

Ellen Ruth Harrison

Lost Time

Ellen Ruth Harrison

Lost Time

for Soprano and two Mezzo-sopranos

Is It Not It Is
Here I Am

Texts from Track by Norman Finkelstein

The poet Norman Finkelstein once told me that he is a Romantic modernist. I believe this holds true for me as well, which may explain why I find his poetry so inspiring. When I read his work, I feel transported onto another plane or into another world. And in this other world I find the inspiration for my music. The rhythm of his poems, their haunting imagery, and their sense of mystery and magic spark my imagination; musical ideas flow forth from me in response.

Lost Time sets four segments from Finkelstein's poem *Track*, a spellbinding work of great depth, wisdom, and imagination that explores the darkness surrounding us. I am fascinated by its evocative images and musical sensibility, and have tried to reflect the magical, mysterious, and melancholy quality of his poem in my work.

Lost Time was commissioned by Cincinnati Soundbox in 2019 for a concert featuring three extraordinary singers: Jackie Stevens, Lauren McAllister, and Ellen Graham. My heartfelt thanks go to Norman Finkelstein for giving me permission to set these texts and to Cincinnati Soundbox for asking me to write this work.

Duration: circa 9 minutes
ellenruthharrison.com
ellen.harrison@uc.edu

LOST TIME

1. Is It Not It Is

Among the paper trees
a figure glides and stops

Shimmers in a light
that is a sort of music

Turns toward
or away from home.

#

IS IT NOT IT IS

Older than the world
and apart from it.

Younger than the next moment
the next moment.

Fold after fold
one comes to her
fold after fold.

Fold after fold
one comes to her
fold.

Fold after fold
one comes
to rest.

2. Here I Am

Here I am
said the ghost in the collage
I've been here before

I've been there before
and I wasn't there
said the ghost of the collage.

#

Come May
lost daughter
lost sister

Lost time
never having left
that other world

Remains here
in limbo
with flowers in her hair.

-- Norman Finkelstein

Lost Time

Is It Not It Is

Norman Finkelstein

Ellen Ruth Harrison (2019)

♩ = 80, quietly sad and mysterious

Soprano

Mezzo

Mezzo

p *mp* *p*

A-mong the pa-per trees___ a fi-gure glides and stops___

5

mf *mp*

shim-mers in a light that is a sort of music___ turns toward or a - way_

11

p *p* *p*

Old - er___ than the world___ and___ Old___ old - er than the ___ from home___

a - part from it. Old - der

world old and a - part from it. Old

Old

— than the world and a - part from

old old - er than the world old and a -

— old old and a - part

it. Old - - - der than the world

part from it. Old old

— from it. Old-er than the world old-er than the world

28

and a - part from it.

old and a - part a - part from it

old-er than the world and a-part from it.

32

Is it not_ it is Is it not_ it is Is it not_ a-part from it.

Is it not_ it is Is it not_ it is Is it not_ a-part from it.

Is it not_ it is Is it not_ it is Is it not_ a-part from it.

36

Old - der than the world Old - der than the world

Old old Old old

Old old Old old - - der

4

40

p Old_ a - part old and a - part from it Old_ a - part

mp Old - er_ than the world and a - part from it Old - er_ than the

p Old_ a - part old_ a - part Old_ a - part

43

old and a - part from it Old and a - part from it_ Young - er than the

world and a - part from it old and a - part from it_ Young_

old_ a - part and a - part from it_ Young -

46

next mo - ment_ the next mo - ment_

young - - - er than the next_ mo - ment

- ger than the next mo - ment_ the mo - ment_

49 *mp* *mf*

Young - er than the next mo - ment _____ the next mo - ment _____ mo - ment

p *mp* *mf* *mp*

Young _____ young - - er than the next mo - ment _____

mf *mp*

Young - ger than the next mo - ment _____ next mo - ment _____

53 *mp*

Fold _____ af - ter fold fold _____ af - ter fold Fold _____ af - ter

Fold _____ af - ter fold _____ af - ter fold _____ af - ter fold _____ Fold _____ af - ter

