night—What a sight! What a sight____! Is this, then, the

3
4 **Meno mosso** ($\text{♩} = 94$)
misterioso

Groon? Is it old as__ the Sphinx? Is it dread-ful__ me thinks? Is it Dire, is it

poco a poco stringendo

Awe? Does it stick in your craw? Is it smoke or mere chaff? Do you whim-per or

animato *5* ($\text{♩} = \text{♩}$) *a tempo* **3** ($\text{♩} = \text{♩}$)
come prima **4**

laugh At this skin of a snake left to blow on the road? Is it cool - iced__ hop - toad or

agitato (*ca.* $\text{♩} = 110$) *5* ($\text{♩} = \text{♩}$) *6*
3 *8* *3* *8* *3* *8* *3*

deep mid - night frog That goes Splash! if you jump? Does it... bump... 'neath your



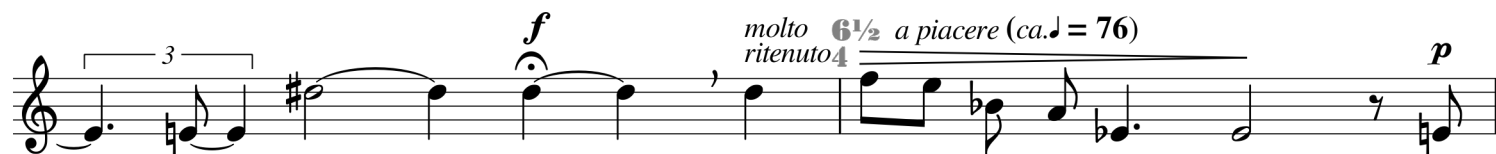
bed Near the head or the toe? When it's there, is it there? When it's gone, where's it go _?



What's the Groon? Tell me soon... For the Moon's grow - ing old - er _ , And the



wind's growing cold - er _ And the Groon? It grows lar - ger _ and bold - er! And dark - er _



_ and stran - ger _ ! My soul _ is in dan - ger! For



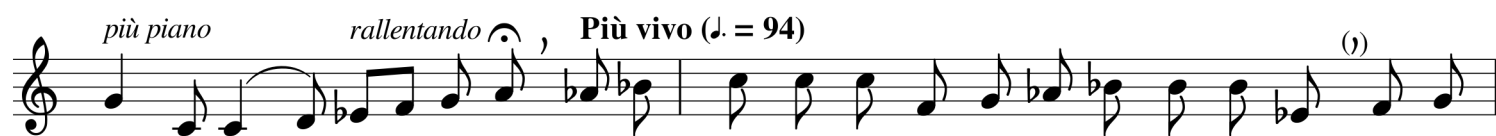
there creep its hands Twitched from sha - dow - y lands Reach - ing



out now to touch and to hold and to clutch! Quick, sun - light bring _ the Noon! Fight



sha-dows, fight _ Moon! Give me morn - ing bright _ sun!



Then my bat - tle _ is won. For the Groon can - not fight what is Sun, what is Light! It will



wi-ther a-way with the dawn, with the day! But. . . ! come back... next mid-night... With its

scare... and its fright... Once a - gain we will croon: What's the Groon__?

What is the Groon? My young dog said. What's... the... Groon...?