

If I Were a Dog
GP - R017.2
TBB choir, piano

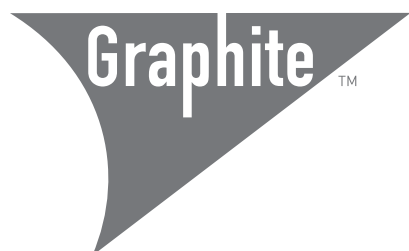
Paul John Rudoi

pdf download - \$2.15
printed - \$4.00

Paul John Rudoi

If I Were a Dog

for TBB choir and piano



notable. elevated.

www.graphitepublishing.com

Text:

I would trot down this road sniffing
on one side and then the other
peeing a little here and there
wherever I felt the urge
having a good time what the hell*
saving some because it's a long road

but since I'm not a dog
I walk straight down the road
trying to get home before dark

if I were a dog and I had a master
who beat me I would run away
and go hungry and sniff around
until I found a master who loved me
I could tell by his smell and I
would lick his face so he knew

or maybe it would be a woman
I would protect her we could go
everywhere together even down this
dark road and I wouldn't run from side
to side sniffing I would always
be protecting her and I would stop
to pee only once in awhile

sometimes in the afternoon we could
go to the park and she would throw
a stick I would bring it back to her

each time I put the stick at her feet
I would say this is my heart
and she would say I will make it fly
but you must bring it back to me
I would always bring it back to her
and to no other if I were a dog

- *"If I Were a Dog" by Richard Shelton, from The
Last Person to Hear Your Voice. © University of Pitts-
burgh Press, 2007. Reprinted with permission.*

From the Composer:

I own many different books of poetry from local
writers to the legends we know and love which I
reference to find the right texts for new commissions
and projects. But Richard Shelton's wonderfully
vibrant "If I Were a Dog" came from one of my
occasional encounters with The Writer's Almanac,
NPR's indispensable resource for downright great
poems. I wanted to set this beautifully crafted gem
without feeling fake, and I hope I've done it some
justice.

Above all, don't take it too seriously or too lightly.
Deliver the text clearly and phrase as you would speak
it. Don't go overboard with tempo shifts and let the
piano bounce rather than tiptoe. No need to hit an
audience over the head with a wink (e.g. measures
51-53) or something deeper (e.g. measures 67-70). In
essence, let Shelton's words do the work and revel in
the joy of a pet's unconditional love.

- Paul John Rudoi, 2018

Performance Notes

* In m. 12, while the score uses the alternate word
"heck," the original text is found on this page. Feel free
to use either at your discretion.

Graphite™

notable. elevated.

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

for TBB choir and piano

Richard Shelton

Paul John Rudoi

Thoughtful (♩ ~ 72) **Trotting** (♩ ~ 116)

Tenor *mp* If I _____ were a dog... _____

Baritone *mp* If I _____ were a dog... _____

Bass *mp* If I _____ were a dog... _____

Piano

Thoughtful (♩ ~ 72) **Trotting** (♩ ~ 116)

* Play full value, non staccato.

Graphite TM notable. elevated.

Lyrics from the poem "If I Were a Dog" from *The Last Person to Hear Your Voice*,
by Richard Shelton, © 2007. All rights controlled by the University of Pittsburgh Press,
Pittsburgh, PA 15260. Used by permission of University of Pittsburgh Press.

Please report performances of this piece to
the composer at paul@pauljohnrudoi.com

© 2018 Graphite Publishing. All Rights Reserved.
For permission to copy visit graphitepublishing.com.

