

# This Is That

High 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

5

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

*simile*

8

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

*loud whisper, percussive* ( $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$  always) *mf*

Pno. Voice

trip - ping, trip - ping.

*mp*

*Red. ad lib* →

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13

*n* *mp*

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

*p* *mf*

(*And. ad lib.*) → (*And.*) ←

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 -

Pno. Voice *mp* loud whisper *mf*

(want to be) flow - ing, flow-ing,

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25 *mp* *mf*

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

Pno. Voice

(flow - ing),

*mp* *mf*

*ad lib* →

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

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

*rit.* *a tempo*

*f*

*ad lib* → *ad lib* ←

33 **B** *f*

This is not that

*sfz*

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*The score will continue on the following page.*

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48

*ff* *rit.* *pp*

rough and read-y hands I want to be

*ff* *rit.*

(*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

Oo

*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

(*Ad. ad lib*) →

69 *ff* *f* *ff*

this This is not that it can - not be

Pno. Voice

(*Ad. ad lib*) →

73

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

(*Ad. 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 *mf* spoken *colla voce* *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*

(*Ad. 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*

(*Ad. ad lib*)→

96 *ff*

*8va*

(*Ad. ad lib*)→

(*Ad.*)←