Fold _____ af - ter fold fold _____ af - ter fold Fold _____ af - ter

58 *mf* *mp*

fold _____ one comes to her fold. _____ Fold _____ af - ter fold one

mf *mp*

fold one comes to her fold af - ter fold. _____ Fold _____ af - ter fold one

mf *mp*

fold one comes to her fold. _____ af - ter fold _____ af - ter fold one

64 *mf* *mp* *p* *poco rit.* . . .

comes to her fold. Fold after fold one comes to

comes to her fold. Fold after fold one comes to

comes to her fold. Fold after fold one comes to

69 ♩ = 76 *mp*

rest to rest. Is it not It is It

Is it not it is Is it not Is it not it is Is it

rest. to rest Is it not It is It

73 *mf* *mp* *p* *mp*

is not Young - er than the next mo - ment

not mo -

is not Young - ger than the next mo - ment

78

— the next mo - ment — Young - er than the next —

ment — Young —

Young —

mp *mf* *p* *mf*

82

Is it not_ it is_ Is it not_ it is_ Is it not it_

Is it_ not_ it is_ Is it_ not_ it is_ Is it not it_

Is it not_ it is_ Is it not_ it is_ Is it not it_

mp *mf* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

87

— is —

— is — Is it — Is it —

— Is it not it — is — a sort of mu - sic —

p *p* *mp* *p*

8

92

p
Is it not Is it not it is It is

Is it not It is

It is

96

pp
Is it Is it not it is

pp
Is it Is it not it is

pp
Is it Is it is

attacca

Here I Am

♩ = 88, joyful and radiant

The first system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is the vocal line, starting with a whole rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note F4, and a quarter note E4. The middle staff is the piano accompaniment, starting with a whole rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a quarter note E4. The bottom staff is the bass line, starting with a whole rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a quarter note E4. The lyrics are: "I am Here I am".

The second system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is the vocal line, starting with a half note G4, a quarter note F4, and a quarter note E4. The middle staff is the piano accompaniment, starting with a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a quarter note E4. The bottom staff is the bass line, starting with a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a quarter note E4. The lyrics are: "I am Here I am Here I am Here I".

The third system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is the vocal line, starting with a half note G4, a quarter note F4, and a quarter note E4. The middle staff is the piano accompaniment, starting with a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a quarter note E4. The bottom staff is the bass line, starting with a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a quarter note E4. The lyrics are: "am Here I am Here I am said the ghost in the collage I I am I".

10
13

p $\text{♩} = 88, \text{joyful and radiant}$ *mf*

am I

am said the ghost in the col - lage I

am Here I am

17

$\text{♩} = 80, \text{darker}$

am I am Here I am

am I am I am said the ghost in the col -

Here I am I am

21

mp *p*

Here I am

lage I am said the ghost in the col - lage

I am

24

mp I've been here be- fore _____ *p* I've been there be -

_____ *p* *mp* I am _____ *p* I've been there _____

_____ *p* *mp* Here I am _____ *p* I've been

28

fore _____ *mp* I've been here be - fore _____

_____ be - fore _____

there be - fore _____ *mp* Here I

32

_____ *p* I've been there be - fore _____

_____ *mp* I am _____ *p* I've been there be -

_____ *p* I've been here be - fore _____

Sorrowful

mp

and I was-n't there and I was-n't
fore _____ and I was-n't there
mp
— be - fore and I was-n't there and I was-n't

41

mf *mf* *f*

there_ and I was - n't there_____
mf *f*
I was - n't there_____ said the ghost of the col -
mf *mf* *f*
there and I was - n't there_____

44

mf *mp*

— was - n't there_____ *mp*
mf
lage was - n't there said the ghost of the col - lage_____
mf *mp*
— was - n't there_____