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

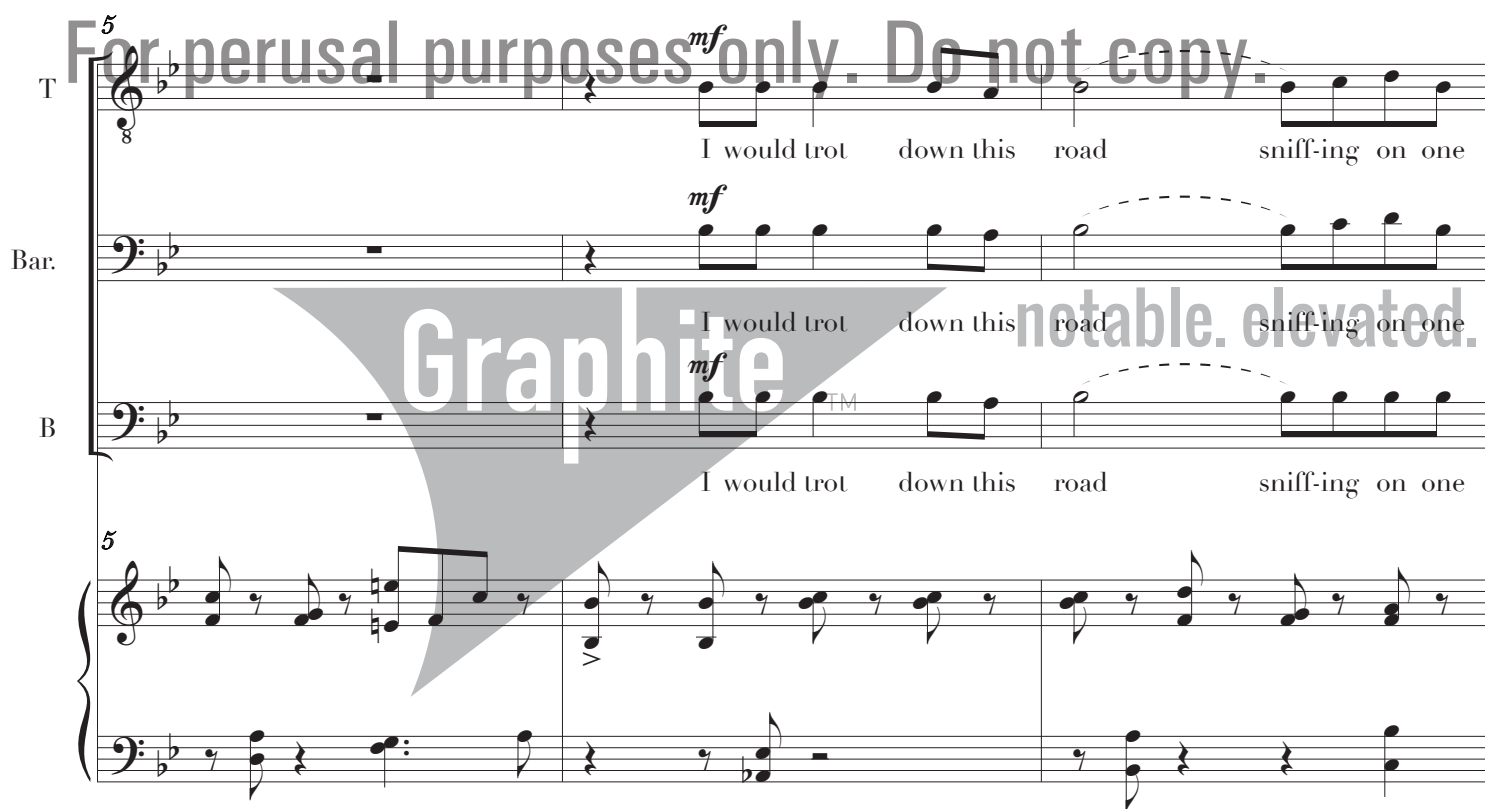
5

T *mf* I would trot down this road sniff-ing on one

Bar. *mf* I would trot down this road sniff-ing on one

B *mf* I would trot down this road sniff-ing on one

5



For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

8

T side and then the oth - er pee-ing a lit - tle here and there

Bar. side and then the oth - er pee-ing a lit - tle here and there

B side and then the oth - er wher - ev - er I felt the

8



For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

11

T *f* hav-ing a good time what the heck* sav-ing some — be-cause it's a

Bar. *f* hav-ing a good time what the heck* sav-ing some — be-cause it's a

B *f* urge hav-ing a good time what the heck* sav-ing some — be-cause it's a

11

Graphite

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

14

T *mf* long road I walk

Bar. *mp* long road but since I'm not a dog *mf* I walk

B *mf* long road I walk

14

Graphite

* See performance notes.

