



Du • You

av Två porträtt • from Two portraits

Setting lines from the novel *Vill gå hem* by Jonas Gardell,
in Swedish and English, translated by the composer,
for sixteen-part mixed chorus (SSSSAAAATTTTBBBB) *a cappella*

Eric Banks

Commissioned by Lone Larsen, and composed for
Voces Nordicae, August 2011.

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About this work

I am enchanted with the work of Jonas Gardell. He strikes me as a Swedish version of David Sedaris, both hilarious and profound in his public performances and his published literature. I met Jonas in 1997, the autumn that I moved to Stockholm. We were members of the same gym. For my birthday the following January, Jonas gave me a copy of his book, *Vill gå hem*, and I read it nearly immediately. In Jonas' book, there are several moments where the prose is, to me, completely poetic. I have chosen to set two of these moments as portraits, with the titles *Du • You* and *Hon • She*.

I am also enchanted with the music of *Voces Nordicae* and Lone Larsen. I met several of the singers in this ensemble during my year in Stockholm, while singing with many of the chamber choirs in the city (Gustav Sjökvists, St Jakobs, Kungliga Musikhögskolans, Mikæli). In the summer of 2008, *Voces Nordicae* was the guest chorus at the ASWATUNA conference in Petra (celebrating Arab choral music), where I was a presenter. In Jordan, I was thrilled to have this surprise reunion with many of my old friends, and loved spending some time with Lone as well. It was after the ASWATUNA conference that the talk of my composing for *Voces Nordicae* began, and only after seeing each other again at the 9th World Symposium of Choral Music in Argentina that this commission became a reality. Lone and *Voces* do not present choral 'concerts,' as much as theatrical 'experiences' - complete with lighting, staging, movement, and sets. When she told me about their upcoming project (called *O-Kultiverat*, in English: *un-Cultured*), I knew that I needed to set these Gardell texts for them right away. In both of the texts that I have chosen, there is a poignant and personal juxtaposition between images of the city or civilization and images of nature or the elements. These works are bilingual, in both Swedish and English. Below you will find the text for *Du • You*, from page 22 of Jonas Gardell's *Vill gå hem*. The line breaks and translation are mine.

Du är en staty i svart sten,
You are a statue of black stone,
blank av regnet som rinner över dig.
shining from the rain that flows over you.

Sommarregn i gruset,
The summer rain falls on gravel,
en omkullvält dockvagn,
on an overturned carriage,
ärgat koppartak...
and on a copper roof now green...

Du är en staty på ett torg.
You are a statue in a square.
Alla har gömt sig.
Everyone is hiding from the rain.
Du ensam blir på nytt ren.
But only you are clean again.

This work is composed for 16 solo voices. In the score, the top quartet narrates in English alone; the middle octet creates and maintains the images of the statue and the storm of summer rain; and the bottom quartet narrates in Swedish alone.

This work is dedicated to Lone Larsen and the singers of *Voces Nordicae*.



Du • You

for Voces Nordicae and Lone Larsen

text from *Vill gå hem* by Jonas Gardell

With great poise ♩ = 75

Eric Banks

The musical score is arranged for a vocal ensemble and piano. It features seven staves: Soprano 1 (S1), Tenor 1 (T1), Soprano 2 (S2), Alto 2 (A2), Tenor 2 (T2), Bass 2 (B2), and Soprano 4 (S4). The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 75. The score begins with a piano introduction in the S1 and T1 staves, marked *mf* and 'You...'. The vocal entries for S2, A2, T2, and B2 occur in the second measure, marked *mp*. The lyrics are in Swedish: 'i svart sten, en sta - ty i svart sten, en sta - ty Du är en sta - ty, du är en sta - ty, Du är en sta - ty, du är en sta - ty'. The score includes various musical notations such as rests, notes, and slurs.

SAMPLE

5

S1
A4

T1
B4

You are a sta - tue of black stone, shi - ning

You are a sta - tue of black stone, shi - ning

S2
S3

i svart sten, i svart sten,

A2
A3

i svart sten, en sta - ty i svart sten, en sta - ty

T2
T3

du är en sta - ty, du är en sta - ty,

B2
B3

du är en sta - ty, du är en sta - ty,

S4
A1

T4
B1

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SAMPLE

9

S1
A4

— from the rain that flows o-ver you.

T1
B4

— from the rain that flows o-ver you.

