

*Pour le voix de Cyrille Dubois
et le piano de Tristan Ræs*

TROIS POÈMES DE PABLO NERUDA

RÉGLÉES PAR
MICHÆL MAXWELL STEER
MAI 2024

MICHÆL MAXWELL STEER
125 DUCK ST TISBURY SP3 6LJ
M@MSTEER.CO.UK
[HTTP://UK.YOUTUBE.COM/MAXWELLSTEER](http://uk.youtube.com/maxwellsteer)

TROIS POÈMES DE PABLO NERUDA

I encountered these poems because I wanted to read *Il Postino* and Neruda's poetry was offered alongside it. Never having read, let alone set, Spanish before I was intrigued. I had recently been introduced to the divine voice of Cyrille Dubois thanks to BBCr3, and it seemed the ideal sound with which to imagine this poetry sung.

No sólo es luz que cae
Sobre el mundo
La que alarga en tu cuerpo
Su nieve sofocada,
Sino que se desprende
De ti claridad como si fuera
Encendida por dentro.
Debajo de tu piel vive la luna

It is not only the light that falls
Over the world,
Spreading within your body
Its suffocating snow,
So much as clarity
Taking its leave of you
As if you were on fire within.
The moon lives under the surface of your skin.

FABULA DE LA SIRENA Y LOS BORRACHOS

Todos estos señores estaban dentro
Cuando ella entró completamente desnuda
Ellos habían bebido y comenzaron a escupirla
Ello no entendía nada recién salía del río
Era una sirena que se había extraviado
Los insultos corrían sobre su carne lisa
La inmundicia cubrió sus pechos de oro
Ella no sabía llorar pereso no se vestía
La tatuaron con cigarrillos y con corchos quemados
Y reían hasta caer al suelo de la taberna
Ella no hablaba porque no sabía hablar
Sus ojos eran color de amor distante
Sus brazos contruídos de tapacios gemelos
Sus labios se cortaron en la luz del coral
Y de pronto salió por esa puerta
Apenas entró al río quedó limpia
Relució como una piedra blanca en la lluvia
Y sin mirar atrás nadó de nuevo
Nadó hacia nunca más hacia morir.

THE LEGEND OF THE MERMAID & THE DRUNKS

There were all these guys inside
when she entered utterly naked.
They had been drinking and began to spit at her.
She had just emerged from the river and understood
nothing. She was a mermaid who had lost her way.
The taunts flowed over her glistening flesh,
Obscenities drenched her golden breasts.
She did not know tears, she did not know clothes.
They branded her with cigarettes and burnt corks
And rolled on the bar floor in raucous laughter.
She said nothing because speech was unknown to her.
Her eyes were the colour of far away love,
Her arms were matching topaz.
Her lips moved soundlessly in the coral light.
And then she simply left by the same door.
No sooner had she entered the river than she was cleansed
Gleaming once more like a white stone in the rain;
And without a backward glance she swam again,
Swam towards oblivion, swam to her dying.

INCLINADO EN LAS TARDES ...

Inclinado en las tardes tiro mis tristes redes
A tus ojos oceánicos.
Allí se estira y arde en la más alta hoguera
Mi soledad que da vueltas los brazos como
un naufrago.
Hago rojas señales sobre tus ojos ausentes
Que oleen como el mar a la orilla de un faro.
Sólo guardas tinieblas, hembra distante y mía,
De tu mirada emerge a veces la costa del espanto.
Inclinado en las tardes tiro mis tristes redes
A tus ojos oceánicos.
Los pájaros nocturnos picotean las primeras estrellas
Que centellean como mi alma cuando te amo.
Galopa la noche en su yegua sombría
Desparramando espigas azules sobre el campo.

LEANING INTO THE AFTERNOONS ...

Leaning into the afternoon I cast my sad nets
Towards your oceanic eyes.
There in a flame my solitude grows and burns,
Arms flailing like a drowning man's
I send out red signals before your vacant eyes
That waver like sea haze on a beach near a lighthouse.
You retain your dark mystery, woman distant yet mine:
In your gaze there sometimes a dangerous uncertainty.
Leaning into the afternoon I cast my sad nets
Towards your oceanic eyes.
The night birds peck at the first stars
That flash like my soul when I love you.
The night gallops onward on its shadowy mare
Spreading blue sparkles all over the land.

NO SÓLO
PABLO NERUDA
MICHAEL MAXWELL STEER

music 10/5/24

1 *Lyrally*

8 No só- lo es luz que
It's not only the light that falls all over the world

1 *p* =93

Red.