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

12

T

8

straight down the road

try - ing to get home be - fore dark

Bar.

straight down the road

try - ing to get home be - fore dark

B

straight down the road

try - ing to get home be - fore dark

17

rit. ----- a tempo

p

notable. elevated.

GraphiteTM

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

20

mf

notable. elevated.

GraphiteTM

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

24

T 8 *mp* if I _____ were a dog

Bar. *mp* if I _____ were a dog

B *mp* if I _____ were a dog

24

p

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

27

T 8 *mf* and I had a mas - ter who beat me

Bar. *mf* and I had a mas - ter who beat me

B *mf* and I had a mas - ter who beat me

27

mp *p non cresc.*

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

30

T *p* I would run a - way *mf* and go

Bar. *mf* and go

B *mf* and go

30

mp

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

33

T *f* hun - gry and sniff a - round un - til I found a mas - ter who loved me _____

Bar. *f* hun - gry and sniff a - round un - til I found a mas - ter who loved me _____

B *f* hun - gry and sniff a - round un - til I found a mas - ter who loved me _____

33

f

36

T *mf* I could tell by his smell and I would lick his

Bar. *mf* I could tell by his smell and I would lick his

B *mf* I could tell by his smell and I would lick his

36

mf

39

T *legato mp* face so he knew or may-be it would be a

Bar. face so he knew

B *legato mp* face so he knew or may-be it would be a

39

mp

42 *mf*

T 8 wo-man I would pro- tect her we could go eve- ry- where to- geth- er

Bar. *mf* I would pro- tect her we could go eve- ry- where to- geth- er

B *mf* wo-man I would pro- tect her we could go eve- ry- where to- geth- er

42

45

T 8 e- ven down — this dark and I would- n't run from side to side

Bar. e- ven down — this dark and I would- n't run from side to side

B *mp* e- ven down — this dark road —

45

no pedal

48

T *mp* *mf*
sniff - ing al - ways be pro - tect - ing her

Bar. *mp* *mf*
sniff - ing al - ways be pro - tect - ing her

B *mf* *TM*
I would al - ways al - ways be pro - tect - ing her

48

no pedal

51

T *sub. p*
and I would stop to pee on - ly once in a - while

Bar. *sub. p*
and I would stop to pee on - ly once in a - while

B *sub. p*
and I would stop to pee on - ly once in a - while

51

p

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

54

T 8

Bar.

B

espress. *mp*

some - times in the af - ter -

espress. *mp*

some - times in the af - ter -

espress. *mp*

some - times in the af - ter -

54

mp dolce

p

pedal harmonically

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

57

T 8

Bar.

