

This Is That

Medium voice and piano

Duration ca. 4'

MUSIC BY

Katerina Gimon

WORDS BY

Coreen Philley



This Is That

I want to be poetic/ words tripping off my tongue
Beauty in my parentheses
Silent periods of grace
But instead I am this

I want to be forgiving, lightness flowing across my face
Like a light breeze on a May weekend
Heart open, head up
But instead I am this

This is not that
It is something other
Something coated in a greasy film
My legs quivering from shoes too tight
And tired I stand
I can't wash off my rough and ready hands

I want to be clean
I want to be a newly minted something
But still I am this
Always I am this
And then it's just this

This is not that
It cannot be named accurately
Imprecisely creeping along the edge of consciousness.

And I wonder
Ever
Always
How much of this is because of what you did to me

In ways that were unpoetic, unforgiven, unenlightened, and unclean
This is that
Worn upon my sleeve.

Program note

This Is That a plaintive and compassionate 'what if' to what might have been without the life scars that capture us all. I always imagine myself and others to be riding parallel lines of existences — those which we live and those which we once hoped we would live or perhaps at least be in. We are taught that all the experiences of our lives add up to the complex, complicated, interesting empathetic individuals — basically that there are no wasted experiences. On our good days I think we can all believe that to be true. However, I know it's important to acknowledge with poignancy and grace what could have been and who we could have been — to honour that part of ourselves that longs for peace, for ourselves and others. *This is That* is a song of grief and of a reckoning with the sadness of the past. Albeit, with the potential for some hope — if you read between the lines.

— Coreen Philley

Performance note

The 'vocal' part for the pianist may be performed as written, or at the octave below (this line functions, as a sort of 'inner voice' of the speaker).

This Is That

Coreen Philley

Katerina Gimon

$\text{♩} = 100$

mf

1

p *mf* *p* *mf*

5

p *mf*

want to be po - e - tic/ (want to be) words trip - ping, trip - ping, trip - ping off my

simile

8

p *mf* *mp*

(♩ = ♩ always)

tongue trip - ping, (trip - ping) Beau - ty in my par - en - the - ses Si - lent pe - ri - ods of

loud whisper, percussive *mf* (♩ = ♩ always)

Pno. Voice

trip - ping, trip - ping,

mp

3

ad lib →

This Is That

13

n *mp*

— grace — [s] But in- stead I am — this

p *mf*

(Ped. ad lib) → (Ped.) ←

17

f **A**

I want to be for- gi- ving

Pno. Voice *f*

for - gi- ving

21

mp *f*

(want to be) light- ness flow- ing, flow- ing, flow - ing, a- cross my face, flow- ing, (flow -

mp loud whisper *mf*

Pno. Voice (want to be) flow - ing, flow - ing,

This Is That

25 *mp* *mf*

- ing), Like a light breeze on a May week - end Heart o - pen, head

Pno. Voice

(flow - ing),

mp *mf*

And. ad lib →

29 *rit.* *f* *a tempo*

up! But in - stead I am this...

rit. *a tempo* *f*

(And. ad lib) → *(And.)* ←

33 **B** *f*

This is not that

sfz

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The score will continue on the following page.

This Is That

48 *ff* *rit.* *pp*

rough and read-y hands _____ I want to be

(*Ad. ad lib*) →

C *a tempo* *mp* *pp* *mf*

clean _____ [n] I want to be a new-ly mint-ed some-thing

a tempo *mp*

(*Ad. ad lib*) →

60 *p*

[ng] _____ I want to be _____ clean _____

p *from the distance...*
cresc. poco a poco

Pno. Voice

cresc. poco a poco

(*Ad. ad lib*) →

This Is That

64 *f* *p* *mp*

But still I am this Al-ways I am this And then it's just

Pno. Voice

(Ped. ad lib) →

69 *ff* *f* *ff*

this This is not that it can - not be

Pno. Voice

(Ped. ad lib) →

73

named so ac - cu - rate - ly Im - pre - cise - ly

(Ped. ad lib) →

This Is That

76 *molto rit.* *p* *a tempo*

creep - ing a - long the edge of con - cious - ness And I won - der

Pno. Voice *molto rit.* *mf* spoken (light, heady) *a tempo*

And I won - der

(*Ad. ad lib.*) →

80 *mp* *mf* *quasi-recit*

ev - er al - ways How much of this is be-cause of what you

Pno. Voice *spoken, half-voice* *loud whisper* *pp*

ev - er al - ways [s]

let ring out

(*Ad. ad lib.*) →

84 *f* *accel.*

did to me In ways that were un-po-e-tic, un-for-gi-ven, un-en-light-ened and un-

Pno. Voice *colla voce* *mf* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

un - po - e - tic, un - for - gi - ven, un - en - light - ened and un -

(*Ad. ad lib.*) →

This Is That

89 *rit.* *broadly* ***ff***

clean This is that _____ This is

Pno. Voice *rit.* *broadly*

clean

sfz

(*Leg. ad lib*) →

93 *rit.* *a tempo accel. poco a poco al fine*

that worn u - pon my sleeve _____

rit. *a tempo accel. poco a poco al fine*

subito mp

(*Leg. ad lib*) →

96 *8va* ***fff***

(*Leg. ad lib*) →

(*Leg.*) ←