6 cae so- bre el mun- do

6

11 la que a- lar- ga en tu
spreading inside your body like suffocating snow

11 *fp*

15 *< ... molto trattenuto ... >*

8 cuer- po su nie- ve so- fo- ca- da,

15

19

8 si- no que se des- pren- de

so much as your clarity, when it departs,

19

22 *f*

8 ti la clar- i- dad co- mo si fuer- as en-

22 *f*

Leg. *

26

8 cen- di- da por den- tro.

leaving you on fire within

26

Leg. * *Leg.* * *Leg.* * *Leg.* *

31

8

De- ba- jo de tu

Within your skin lives the light of the moon.

31

p

Red.

35

8

piel vi- ve la lu- na.

35

** Red.*

** Red.*

FABULA DE LA SIRENA Y LOS BORRACHOS

The Story of the Siren & the Drunks

PABLO NERUDA

MICHAEL MAXWELL STEER

music 12-18/5/2024

1 *dark*

8 Tod- os est- os seña- or- es seña- or- es est- a- ban den- tro

All the blokes were inside

1 =61 *dark*

poco f

5 *light*

8 cuan- do ell- a ent- ró com- plet- a-

when she entered completely naked

gently glistening

pp

mf

* *Led.* *

8 *<... allarg ...>*

8 men- te des- nu- da

pp ppp

* *Led.* (una)

10 *dark*

8 ell- os hab- í- an be- bi- do y com-

They had all been drinking and began to spit on her

10 *dark*

poco f *tre*

12

8 enz- ar- on a es- cup- ir- la

12

14 *light*

8 ell- a no en- tend- i- a na- da re- cien

silverado she understood nothing having recently emerged from the river

14 *pp* *8va* *mp* *LH cresc* ** Led.*

16

8 sa- li- a

16

17
8 del rio

17
8

* *Led.*

18
8 er- a un- a sir-
she was a mermaid who had strayed from her natural habitat

18
8 *pp* *leggiss* 3

19
8 en- a que se hab-
< ... allarg ... >

19
8 *f* *non f* *LH dim*

* *Led.*

21
8 ía ex- tra- vi- a- do

21
8 *f* *sonore* *p*

* *Led.* *

24 *dark*
 los in- sult- os corr í- an so- bre su
 The jeers flowed across her glistening flesh

24 *m legato*
m staccato
Led. *

27 *dolciss*
 car- ne li- sa

27 *mf*
Led.

29 la in- mun- di- cia
 obscenities covered her golden breasts

29 *f*
sonore
molto cresc

32 cu- bri- ó sus pech- os di or- o

32 *dolciss*
sub mp ma sonore
mp
Led.

35

8

35

ppp

aggressively

ff

una

tre

37

8

emotionally

ff

el- la no sab- í a llor ar

a stranger to tears she did not weep

37

dreamily

f

ff

39

8

per es- o no

39

12/8

12/8

40

8

llor- ra- ba

40

12/8

fff

3

3

3

41 *ff ma lontano*

no

43

sa- bí- a vest- ir- se por

a stranger to clothes she did not cover herself

43 *languidly*

fierce *fff*

una

45

es- o no se vest- í- a

45

tre

47

ff

la

47

48

ta- tu- ar- on con cig- ar- ill- os
they stubbed out their cigarettes on her and burnt her with corks

48

mf intenso

49

y

49

mf intenso

51

con cor- chos que- ma- dos

51

ff

8va bassa

52

y re- í- an has- ta ca-
and rolled on the bar floor in coarse laughter

52

poco f

sfp

mp

8va bassa

54 *Much slower*

er de la tab-er-na

54 $\text{♩} = 51$ *poco f*

57

57

59 *poco f*

ell- a no hab- lab- a no sab- í- a hab-

she did not speak as she had no voice

59 *dolce* *mf*

Red.

61 *expansively* *cresc*

lar sus oj- os er- an

her eyes were the colour of far-away love

61 *p* **Red.*

64
8
col- or de am- or dis- tan- te

64
8
fp
Red.

67
8
sus braz- os con- stru- í dos
her arms were made of twin topazes

67
8
mfz
*

70
8
de top- a- ci- os gem- el- os

70
8
*

72
8
su lab- ios se cort- ar- on
her lips moved silently, the colour of coral

72
8
murmurando
Red.

