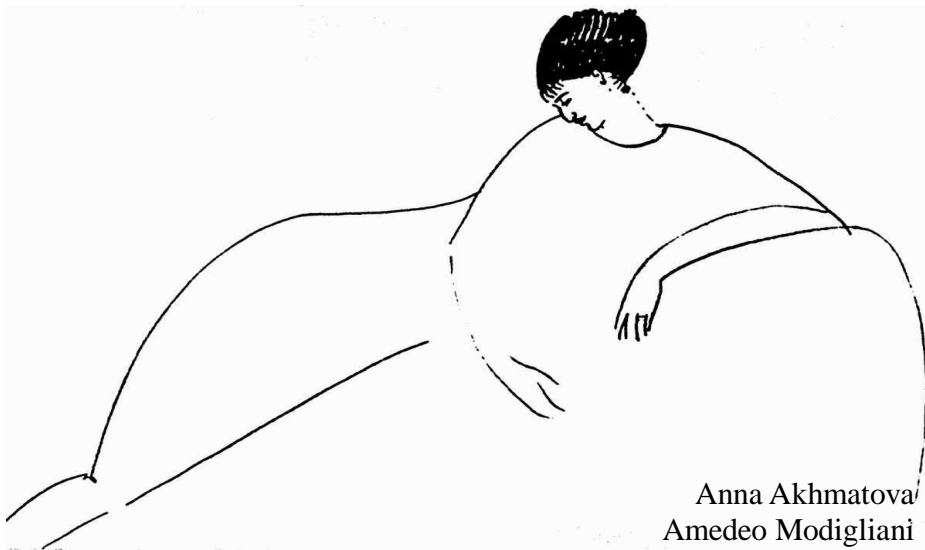


Three Akhnmatova Settings



Anna Akhnmatova/
Amedeo Modigliani
1911

Peter Dyson
1995

1. The Willow. 1940

2. How can you look at the Neva? 1914

3. Heart's Memory of Sun. 1911

These song settings are in English.

Words are to be heard.

Setting the natural rhythm in English is a world away from setting Akhmatova in the original Russian.

There is a Russian version of these songs because a singer from Irkutsk challenged me with a "how could she possibly sing these Russian poems in English.?"

Alas I have never managed to sort out the copyright approval for the original Russian language poems, only for the translations but no matter... these songs work in English and I am not sure they do in the Russian language variant. It is a sensitive issue.

They were recorded in 2001 by Victor Dinov in the (old Melodiya) studio in St Catherine's Church on Bolshoi Prospect, St Petersburg and issued on Olympia OCD 712. Victoria Yevdotieva sang and Yelena Spist played the piano. I attended the recording sessions. It was magic to watch Victor Dinov at work. His ear and understanding of nuance are to be envied.

1. The Willow

Anna Akhmatova 1940

Poems of Akhmatova, translated and introduced by Stanley Kunitz with Max Hayward, published by Mariner Books/Houghton Mifflin Co. (Boston)

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Peter Dyson

Con espressione (♩ = 100)

Soprano

Piano



6

Pno



11

S.

