

Charlie Barber



for voice and piano

Originally composed in 2012 for the final scene in *Michelangelo Drawing Blood*, a music-theatre for voices and period instruments, this new version - for voice and piano - was created in 2025.

The text is from Michelangelo Buonarroti's Rime 247, written in his later years, possibly between 1532 and 1546, during his relationship with Tommaso dei Cavalieri.

Text:

Caro m'è 'l sonno, e più di sasso,
mentre che 'l danno e la vergogna dura:
non veder, non sentir m'è gran ventura;
però non mi destar, deh! parla basso.

Translation:

Slumber is sweet, but is were sweeter still
To turn to stone while shame and sorrow last,
Nor see, nor hear, and so be freed from ill;
Ah, wake me not! Whisper as you go past!

Cantilena

Text by Michelangelo Buonarroti

Charlie Barber

Tranquillo

♩ = c. 72

Voice

Piano

like bells

L.H.

p

sostenuto

p

pp

Pno.

8

pp

Voice

Pno.

14

p

Ca - ro m'è'l son - no, e — più l'es - ser di_

p

pp

21

Voice

— sas - so, — men - tre che'l dan - no e la ver - go - gna du-

Pno.

28

Voice

- ra

Pno.

L.H.

p

pp

35

Pno.

39

Pno.

43 *p*

Voice

non — ve - der — non sen - tir m'è — gran — ven - tu - ra —

Pno. *p*

pp

50 *pp*

Voice

— pe - rò — non — mi de - star, deh! — par - la bas

Pno. *dim.*

56

Voice

- so. —

Pno. *pp*

pp

pp

pp

62 *Rit.*

Pno. *a niente*