



PREVIEW SCORE

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A Song My Mother Taught Me

for solo piano

Chris Cresswell

A Song My Mother Taught Me (2023)
for solo piano

Commissioned by
Sar Shalom Strong

Written for
Lucas Jonathan Wang Zheng

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Completed on March 1, 2023 in Manlius, NY.

Program Notes:

This work, *A Song My Mother Taught Me*, represents a welcome return to the world of purely acoustic composition, after spending several years writing electro-acoustic music. It also represents a shift in harmonic language as I continue to incorporate elements of my “other” musical life as a singer/songwriter into my “serious” compositions. (Distinctions I have discovered live only in my head.)

The material of this work is the direct result of my initial conversation with Lucas. He wanted to celebrate his mother’s birthday, April 1st, which also happened to be the date of his recital. In response, I interpolated the opening fragments of the vocal melody from Antonin Dvorak’s *Songs My Mother Taught Me* and set it in a harmonic and gestural world that reveals my love of Debussy’s writing for the piano.

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A Song My Mother Taught Me

Delicately, as if improvised ♩ = 52

let the resonance ring
and naturally decay

Chris Cresswell

Piano

p *mp*

8va

3

Rec. * Rec. *

Pno.

p *m* *mp* *mf*

3

Rec. *

Pno.

mp *mf* *p* *mp*

3

Rec. *

Pno.

pp *mf*

A

3

Pno.

f

3

3

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2

25 *rit.* **B** *moving forward* *8va*

Pno.

30 *8va*

Pno.

34 *8va* *pulling back* *rit.*

Pno.

C *Faster, with push and pull* ♩ = 92

Pno.

41

Pno.

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43 *pushing forward*

Pno.

45

Pno.

47

Pno.

49

Pno.

51 *molto rit*

subito p allow arpeggio to slow down and 'unwind', eventually ending on the C

Pno.

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D

4 *a tempo*

Pno. *f*

Pno.

Pno.

Pno.

61 *pulling back*

f

Pno.

63 *rit.*

mf

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E

original tempo

delicate, as if remembering the melody

Pno.

pp mp p

Pno.

p mp

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Pno.

mp p rit.

Pno.

mf rit.