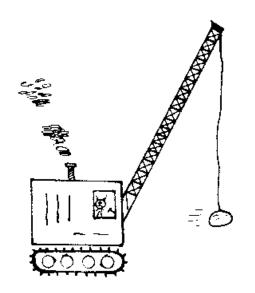
Crane Songs

by Samuel Pellman



(1)

There were many who went in huddled procession, They knew not whither; But, at any rate, success or calamity Would attend all in equality.

There was one who sought a new road. He went into direful thickets, And ultimately he died thus, alone; But they said he had courage.

3)

I saw a man pursuing the horizon; Round and round they sped. I was disturbed at this; I accosted the man. "It is futile," I said, "You can never—"

"You lie," he cried, And ran on.

poems by STEPHEN CRANE

2)

Many workmen Built a huge ball of masonry Upon a mountain-top. Then they went to the valley below, And turned to behold their work. "It is grand," they said; They loved the thing.

Of a sudden, it moved: It came upon them swiftly; It crushed them all to blood. But some had opportunity to squeal.

4)

When a people reach the top of a hill, Then does God lean toward them, Shortens tongues and lengthens arms. A vision of their dead comes to the weak. The moon shall not be too old Before the new battalions rise, Blue battalions. The moon shall not be too old When the children of change shall fall Before the new battalions, The blue battalions.

Mistakes and virtues will be trampled deep. A church and a thief shall fall together. A sword will come at the bidding of the eyeless, The God-led, turning only to beckon, Swinging a creed like a censer At the head of the new battalions, Blue battalions. March the tools of nature's impulse, Men born of wrong, men born of right, Men of the new battalions, The blue battalions.

The clang of swords is Thy wisdom, The wounded make gestures like Thy Son's The feet of mad horses is one part— Ay, another is the hand of a mother on the brow of a youth. Then, swift as they charge through a shadow, The men of the new battalions, Blue battalions— God lead them high, God lead them far, God lead them far, God lead them high, These new battalions, The blue battalions.

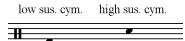
INSTRUMENTATION

flute (also piccolo) clarinet in Bb violin percussion vibraphone 3 tom-toms:



2 crotales:

2 suspended cymbals (low and high):



large tam-tam:



piano soprano

PROGRAM NOTE

<u>Crane Songs</u> was commissioned by the Syracuse Society for New Music for its 1983–84 season. It sets four poems by Stephen Crane. The texts of the first three songs are to be found in <u>The Black</u> <u>Riders and Other Lines</u> (Crane's first book of poetry, published in 1895). The text of the fourth song appeared separately.

This work is dedicated to Neva Pilgrim and the Society for New Music.

Total duration: 11' 15"

<u>Crane Songs</u> has been recorded by Neva Pilgrim and the Syracuse Society for New Music, and is available on Innova Records, release # 616.

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