

Light Poem

for mezzo-soprano and harp

David Gompper

Program Notes

Light Poem was commissioned by and written for Katherine Eberle, and premiered at the Interlochen Arts Camp, Michigan, July 22, 1997.

Light Poem

I'm in a phone booth in Saratoga Springs.
The water tastes awful, but very helpful.
You aren't answering, whatever I'm asking.
I'm asking right now why you aren't answering.
It's pleasure, pain, or just love of quiet.
You're not answering: I've got coins for nothing.

I'm going to stamp out my feelings for you,
post them in a letter like a long shaft
Brought to your box by fanjet airlines.
On a plain chair, arms flapping, I'm winging
to that heaven of babies, that stellar
interstellar galaxy of persuasions, those

fine passions eclipsed by sunshine
but now, in the dark, all that we see
and all that we ever wished for, swore for,
lied and cheated and stole for.
I'm sending you tomorrow the letter of today,
a little dried-up light from far away.

commissioned by and dedicated to Katherine Eberle

Light Poem

Marvin Bell

David Gompper

1 $\text{♩} = 108$

Harp

B#
C#

p

5

Harp

8 *mf*

I'm in ___ a phone - booth in

Harp

Gb
Ab

11 *pecho*

Sa - ra - to - ga Springs ___ in Sa - ra - to - ga Springs ___ The

Harp

Ab

15

wa - ter - tastes aw - ful, - but ve - ry help - ful - but ve - ry

Harp

18

help - ful

Harp

f

A# B \flat

23

You aren't - an - swer - ing what - ev - er - I'm ask - ing

Harp

p

27

I'm ask - ing - right now - why you are - n't an - swer - ing

Harp

p

4/4

31

It's

36

plea-sure pain or just love of qui-et —

41

You're not an - swering

45

I've got coins for no - - thing —

47

Musical score for measures 47-48. The system includes a vocal line and a harp accompaniment. The harp part features a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with triplets. Chords are indicated as C#4, Eb, F#4, and Gb.

49

Musical score for measures 49-50. The harp part continues with triplet patterns. Chords are indicated as G#4 and Gb.

51

Musical score for measures 51-52. Measure 51 features a long note with a fermata. Measure 52 is marked **Meno mosso** with a tempo of $\text{♩} = 100$. Chords are indicated as Gb.

54

Musical score for measures 54-56. The harp part features a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with triplets.

57

Musical score for measures 57-58. The vocal line includes the lyrics: "I'm going to stamp out my feelings for you —". The harp part features a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with triplets. Chords are indicated as G#4 and Gb.

59

post them in a let-ter like a

Harp

B \flat

61

long shaft brought to your

Harp

D \flat

63

box, by fan-jet air-lines on a plain chair

Harp

65

arms flapping, I'm wing-ing to that

Harp

F \flat

A \flat

67

hea - ven of ba - bies, that stel - lar

Harp

F#m 3 Bbm 3 Dm 3 Gm 3 Am 3 Dm 3 Gb 3

69

in - ter - stel - lar ga - la - xy of per -

Harp

Fb 3 F#m 3 Ab 3 Bbm 3 Em 3 Fb 3

71

sua - sions, those fine

Harp

Am 3 Eb 3 Bm 3

73

pas - sions e - clipped by sun

Harp

F#m 3 Dm 3 C# 3 Fb 3 Cm 3 F#m 3

75

— shine —

Harp

3 3 A^b B^b 8^{va}

77 *loco*

Harp

A^b

79

but now in the dark all that

Harp

3 A^b *sfz* F^b

82

— we see and all that we ever wished for — swore for

Harp

86

lied and cheat-ed and stole — for

Harp

[senza tempo]

f

8^{vb}

91

Harp

ff

F₄

F_b

95

A tempo (♩ = 108)

I'm send-ing you to - mor - row — the

Harp

mp

B_b

98

let - ter of to - day

p

A

102

lit - tle dried up light from a far a - way

pp

105

108