B

rit.-----

noon we could go to the park and she would throw a

noon we could go to the park and she would throw a

noon we could go to the park and she would throw a

57

mp *p*

mp *p*

rit.-----

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

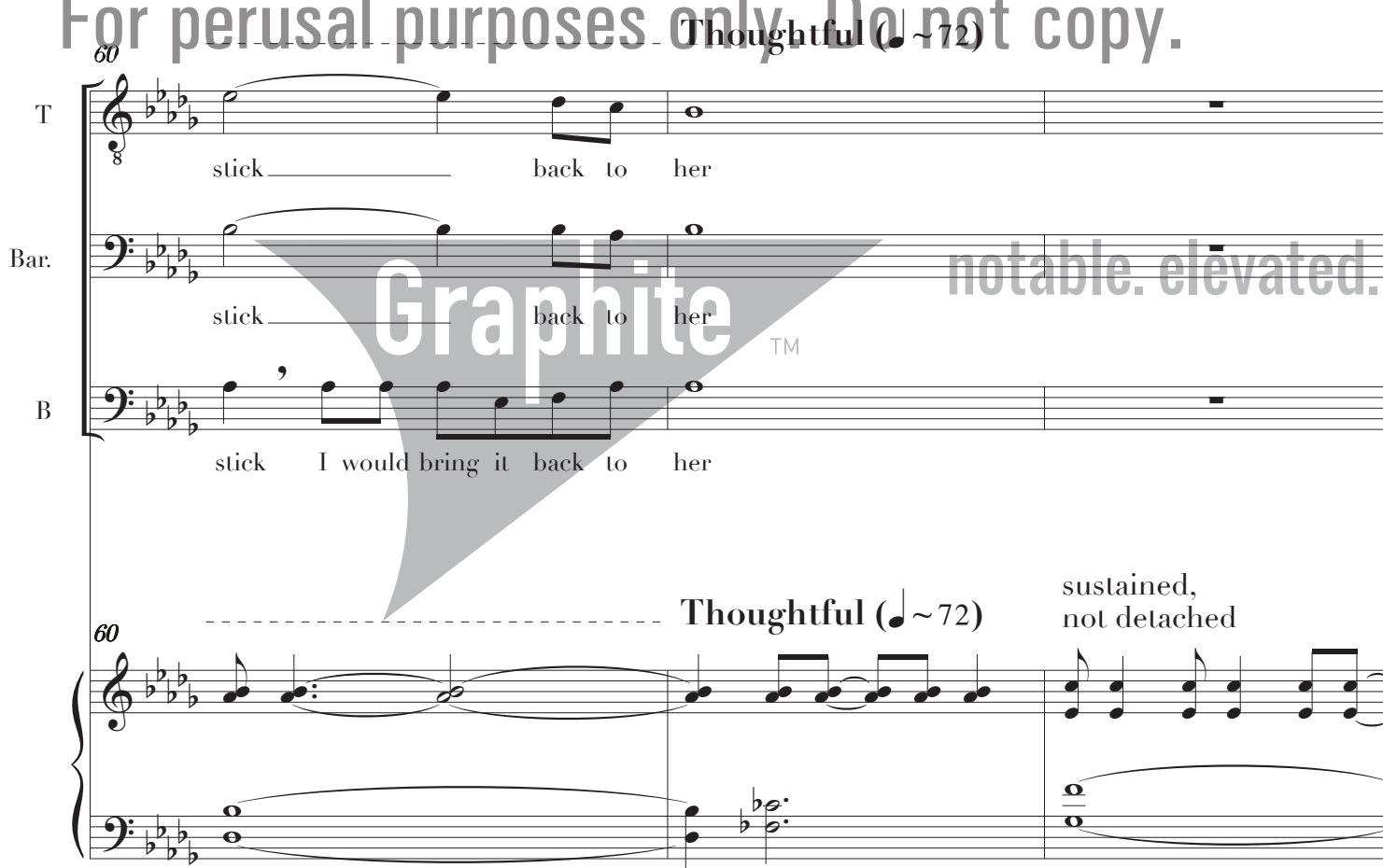
60 Thoughtful (♩ ~ 72)

T
8 stick back to her

Bar.
stick back to her

B
stick I would bring it back to her

60 Thoughtful (♩ ~ 72) sustained, not detached



For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

63



67 *p*

T 8 each time — I put the stick at her feet I would say — this is my

Bar. *p* each time — I put the stick at her feet I would say this is my

B *p* each time — I put the stick at her feet I would say this is my

67

freely to the end

70 *mf* *p*

T 8 heart and she would say I will make it fly

Bar. heart and she would say I will make it fly

B heart and she would say but you must

70 freely to the end

73

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

T *sempre p*
I would al - ways bring it back to her

Bar. *sempre p*
I would al - ways bring it back to her

B *mf* *p* *sempre p*
bring it back to me I would al - ways bring it back to her

Graphite notable. elevated.

76

T *mf* *p*
and to no oth - er if I were a

Bar. *mf* *p*
and to no oth - er if I were a

B *mf* *p*
and to no oth - er if I were a

79

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

T *rit.*
dog...

Bar. *rit.*
dog...

B *rit.*
dog...

