

If I Were a Dog
GP - R017.3
medium voice, piano

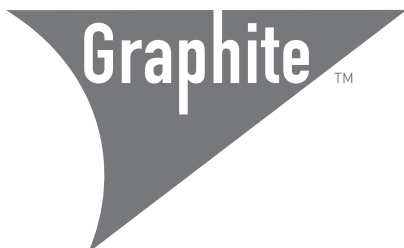
Paul John Rudoï

pdf download - \$4.25

Paul John Rudoï

If I Were a Dog

for medium voice 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 Pittsburgh 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.

If I Were a Dog

for medium voice and piano

Richard Shelton

Paul John Rudoï

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

mp

If I were a dog... notable. elevated.

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

mf

* Play full value, non staccato

5 *mf*

I would trot down this road sniff-ing on one

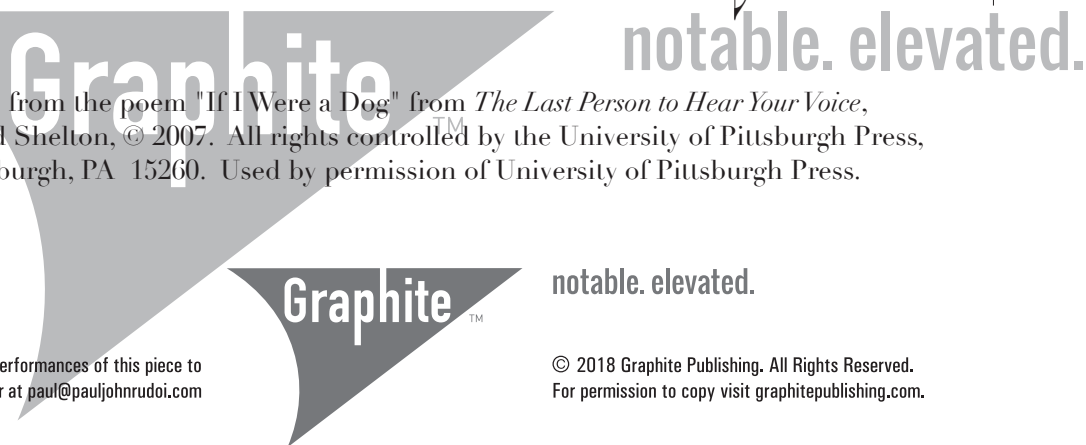
5

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@pauljohnrudoï.com

notable. elevated.

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



8

side and then the oth - er pee - ing a lit - tle here and there wher - ev - er I felt the

Graphite

11

urge hav - ing a good time what the hell sav - ing some — be - cause it's a

Graphite

14

long road but since I'm not a dog I walk

Graphite

17 *rit.* *a tempo*
straight down the road try - ing to get home be - fore dark

17 *rit.* *a tempo*
p notable. elevated.

20 *mf*

24 *mp*
if I _____ were a dog

24 *p* notable. elevated.

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

mp *p*

Graphite™

notable. elevated.

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

mp

Graphite™

notable. elevated.

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

f

Graphite™

notable. elevated.

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

36 *mf*

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

39

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

42 *mf*

45 For perusal purposes only. Do not copy

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

45

Graphite notable. elevated.

48 *mp* *mf*

sniff - ing I would al - ways be pro - tect - ing her

48

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

51 *mp*

and I would stop to pee on - ly once in a - while

51

Graphite notable. elevated.

p

54 *espress.*
mp some - times in the af - ter -

54 *dolce*
mp *p*
pedal harmonically

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

57 *rit.*
 noon we could go to the park and she would throw a

57 *rit.*
mp *p* *mp* *p*

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

60 *Thoughtful* (♩~72)
 stick I would bring it back to her

60 *Thoughtful* (♩~72)
TM

notable. elevated.

63

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

Graphite™ notable. elevated.

67 *p*

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

67

70

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

heart and she would say I will make it fly but you must

70 rubato *mf* *p*

70 rubato

Graphite™ notable. elevated.

73

bring it back to me I would al - ways

73

notable. elevated.

75

bring it back to her and to no oth - er

75

mf

78

If I were a dog...

78

p *rit.* notable. elevated.

Paul John Rudoï



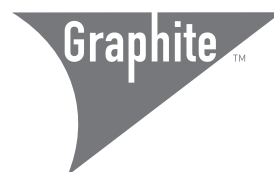
Paul John Rudoï is an award-winning musician, entrepreneur, and advocate for the arts. Deemed “indisputably unique, confident, and innovative” by the American Prize, Paul John Rudoï’s compositions are commissioned and performed by ensembles worldwide including Orphei Dränger, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, 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.

Art song cycles and collections from Graphite:

Eric William Barnum	GP-B007	Lucy	tenor, piano
Eric William Barnum	GP-B003	The Frozen Grail	soprano, piano
Abbie Betinis	GP-B005	The Clan of the Lichens	high voice, piano
Jenni Brandon	GP-B001	Imperceptible	soprano, piano
Jenni Brandon	GP-B002	Dog Tales	soprano, flute, clarinet, piano
Martha Hill Duncan	GP-D017	Singing in the Northland, Vol. 1	voice, piano
Martha Hill Duncan	GP-D018	Singing in the Northland, Vol. 2	voice, piano
Jocelyn Hagen	GP-H013	Kiss	soprano, piano
Jocelyn Hagen	GP-H005	love. songs	baritone, piano
Jocelyn Hagen	GP-H007	Songs of Fields and Prairies	soprano, piano
Jocelyn Hagen	GP-H008	The Sweetness of my Dreams	mezzo-soprano, piano
Luke Mayernik	GP-M011	Heart of Origin	mezzo-soprano, piano
Paul John Rudoï	GP-R008	Child of the Heartless Wind	high voice, piano
Joshua Shank	GP-S002	Services of Snow	soprano, piano
Timothy C. Takach	GP-T008	Departure	high voice, piano
Timothy C. Takach	GP-T012	Where Beauty Comes From	high voice, piano
Timothy C. Takach	GP-T017	How to Triumph Like a Girl	low voice, piano



notable. elevated.

www.graphitepublishing.com