Pno

16

S. cool nur - se - ry of the young cen - tu - ry.

Pno

21 *mf*

S. Hu - man voi - ces did not touch me _____ *p* It was the

Pno *mf* *p*

27

S. wind whose words I heard. _____

Pno

31 *mf*

S. I fa-voured bur - docks and

Pno *pp* *mf*

35 *f*

S. net - tles, but dear - est to me was the sil-ver wil - low__

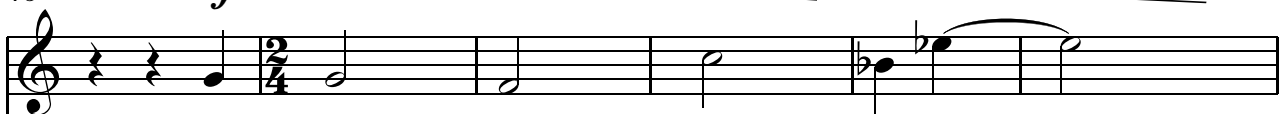
Pno *f*


40 *f*

S. wil - low, my long com-pan - ion through the years,__

Pno *f*

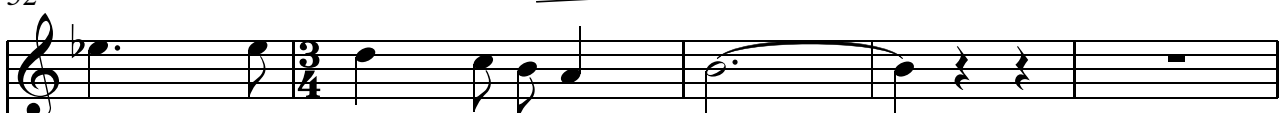
46 *mf*


S. 
whose wee - ping bran - ches fanned__

Pno 
mf

==

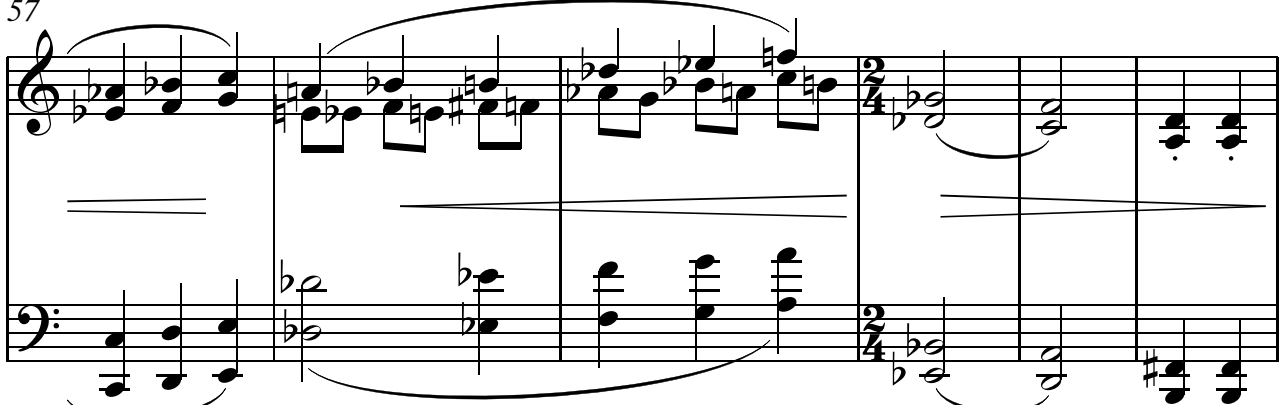
52

S. 
my in - som - ni - a with dreams._____

Pno 

==

57

Pno 

63

S. *pp*

Od - dly I have sur - vived it;

Pno *p* *pp* *p*



71

S.

out there a stump re - mains. —

Pno



76

S. *mf*

Now o - ther wil - lows with a - lien

Pno *mf*

83

S. *f*
voi - ces in - tone un - der our

Pno *f*



88

S. skies.

Pno *ff*



92

S. *p*
And I am

Pno *f* *ff*

97 *p*

S. *si- lent* *as* *though* *a* *bro - ther* *had*

Pno *p*



105 *pp*

S. *died.*

Pno *pp* *mf* *mp*



111 *poco rit*

Pno *p* *p* *pp* *ppp*

Great Bardfield, 14th September 1995

2. How can you look at the Neva?

Anna Akhmatova 1914

Poems of Akhmatova, translated and introduced by Stanley Kunitz with Max Hayward,
published by Mariner Books/Houghton Mifflin Co. (Boston)

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Peter Dyson

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Con forza (♩ = 110)

S.

Pno

121

S.

How can you look at the Ne - va?

Pno

124

S.

How can you stand on the bri - dges?

Pno

127

S. *ff*

No won - der peo - ple think I grieve:

Pno *ff* *sfz*



130

S.

Pno *mf* *mf*



133

S. *f* *ff*

His i - mage will not let me go.

Pno *f*

136 *f*

S. *f*
Black

Pno *mf*



139

S. An - gels wings can cut one down, _____

Pno



141 *f*

S. *f*
I count the days to Judge - ment Day. _____

Pno

144

S.

Pno

147

Pno

p

150

Pno

sfz *mf* *sfz*

153

S.

f

The streets are lined with lu - rid fires,

Pno

f *mf*

156 *f*

S. *f*
bon - fires of ro - ses

Pno *f* *sfz*

159

S. *f*
in the snow.

Pno *f* *sfz*

161

S. *f*
Great Bardfield, 9th November 1995

Pno *f* *sfz*

3. Heart's Memory of Sun

Anna Akhmatova Kiev 1911

Poems of Akhmatova, translated and introduced by Stanley Kunitz with Max Hayward,
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Peter Dyson


(♩ = 60)

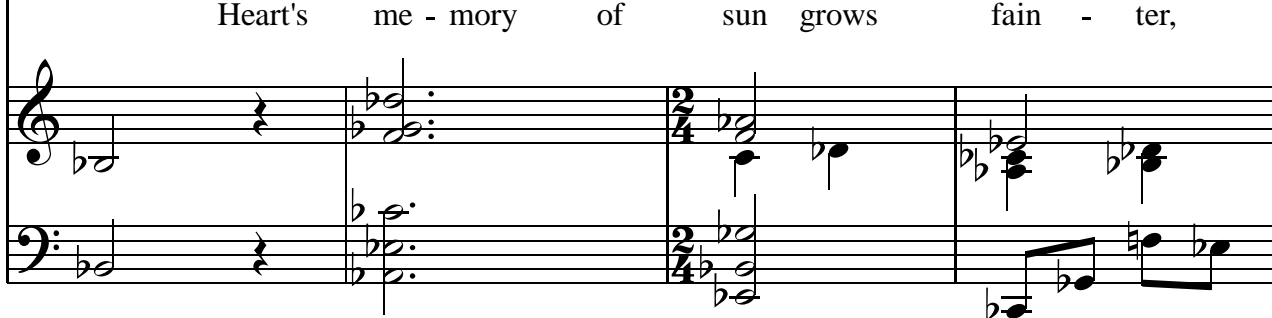
Molto tranquillo

S. 

