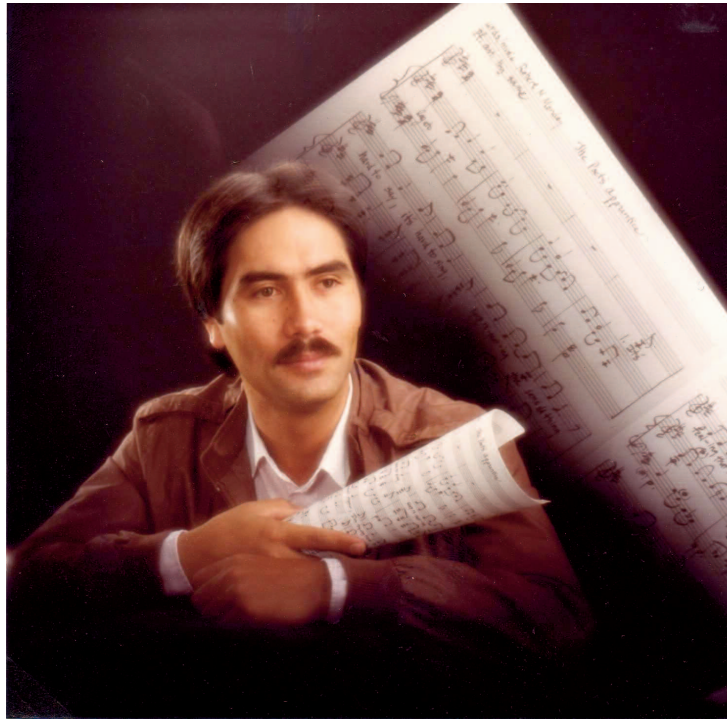


Sonnet 30

(Shakespeare)



Robert M. Mondoy, 1979

Sonnet 30: When to the sessions of sweet silent thought

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (1554-1616), ca. 1595

When to the sessions of sweet silent thought
I summon up remembrance of things past,
I sigh the lack of many a thing I sought,
And with old woes new wail my dear time's waste:
Then can I drown an eye, unus'd to flow,
For precious friends hid in death's dateless night,
And weep afresh love's long since cancell'd woe,
And moan th' expense of many a vanish'd sight;
Then can I grieve at grievances foregone,
And heavily from woe to woe tell o'er
The sad account of fore-bemoaned moan,
Which I new pay as if not paid before.
But if the while I think on thee, dear friend,
All losses are restor'd, and sorrows end.

Sonnet 30 is one of the 154 sonnets written by the English poet and playwright William Shakespeare. It was published in the Quarto in 1609. It is also part of the Fair Youth portion of the Shakespeare Sonnet collection where he writes about his affection for an unknown young man. While it is not known exactly when Sonnet 30 was written, most scholars agree that it was written between 1595 and 1600. It is written in Shakespearean form, comprising fourteen lines of iambic pentameter, divided into three quatrains and a couplet.

Within the sonnet, the narrator spends time remembering and reflecting on sad memories of a dear friend. He grieves of his shortcomings and failures, while also remembering happier memories. The narrator uses legal metaphors throughout the sonnet to describe the sadness that he feels as he reflects on his life. Then in the final couplet, the narrator changes his tone about the failures, as if the losses are now merely gains for himself.

(thanks to wikipedia " Sonnet 30," https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sonnet_30)

dedicated to Laura Yim, with friendship

Sonnet 30

William Shakespeare (1554-1616), 1595

Robert M. Mondoy, 1997, rev. 2020

Con moto ♩ = 100

The first system of piano accompaniment consists of three measures. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 3/4. The first measure is marked *mf*. The second measure contains a four-measure rest. The third measure features a fermata over the first half and a slur over the second half, which includes a triplet of eighth notes. A bracket with the number '2' is placed below the final two notes of the triplet.

rit.. **Meno mosso** ♩ = 100

The second system includes a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The key signature remains three sharps. The vocal line begins with a four-measure rest, followed by the lyrics "When to the ses-sions of sweet si-lent". The piano accompaniment starts with a four-measure rest, then continues with the lyrics. The first measure of the piano part is marked *mp*. The second measure is marked *p rit.*. The third measure is marked *mf*. The system concludes with a change in time signature from 3/4 to 6/8.

thought I sum - mon up re - mem - brance of things

past, I sigh the lack of man - y a thing I sought, And with

a bit faster ♩ = 112

old woes new wail my dear time's waste: Then can I

mf

drown an eye un-used to flow,

mp

2 *cresc.* 2

For prec - ious friends hid in death's

ppp

pp

leggiero

3

date - less night.

And weep a - fresh love's long since can-celled woe,

molto rit. 3

And moan the ex-pense of man-y a van - ish'd sight.

3

cresc.

a tempo ♩ = 100

Then can I grieve at

molto rall.

griev-an-ces fore-gone,

a tempo ♩ = 100

accel.

And heav-i-ly from woe to woe tell o'er The

cresc. molto

sad ac-count of fore-be-moan-ed moan, which I new pay as

rall. **slower** ♩ = 112

if not paid be fore. *rit. un poco* But if the

ff *mf* *mp*

rubato...

while I think on thee, dear friend, All loss - es are re

cresc. *mf* *dim.*

stored and sor - rows end.

mp *rit. un poco* *p* *rit. molto* *pp*