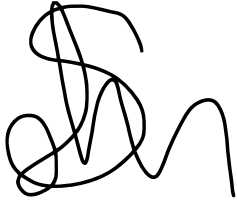


NICKY SOHN



DRAFTS OF A LOVE LETTER

FOR GUITAR

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(2023)

Instrumentation

Guitar

Duration - ca. 11 minutes

“Drafts of a Love Letter” is a collection of miniatures written for solo guitar. The work was commissioned by TMTA (Texas Music Teachers Association) and written for Jiji. The three movements, “Love Poem After the Monsoons”, “Poem Written and Read Before Morning”, and “Love Sleep”, are primarily based on three poems of the same title, written by my brother, Justin Son.

Love can be a sad business that is never resolving nor peaceful. Likewise, these poems hold an endearing, loving voice, that nonetheless sounds like it has failed to reach its lover at the other end. By acknowledging the passing of a season, attempting to defy a coming sunrise, or encouraging a disheartened lover to rest, the poem begins to resemble intimate, unfinished love letters or incomplete romantic gestures to someone specific. Interestingly, however, it feels hesitant, bashful, and even lonely.

Some of my recent pieces, such as “The Last Smile of Love” and “Moonlight and Scooter” are also works that deal with the idea of love, which, though rapturous and intense, have an unshakable sense of longing. These feelings are often dusted away before they are vocalized—they are simply left as drafts of a love letter.

Love Poem After the Monsoons

Every night after the crickets have drowned
there has been something to be heard
from the quiet of the passing
of our first summer and all the many sweeter
winds that start to blow alongside
my growing fondness for you.

Poem Written and Read Before Morning

Where we have met under always
the moon a thin lip of
lemon rind slipped over
a glass too full
Caught you undressing
this body with your late summer
eyes and this light
air dividing into cool and cooler
I try hard to get it
to stop and trying to stop to
be before this coming morning for a while

Love Sleep

Life long with so many chances
of being busy and few nights
of good rest. Always ways to keep
pain from being something new.
Our little lenses fit these big
definitions together in specks,
incomprehensibly.
Sleep now my
love sleep.

Commissioned by Texas Music Teachers Association and written for Jiji

Love Poem After the Monsoons

Nicky Sohn

a tempo

♩ = 60

Slowly from the bottom

rubato

p *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *ff* *p* *f*

Commissioned by Texas Music Teachers Association and written for Jiji
Poem Written and Read Before Morning

Nicky Sohn

♩ = 66

p *f* *pp*

p *f* *pp*

f *p* *f*

p *f* *pp*

p *f*

p *rubato* *a tempo* *f*

p

f *p*

f *p*