Pno 

167

S. 


Pno 

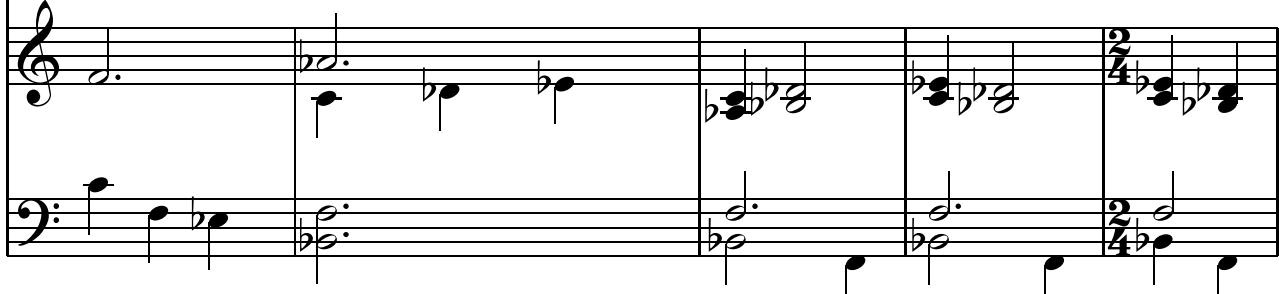
171

S. 

Pno 

175

S.  a few flakes toss in the wind scarce-ly_

Pno 




180


S.  scarce - ly. The

Pno 




186

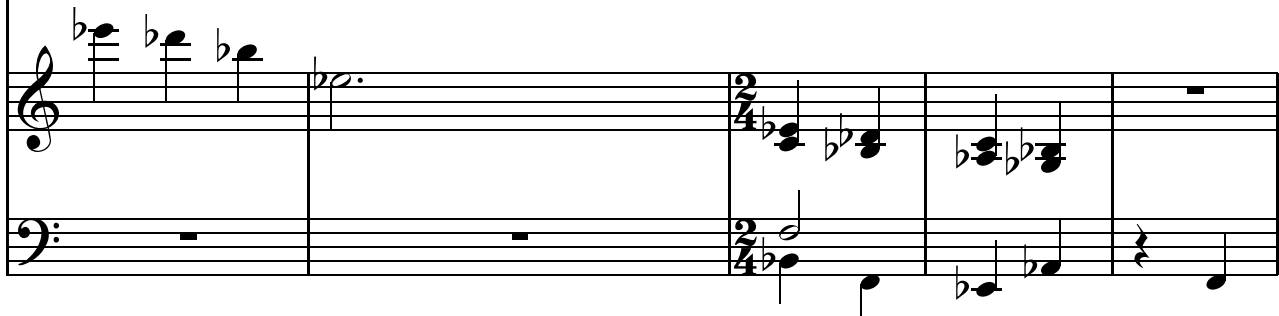
S.  nar-row ca-nals no lon-ger flow, they are fro-zen o - ver.

Pno 

190

S. 

No-thing will e - ver hap-pen here. oh,

Pno 

195

S. 

ne - ver! In the bleak sky the

Pno 


200

S. 

wil-low spreads its bare - boned fan.

Pno 

204 *f*

S. 

May - be I am bet - ter off as I am _____ and

Pno 


208

S. 

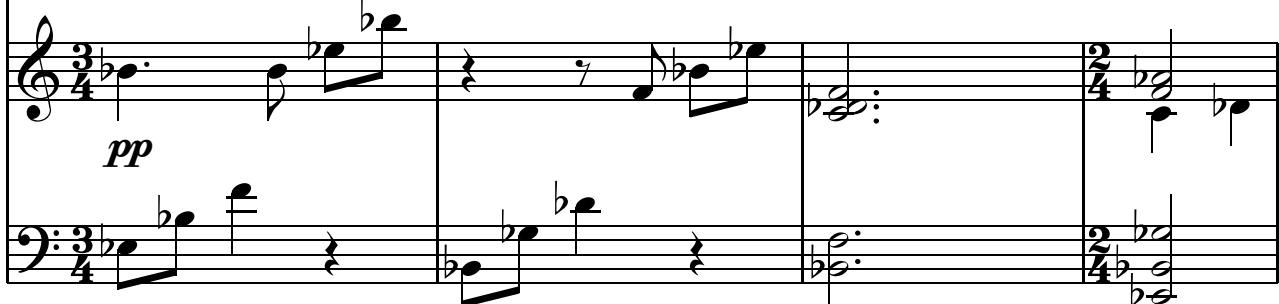
not as your wife. _____

Pno 

214 *pp*

S. 

Heart's me - mory of sun grows

Pno 

218

S.

fain - ter, What now? Dark - ness

Pno



223

S.

Per - haps! This ve - ry night un -

Pno



227

S.

folds the win - ter.

Pno

Great Bardfield, 11th November 1995