S2
S3

i svart sten, i svart sten,

A2
A3

— i svart sten, en sta - ty i svart sten, en sta - ty

T2
T3

— du är en sta - ty, du är en sta - ty,

B2
B3

— du är en sta - ty, du är en sta - ty,

S4
A1

blank av reg-net som rin-ner ö-ver dig, blank
blank av reg-net som rin-ner ö-ver

T4
B1

blank av reg-net som
blank av

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SAMPLE

13

S1
A4

T1
B4

f You are a

f You are a

S2
S3

i svart sten, _____ i svart sten, _____

A2
A3

— i svart sten, _____ en sta - ty _____ i svart sten, _____ en sta - ty _____

T2
T3

— du är en sta - ty, _____ du är en sta - ty, _____

B2
B3

— du är en sta - ty, _____ du är en sta - ty, _____

S4
A1

mp

— av reg-net som rin-ner ö-ver dig, blank _____ av reg-net som rin-ner ö-ver dig, blank _____
dig, blank av reg-net som rin-ner ö-ver dig, blank av reg-net som rin-ner ö-ver

T4
B1

mp

rin-ner ö-ver dig, blank _____ av reg-net som rin-ner ö-ver dig, blank _____ av reg-net som
reg-net som rin-ner ö-ver dig, blank av reg-net som rin-ner ö-ver dig, blank av reg-net som

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SAMPLE

17

S1
A4

sta - tue of black

T1
B4

sta - tue of black

S2
S3

i svart sten,

A2
A3

i svart sten,

T2
T3

B2
B3

S4
A1

mf

av reg-net som rin-ner ö-ver dig, blank av reg-net som rin-ner ö-ver dig, blank
dig, blank av reg-net som rin-ner ö-ver dig, blank av reg-net som rin-ner ö-ver

T4
B1

mf

rin-ner ö-ver dig, blank av reg-net som rin-ner ö-ver dig, blank av reg-net som
reg-net som rin-ner ö-ver dig, blank av reg-net som rin-ner ö-ver dig, blank av

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* Please repeat the word 'sommarregn' for every written group of four sixteenth-notes, humming the 'n' for the duration of each fourth note.

21

S1
A4

stone,

T1
B4

stone,

S2
S3

Som-mar-reg(n)...*
som-mar-reg(n)...

A2
A3

Som-mar-reg(n)...*
som-mar-reg(n)...

T2
T3

Som-mar-reg(n)...*
som-mar-reg(n)...

B2
B3

Som-mar-reg(n)...*
som-mar-reg(n)...

S4
A1

dig, av blank reg - net av som rin - ner ö - ver dig, blank
reg - net som rin - ner ö - ver dig, av blank reg - net som

T4
B1

rin - ner ö - ver dig, blank av reg - net som
reg - net som rin - ner ö - ver dig, av blank reg - net av

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SAMPLE

23

S1
A4

shí - - - - - níng - - - - - fróm the

T1
B4

shí - - - - - níng - - - - - fróm the

S2
S3

A2
A3

T2
T3

B2
B3

S4
A1

— av reg-net som rin-ner ö-ver dig, blank — av reg-net som rin-ner ö-ver dig,
dig, blank av reg-net som rin-ner ö-ver dig, blank av reg-net som rin-ner ö-ver

T4
B1

rin-ner ö-ver dig, blank — av reg-net som rin-ner ö-ver dig, blank — av reg-net som
reg-net som rin-ner ö-ver dig, blank av reg-net som rin-ner ö-ver dig, blank av

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SAMPLE

27

S1
A4

T1
B4

rain _____

ff The sum-mer rain falls on

rain _____

ff The sum-mer rain falls on

S2
S3

f

A2
A3

f

T2
T3

f

B2
B3

f

S4
A1

dig,

ff Som - mar-regn, som - mar-regn,

T4
B1

rin-ner ö-ver dig,
reg-net som rin-ner ö-ver dig,

ff Som - mar-regn, som - mar-regn,

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SAMPLE

DO NOT PRINT

31

S1
A4

gra-vel, on an o-ver-turned car-riage, and on a cop-per roof now

T1
B4

gra-vel, on an o-ver-turned car-riage, and on a cop-per roof now

S2
S3

A2
A3

T2
T3

B2
B3

S4
A1

i gru-set, en om-kull-vält dock - vagn, som - mar-regn i

T4
B1

i gru-set, en om-kull-vält dock - vagn, som - mar-regn i

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SAMPLE

DO NOT PRINT

35

S1
A4

green... now green...

T1
B4

green... now green...

S2
S3

A2
A3

T2
T3

B2
B3

S4
A1

gru - - - set, som - mar-regn, som - mar-regn, en om-kull-vält

T4
B1

gru - - - set, som - mar-regn, som - mar-regn, en om-kull-vält

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SAMPLE

39

S1
A4

T1
B4

f the sum-mer rain

f the sum-mer rain

S2
S3

mf

A2
A3

mf

T2
T3

mf

B2
B3

mf

S4
A1

dock - vagn, — *f* är - gat koppar-tak, är - gat koppar-tak, *mf* är - gat koppar-tak,

T4
B1

dock - vagn, — *f* är - gat koppar-tak, är - gat koppar-tak, *mf* är - gat koppar-tak,

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