47

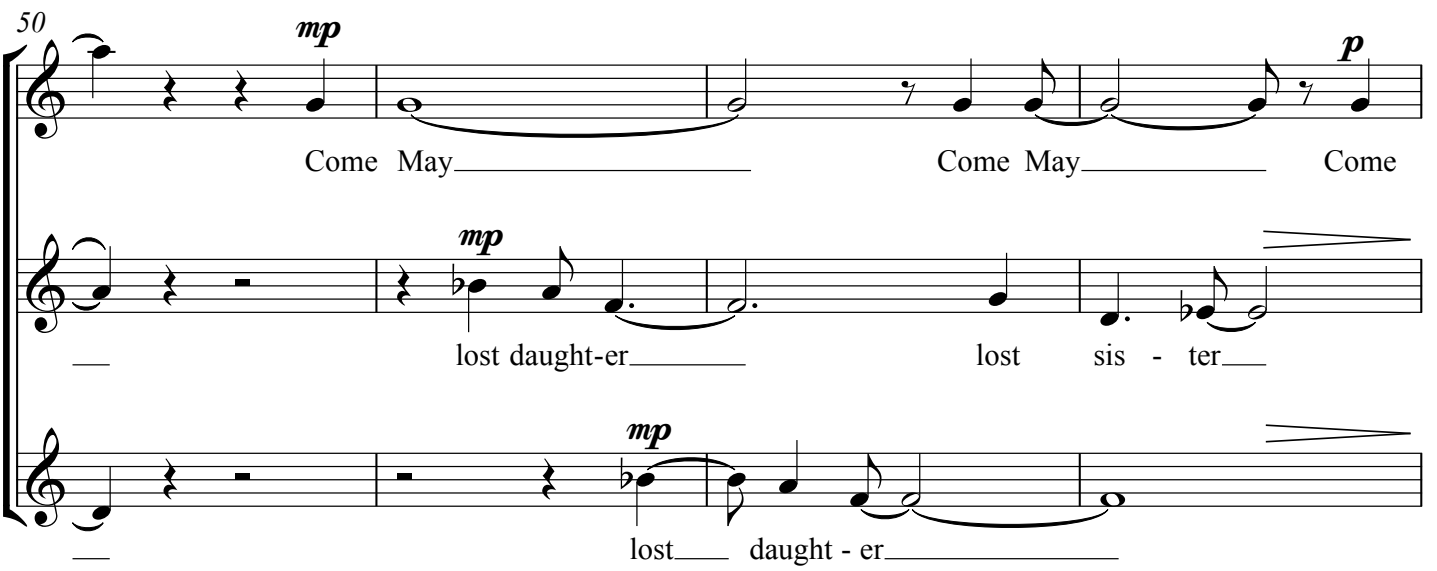


p was - n't there *mf* was - n't *f* there

p was - n't there *mf* was - n't *f* there

p was - n't there *mf* was - n't *f* there

50

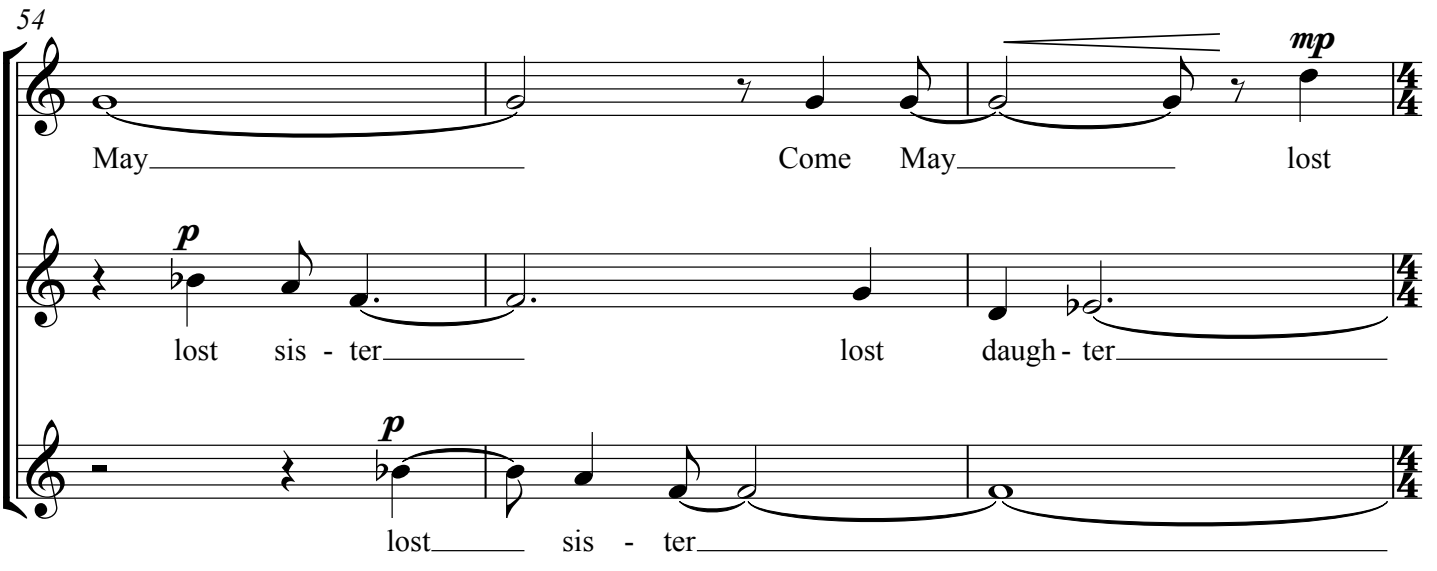


mp Come May *p* Come May Come

mp lost daught-er lost sis - ter

mp lost daught - er

54



mp May Come May *mp* lost

p lost sis - ter lost daugh - ter

p lost sis - ter

14
57

Meno mosso ♩ = 76

Musical score for measures 57-59. The score consists of three staves. The first staff is the vocal line with lyrics: "sis - ter _____ Lost time _____ lost time". The second and third staves are piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present above the first staff. The music features a melodic line in the vocal part and a more rhythmic accompaniment in the piano parts.

Musical score for measures 60-62. The score consists of three staves. The first staff is the vocal line with lyrics: "lost time _____ lost". The second and third staves are piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. Dynamic markings of *f*, *mp*, and *p* are present above the staves. The music continues with the vocal line and piano accompaniment.

Musical score for measures 63-65. The score consists of three staves. The first staff is the vocal line with lyrics: "time _____ lost _____ lost _____". The second and third staves are piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. Dynamic markings of *p* and *mp* are present. The music features triplets in the piano accompaniment. The lyrics continue: "world Re - mains here in lim - bo _____ with flow - ers in her".

66

was - n't there

was - n't there

p

hair and I was - n't there said the ghost of the col -

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 66, 67, and 68. It features three staves. The top two staves are vocal lines with lyrics 'was - n't there'. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The lyrics 'hair and I was - n't there said the ghost of the col -' are positioned below the piano staff. Measure 66 has a vocal line with a dotted quarter note and a half note. Measure 67 has a vocal line with a dotted quarter note and a half note. Measure 68 has a vocal line with a dotted quarter note and a half note, and a piano accompaniment with a quarter note, eighth notes, and a quarter note.

69

rit. - - - - -

said the ghost of the col - lage

lage

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 69, 70, and 71. It features three staves. The top staff has a vocal line with a dotted half note and a whole note, marked with a *rit.* (ritardando) and a dashed line. The middle staff has a vocal line with lyrics 'said the ghost of the col - lage'. The bottom staff has a piano accompaniment with a dotted half note and a whole note. The lyrics 'lage' are positioned below the piano staff. Measure 69 has a vocal line with a dotted half note and a whole note. Measure 70 has a vocal line with a dotted half note and a whole note. Measure 71 has a vocal line with a dotted half note and a whole note.