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X Marks the Sirens

for mezzo-soprano and fixed media

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SAMPLE

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Mike McFerron

Duration: 5'30"

Program Notes

X Marks the Sirens was written for and dedicated to mezzo-soprano, Katherine Crawford. This composition was completed in my home studio in July, 2013. My heartfelt thanks to acclaimed poet and my colleague, Jackie White, for supplying a beautiful text.

MRM

X Marks the Sirens

by Jackie White

She was what she was
and she knew it.
Fate is often like that.
People don't change.

At the end of her DNA,
an added twist, vixen
gene, where it was
written: men will love

you but you can't
keep them; she took
blue & yellow to green
her colors, but they

saw only red. Her heart
became a shack
for bits of the dead
because the myths repeat

your body will sing
them toward you; their
bodies will break
against rock. A trickle

separates desire, love, or
so it is said. She goes on

crooning: I do not wear
the scent of flowers but flesh,
its musk draws in your animal,
into my hum-howled breath:

Sometimes you have to shut up;
unbelieve what you've read.

Written for Katherine Crawford
X Marks the Sirens

Jackie White
"X Marks the Sirens" from *Beast Charmers Riddle*

Mike McFerron

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Mezzo-Soprano

9 *quasi-parlando*
p *mp* *p*
She was — what she was and — she knew it.

15 *mp*
Fate — is of-ten like that.

"Fate is often like that" *"People"*

20 *mf* *mp*
Peo - ple — don't change. don't — change Peo - ple — don't

don't change,"

26

change, don't change

f

30

"At the end of her DNA, an added twist, vixen gene, where it was written:"

men will love you,

mp *expressively*

37

men will love you, but you can't keep them;

f

43

Spoken: she took blue & yellow to green her colors but they saw only Red. Her

mf

The word "red" should closely align with downbeat of mm. 45

48

heart, Her heart be-came a shack for bits of the dead be-cause the myths re-

"Her heart became a shack for bits of the dead."

Steady 16th note pattern continues to the end

53

peat your bo-dy will sing, will sing, them t'ward you;

57

mf Their bo-dies will break a-gainst rock.

61

Spoken: A trickle separates de-sire, love, or so it is said.

65

mf

"Their bodies will break against rock. A trickle separates desire, love..." She

69

f

mp

mf

cresc. poco a poco

goes on croon - ing, I, I do not, I do not, I,

73

ff

I do not wear the scent of flow'rs but flesh,

77

mp

Its musk draws, Its

84

musk draws in your an - i - mal, Its musk draws, Its

This system contains measures 84 through 88. The vocal line features a triplet of eighth notes in measures 84 and 85, and another triplet in measure 88. The piano accompaniment consists of sustained chords in the bass register.

89

musk draws in your an - i - mal, in-to my hum-howled breath:

This system contains measures 89 through 94. The vocal line continues with a triplet in measure 89 and another triplet in measure 94. The piano accompaniment continues with sustained chords.

95

This system contains measures 95 through 100. The vocal line is mostly silent, indicated by rests. The piano accompaniment continues with sustained chords.

101

morendo

This system contains measures 101 through 105. The vocal line is silent. The piano accompaniment concludes with a *morendo* marking and a fermata over the final chord.