

Haiku poems by  
Robert Gibson

from "Children of the Sparrow"  
for Reciter, Flute and Piano  
I. Warm rain haiku

Music by  
Richard St. Clair  
(2000)

1.  $\text{♩} = 78$

*mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

days lengthen  
backyard mudpuddles  
hold the sunset

*f* *sf* *p* *f* *p* *f*

*sfz*

*Ped.*

2.  $\text{♩} = 88$

Flutter-tongue

*p* *sf ff* *mp*

spring storm  
sandpipers feed close  
to the breaking waves

*mp* *f* *p*

3.  $\text{♩} = 64$

*sf* *sf* *p* *pp* *p* *sf* *p* *pp*

Fl-t.

sparrow chirping  
a puff of vapor drifts  
with each note

*sf* *p* *pp*

4.  $\text{♩} = 84$

*fp fp fp mp*

mudpuddle  
countless  
raindrop rings

*mp fp fp fp*

*mf mp pp*

*p Bra---*

5.  $\text{♩} = 106$

backyard dusk  
possum sniffs for snails  
in the wet grass

*mp sempre, e legato*

6.  $\text{♩} = 60$

*f sf sff*

awakened  
by the first thunder  
of spring

chromatic *sff*  
tone-cluster

*sf*

inside piano,  
hand-size cluster

*l.v. al silencio*

*Ped. Bra---*

2.

*~ (Ped.) ~ Bra---*

\*

$\text{♩} = 94$

7.

$p < f > p$   $< f > p$

the sky  
after the spring storm  
the sky ah

$p < f > p < mf > ppfp < f$  quick, disappearing  $ppp$

$mp$

$\text{♩} = 72$

II. Tree Swallow Haiku

1.

the heat the heat  
thunder and lightning  
without rain

$mf$   $sf$

$mp$   $f$   $p$

$(p)$   $mf$   $pp$

con Ped.

$\text{♩} = 88$

2.

$mp$   $mf$   $pp$

trance

a lone crow  
hurries across  
the wide summer sky

$pp$  senza vib.  $ppp$

3.  $\text{♩} = 76$

summer wind  
shadows dance  
under the oak

4.  $\text{♩} = 69$  Fl.-t.

the heat the heat  
a haze blurs  
the mountain

5.

the boy  
points and shouts an eagle  
an eagle

6.  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 72$

summer sea  
winter storms

*mp* *f* *mp*  
*colla parte*

*f* *ff* *f*

a dream

Fl.  $\text{♩} = 118$

*p* *f* *mf* *ff* *sffz*

I know  
a bird's life isn't easy  
but still...

### III. Wild Geese Haiku

1.  $\text{♩} = 100$  *tranne*

foggy night  
fallen leaves muffle  
our footsteps

*p sempre, senza vib.*

*una corda*

Fl.  $\text{♩} = 68$

tre corde *p*

misty rain  
a lone sparrow hops about  
the bare apple tree

*una corda pp*

5.

3.  $\text{♩} = 56$

*mp* < *ff*  $\rightrightarrows$

brightness  
of the autumn moon drives  
the stars from sight

*tre corde* *p*

*Ped.*

*mp* > *p*

*Ped.* \*

4.

*p sempre*

$\text{♩} = 96$  *p sempre*

cold rain  
drums on earth and roof  
alike

5.

*Fl. +.*

*sf ff*

$\text{♩} = 62$

*8va*

*una corda* *pp* (*l.vib.*)

*Ped.*

nothing  
but cloud and fog and yet  
the honking of geese

*sf ff* *sf*

\*



♩ = 60

6.

for a moment  
i sit the fat october moon  
on a pine tree

tre  
corde

Ped.

♩ = 120

7.

for just a breath

the autumn leaves sail free  
on sunlit wind

8va

♩ = 70

Fl.-t.

IV. Snow and Ice Haiku

1.

ff vigoroso

february storm

four small lights moving  
at sea

norm.

mf < sf

f < sf

p — pp

pp



Fl. 3.

$\text{♩} = 54$   
lunga

$p \text{ } \text{mf} \text{ } p$  winter afternoon

$\text{sf } p \text{ } f \text{ } p$  cows rest

$\text{sf } \text{fp} \text{ } pp$  on frozen grass

Fl.-t.

8.



5.  $\text{♩} = 84$

sun in moonlight  
and the frozen shadow  
of a leafless tree

*mp* *f p*

6.  $\text{♩} = 74$

winter thaw

in my neighbor's yard  
a snowman wastes away

*mp* *f p* *mf* *mp* *lunga*

7.  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 102$

blue winter sky!

in a bare tree sparrows  
warm in the sunshine

*mf* *sfp* *mf* *f* *mf* *pp* *lunga*

*mf* *f*

*mp* *mf*

*Ped.* \*