79 *l.h.* *r.h.* *l.h.* *p* *rit.* *TM*

Graphite notable. elevated.

Paul John Rudoi



Paul John Rudoi is an award-winning musician, entrepreneur, and advocate for the arts. Deemed “indisputably unique, confident, and innovative” by the American Prize, Paul John Rudoi’s compositions are commissioned and performed by ensembles worldwide including Orphei Dränger, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Cantus, and Seraphic Fire. As a tenor vocalist, Paul has performed and recorded a wide range of music in professional ensembles nationwide including Seraphic Fire, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, True Concord, the Oregon Bach Festival, and Cantus.

Paul is also a fierce advocate for new music trends, resources, and issues. He is the co-founder of Consortio, an online platform designed to make commissioning music better for composers, conductors, and ensembles.

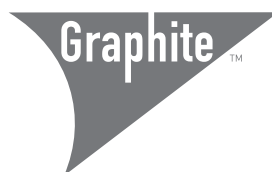
Paul served as Artistic Director of the St. John’s Boys’ Choir during their 40th Anniversary Season. He is now a digital strategist for the National Lutheran Choir and Chorale Director at Meetinghouse Church. Paul enjoys building, eating, and singing, not always in that order.

Other works for TB voices from Graphite:

Eric William Barnum	GP-B009	I Come Singing	TTBB, shaman drum
Eric William Barnum	GP-B011	The Young Man’s Song	TB, piano
B.E. Boykin	GP-B019.1	Stardust	TBB, piano, djembe
Christine Donkin	GP-D019.1	In Flanders Fields	TTBB, a cappella
Jocelyn Hagen	GP-H012	Speak the Truth	TB, piano
Hagen & Takach	GP-N001	A Path to Each Other	3-part round for equal voices
Isaac Lovedahl	GP-L001	Behind the Mountain	3-part round for equal voices
Paul John Rudoi	GP-R012	For the Beauty of the Earth	TTBB, a cappella
Paul John Rudoi	GP-R017.2	If I Were a Dog	TBB, piano
Paul John Rudoi	GP-R020.2	Two Old Crows	TBB, piano, violin
Timothy C. Takach	GP-T004	Veni Creator Spiritus	TTBB, a cappella
Timothy C. Takach	GP-T006	The Streets of Laredo	unison voices, TTBB, piano
Timothy C. Takach	GP-T009	Things I Didn’t Know I Loved	TTBB, a cappella
Timothy C. Takach	GP-T011	’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime	TTBB, a cappella
Timothy C. Takach	GP-T013	Salve Regina	TTBB double choir, a cappella
Timothy C. Takach	GP-T025.4	Outshine	TB, piano
Reginal Wright	GP-W005	Forged	TTBB, piano, percussion

Check out these titles from our friends at Cantus:

Maura Bosch	TCT-CTS-006	The Turning	TTBB, a cappella
Grace Brigham	TCT-CTS-009	Discoveries	TTBB, a cappella, T soli
Catherine Dalton	TCT-CTS-012	Silver Deity of Secret Night	TTBB, a cappella, TB soli
Gibson, Hassilev, Yarbrough	TCT-CTS-001	There’s a Meeting Here Tonight	TTBB, a cappella
Joseph Gregorio	TCT-CTS-010	To My Brother	TTBB, a cappella
R.F.M. Mann, arr. Humble	TCT-CTS-011	Jewett	TBB, a cappella
Aaron Humble	TCT-CTS-004	Still, Still Still	TTBB (div), a cappella, T solo
Humble & Rudoi	TCT-CTS-007	Been in the Storm	TTBB, a cappella, T solo
Linda Kachelmeier	TCT-CTS-013	We Toast the Days	TTBB, a cappella
Rosephanye Powell	TCT-CTS-014	When We Sing	TTBB, a cappella
Gary Ruschman	TCT-CTS-002	Nowell! Nowell! This is the Salutation	TBB, frame drum
Timothy C. Takach	TCT-CTS-008	Luceat Eis	TTBB (div), a cappella



notable. elevated.

www.graphitepublishing.com