

# Monotone

Carl Sandburg

J. Michael Saunders

= c. 66

Piano { *with pedal throughout*

*simile*

It is illegal to duplicate this piece by photocopying or any other means.  
 Those violating the copyright will be punished to the full extent of the law.  
 © Copyright 2012 for ALL COUNTRIES by Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Inc.  
 Printed in the U.S.A.

22

Soprano (S): The mon-o-tone of the rain \_\_\_\_\_ is beau - ti - ful,

Alto (A): The mon-o-tone of the rain \_\_\_\_\_ is beau - ti - ful,

Tenor (T): The mon-o-tone of the rain \_\_\_\_\_ is

Bass (B): The mon-o-tone of the rain \_\_\_\_\_ is

## For Perusal Only

is beau<sup>2</sup> - ti - ful,

is beau<sup>2</sup> - ti - ful,

beau - ti - ful, beau<sup>2</sup> - ti - ful,

beau<sup>2</sup> - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful,

# For Perusal Only

mf 34

And the sudden rise

And the sudden rise

And the sudden rise

And the sudden rise

*mf*

and slow re - lapse of <sup>2</sup> the

*mf*

and slow re - lapse of the

*mf*

and slow re - lapse of <sup>2</sup> the

*mf*

and slow re - lapse of <sup>2</sup> the

*mp*

# For Perusal Only

*p*

long mul - ti - tu-di-nous rain

*mp*

47

*mp*

Ah Ah Ah Ah

*mf*

Ah \_\_\_\_\_ Ah \_\_\_\_\_

*mp*

Ah Ah Ah Ah

*mf*

Ah \_\_\_\_\_ Ah \_\_\_\_\_

A musical score page featuring four staves of music. The top three staves are in treble clef, and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth note patterns. Dynamic markings include *mp* (mezzo-forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). Vocal parts are indicated by the word "Ah" followed by a horizontal line under the notes.

# For Perusal Only

51

A musical score page featuring five staves of music. The top four staves are in treble clef, and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth note patterns. Dynamic markings include *mf* (mezzo-forte), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *mf* (mezzo-forte). Vocal parts are indicated by the word "Ah" followed by a horizontal line under the notes.

A continuation of the musical score from page 51, featuring five staves of music. The top four staves are in treble clef, and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth note patterns. Dynamic markings include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). Vocal parts are indicated by the word "Ah" followed by a horizontal line under the notes.

*sub. p**sub. p**sub. p**sub. p*

55

**For Perusal Only**

Three blank staves for musical notation, starting with a treble clef and ending with a bass clef.

Musical score for piano. The top staff shows a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. The dynamic is *p*. The bottom staff shows a bass clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. A forte dynamic is indicated at the end of the measure.

59

*mp*

The sun

*mp*

The sun

*mp*

The sun

*mp*

The sun

For Perusal Only

*mf*

on the hills

is

*mf*

on the hills

beau - ti - ful,  
Or a

## For Perusal Only

65 cap - tured sun - set sea - flung, sea - flung,

cap - tured sun - set sea - flung,

cap - tured sun - set sea - flung, sea - flung,

cap - tured sun - set sea - flung,

*mf*

Ban - nered with fire and  
Ban - nered with fire and gold.  
Ban - nered with fire and  
Ban - nered with fire and gold.

# For Perusal Only

*f*

gold. , <sup>73</sup> *sub. p* Ah

*f*

gold. , *sub. p* Ah

*f*

gold. , *sub. p* Ah

*f*

gold. , *sub. p* Ah

*mf*

*mp*

76

*p*

Ah Ah Ah

Ah Ah Ah

Ah Ah Ah

Ah Ah Ah

*p*

Ah Ah Ah

*p*

Ah Ah Ah

Ah Ah Ah

Ah Ah Ah

Ah Ah Ah

77

# For Perusal Only

77 *mp cresc.*

Ah

*mp cresc.*

Ah

*mp cresc.*

Ah

*mp cresc.*

Ah

*cresc.*

Ah Ah Ah

Ah Ah Ah

Ah Ah Ah

Ah Ah Ah

Soprano: (ah)

Alto: (ah)

Tenor: (ah)

Bass: (ah)

For Perusal Only

Bass: rit. p

85 A tempo

Soprano: p

Alto: simile

89

*p*

A face I know

# For Perusal Only

95

*p*

A face I know is

*p* A face I know is

A face I know is

*p* A face I know is

A face I know is

*mf*

beau - ti - ful With fire and gold of sky and sea,

beau - ti - ful With fire and gold of sky and sea,

<sup>8</sup> beau - <sup>2</sup> ti - ful With fire and gold of sky and sea,

beau - ti - ful With fire and gold of sky and sea,

For Perusal Only

107 *p* <sup>2</sup>

And the

And the

And the

And the

*p* <sup>2</sup>

And the

*p*

© protection

A musical score for a single instrument or voice. It consists of five horizontal staves. The first four staves are in treble clef, and the fifth staff is in bass clef. All staves are in common time (indicated by a 'C') and have a key signature of one sharp (F#).  
1. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a 'C' (common time), and a 'F#' (one sharp). It contains six measures of eighth-note patterns: the first three measures show eighth-note pairs (two pairs per measure), and the last three show eighth-note triplets (three pairs per measure).  
2. The second staff starts with a treble clef, a 'C' (common time), and a 'F#' (one sharp). It contains four measures of quarter notes followed by two measures of rests.  
3. The third staff starts with a treble clef, a 'C' (common time), and a 'F#' (one sharp). It contains four measures of quarter notes followed by two measures of rests.  
4. The fourth staff starts with a treble clef, a 'C' (common time), and a 'F#' (one sharp). It contains four measures of quarter notes followed by two measures of rests.  
5. The fifth staff starts with a bass clef, a 'C' (common time), and a 'F#' (one sharp). It contains four measures of eighth-note pairs (two pairs per measure) followed by two measures of rests.  
The lyrics 'rain.' are written below each of the four treble staves.

122

*2nd time: rit. e dim. al niente*

#### About the composer

Jason Michael Saunders was born in 1989 and was raised in the Portland, Oregon area. He is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Choral Music at the University of Southern California. In 2011 he graduated from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, where he earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree with a Secondary Choral emphasis. His choral compositions have been performed by ensembles across the country and in Europe. Saunders has won composition awards from several choral ensembles, and in 2012 placed second nationally in the Choral Composition division of The American Prize (student category). Saunders has composed since the age of 16, and has conducted the premiere performances of many of his works. He held the role of Assistant Conductor of the PLU Men's Chorus under Dr. Brian Galante, and served as a section leader in PLU's Choir of the West and University Chorale. At Pacific Lutheran, Saunders studied composition with Dr. Gregory Youtz and choral conducting with Dr. Richard Nance.



#### About the poet

Carl Sandburg (1878–1967) was an American writer and editor best known for his poetry. He won two Pulitzer Prizes, one for his poetry and another for a biography of Abraham Lincoln. Born of humble beginnings, he had great feelings for the plight of the common man. *Monotone* was published in 1916 in a book titled *Chicago Poems* which was to bring him international fame as a poet.

#### Monotone

The monotone of the rain is beautiful,  
And the sudden rise and slow relapse  
Of the long multitudinous rain.  
  
The sun on the hills is beautiful,  
Or a captured sunset sea-flung,  
Bannered with fire and gold.  
  
A face I know is beautiful--  
With fire and gold of sky and sea,  
And the peace of long warm rain.

#### Range

S A T B

**Listen to a recording at [www.sbmp.com](http://www.sbmp.com)**  
performed by the Pacific Lutheran University Chorale  
conducted by Brian Galante