75

en la luz del cor- al

75

9/8

9/8

9/8

78

Halfway to Tempo 1

y de pron-to sal- i- ó sal- i- ó por es- a

then she left by the same door she had entered

78

9/8

9/8

9/8

poco f

♩. = 54

82

light

puer- ta a- pen- as en- tró al ri- o

hardly had she entered the river than she was cleansed

82

9/8

9/8

9/8

pp

mf

** Led.*

85

ri- o que- dó lim- pi-

85

9/8

9/8

9/8

f

** Led.*

** ... allarg ... >*

87 Slower

a

87 pp ppp pp $\text{♩} = 50$

led. una tre

89

rel- u- ci- ó co- mo una

gleaming once more like a white stone in the rain

89

91

pie- dra blan- ca

91

93 Slower

blanc- ca in la llu-

93 pp $\text{♩} = 47$

una led. **led.* **led.* **led.*

95

vi- a y sin mir-

95

ppp

Red. *Red.* *Red.* (tre) *Red.* *

98

ar at- rás na- dó de nue- vo

she swam away without a backward glance, and as she swam she was reborn

98

Red. * *Red.* * *Red.* *

101 Slower

na- dó ha- ci- a nun- ca mas

swimming towards oblivion, towards her death

101 = 40

pppp

(una)

103

ha- ci- a mor- ir.

103

INCLINADO EN LAS TARDES ...

Leaning into the afternoons

PABLO NERUDA

MICHAEL MAXWELL STEER

music 19/5/24

1 *Moodily*

Each bar molto rubato (,) *Improvisatory* (,) *sempre*

In- clin- a-

Led.

6

do en las tar- des ti- ro mis tris-

Leaning into the afternoons I cast my sad nets at your oceanic eyes

10

tes red- es a tus oj- os o- ce- án- i- cos.

15

8

All- í

Eqsh bar molto rubato (,) *sempre*

Red.

20

8

se est- i- ra y ar- de en la más al to

There stretched out in solitude my most passionate blaze burns

20

24

8

ho- guer- a mi sol- e- dad que da

< ...trattenuto ...>

24

28

8

Molto allarg

vuel- tas los bra- zos

my arms wave like a drowning man's

28

molto dolce

Red.

30

co- mo un náu- fra- go

< ...trattenuto ...>

32

Each bar molto rubato

pp

una

Red.

36

Ha- go ro- jas se ñ- al- es so- bre tus oj- os

I send out red alerts before your vacant eyes

ppp

Red.

40

au- sen- tes

ppp

44

que ol- e- an co- mo el mar a la or- ill- a de un far- o
that shimmer in the sea haze like the beach beside a lighthouse

44

Red.

49

Só- lo
But you hold in your darkness

49

blurred

pp

Red. 3

54

guard- as tin- i- e- blas,

54

57

hem- bra dis- tant- e y mí- a,
woman both remote yet my own

57

60 *cresc*

de tu mi-ra-da

From your gaze sometimes the coast turns to shadow

60 *poco cresc*

63

em-er-ge a ve-cos-la cos-ta

63 *cresc molto*

66 *f*

del es-pan-to

66 *molto ritenuto*

68

68 *ff rhetorically*

70

70

Led. **Led.* **Led.* **Led.* **Led.*

73 *Moodily*

♩ = 104

Each bar molto rubato

In- clin- a-

Led.

78

do en las tar- des ti- ro mis tris-

Leaning into the afternoons I cast my sad nets at your oceanic eyes

78

82

tes red- es a tus oj- os o- ce- án- i- cos.

82

87

Los pa-

Eggh bar molto rubato

Led.

91

jar- es noc- turn- os pi- co- te- an la

The night birds peck at the first stars

91

95

pri- mer- as es- trell- as que cen-tell- e-

creating a flash like that in my soul when I love you

95

99

< ...trattenuto ... >

Molto allarg

an co- mo mi al-

$\text{♩} = 80$

molto dolce

99

Led.

102

ma quan- do te am- o.

♩ = 58

Leo. * *Leo.* *

105 Very tranquil

♩ = 74

105 *pp*

Leo. 3

107 Animando

Gal- o- pa la no- che

The night galops on its shadowy mare

mf *f*

Leo. *

109

en su

Leo. * *Leo.* * *Leo.* *

Allargando

110

ye- gua som-

sub dim solo

Led. *Led. *Led. *

111

bri- a

111

3

Led. *Led. *Led. *

Allarg molto

112

ff

112

ff

Led. *Led. *Led.

Moodily

113

des- parr- a- man- do es- pi- gas

showering blue sparkles over the landscape

Each bar molto rubato, *Improvisatory*

90

Led.

117

8 az- ul- es

117

Red.

119

8 sob- re il camp- o.

119

120

8

120

Red.