

Hidden Thoughts 2: Return to Sender

Happiest of birthdays to the Flinders Quartet

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Text: excerpts from the Burnside letters
written by anonymous Australians.
Collated by Katy Abbott with Maureen Johnson

i: everyone is precious

Voice

Narrator

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

This is a letter from one human being to another, from one person who is old, to you who have had the courage to escape impossible situations only to land up part of another political situation...I have never had to cope with what you are dealing with, yet life itself manages to teach you some truths. One of these is that everyone is precious and that treating someone badly...

2 mysterious, ♩ = 120

V.

Nar. ...is to injure yourself.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

play after the words 'that treating someone badly...'

p

18

V.

Nar.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

a.b.i.

sul pont.
m.b.o.

pp

m.b.o.

mp

23

V.

Nar.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

conversationally, $\text{♩} = 136$

mf

Nor - mal - ly when you write a let - ter

ord.

a.b.i.

mf

3

mf

3

mf

3

mf

spicc.

28

V. you ad-dress it to a par - tic - u - lar per - son but I can - not with this let - ter as I

Nar.

28

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

33

V. don't know who I'm wri - ting to. It seems

Nar.

33

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

5

The image displays a musical score for a piece titled "Hidden Thoughts 2: Return to Sender". It is a page from a larger score, indicated by the page number "4" in the top left. The score is divided into two systems, each starting at measure 28 and 33 respectively. The first system (measures 28-32) features a vocal line (V.) with lyrics: "you ad-dress it to a par - tic - u - lar per - son but I can - not with this let - ter as I". Below the vocal line is a narration line (Nar.) which is empty. The instrumental section includes Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vlc.). The second system (measures 33-36) features a vocal line (V.) with lyrics: "don't know who I'm wri - ting to. It seems". Below it is an empty narration line (Nar.). The instrumental parts continue. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, time signatures, notes, rests, and dynamic markings. A large, diagonal watermark "Sample Score Only" is overlaid across the center of the page. At the bottom of the page, there is a page number "5" centered under the Vlc. staff.

ii: where you are

enhance the sense of physical separation
b/w the ensemble/audience and asylum seekers, ♩ = 70

V. *still and warm* *n*

Nar. *Oo.*

Vln. I *mp still and warm*

Vln. II *mp still and warm*

Vla. *mp still and warm*

Vlc. *mp still and warm*

V. *mp* *gliss.*

Nar. GREETINGS new penfriend!. Below are all the things on my desk right now. As you can see, I like my lip-balm. Footscray is an interesting suburb. It is full of people from many different places in the world including Vietnam, China, Italy, Greece, Sudan, Ethiopia, Bangladesh and India. I hope you and your family will be able to see the place for yourselves – enjoy rice paper rolls, rotis, ricotta filled cannoli, pastry and spicy curries.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

with each repetition of the chord progression, the sense of 'suspension' is the most important.

10

V. *pp* gliss. *p still and warm* Ah.

Nar.

Vln. I *pp sub.* *p still and warm*

Vln. II *pp sub.* *p still and warm*

Vla. *pp sub.* *p still and warm*

Vlc. *pp sub.* *p still and warm*

15

V.

Nar. I can hear the television turned on in another room – the cricket world cup is on. I think Australia are playing Sri Lanka and from what I can gather, Australia are not going too well. I barely follow any sports but there is something comforting about cricket on TV. I always associate it with summertime and family and everyone being together.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

57

V. *freely*
p cresc.
Ah.

Nar.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

L.P.

f

iii: hello

with intensity and fun, ♩ = 100

V. Write to me. I'm sure you will find my interest in amphipods boring like everybody else does but we can laugh about that!

Nar.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

mp

n

f

16 *mf*

V. Hello my new friend. To the per -

Nar. Dear friend in the world.

Vln. I c.l.b. ord. c.l.b. pizz. c.l.b. *mp*

Vln. II c.l.b. ord. c.l.b. pizz. c.l.b. *mp* To the person this letter finds

Vla. c.l.b. ord. c.l.b. pizz. c.l.b. *mp*

Vlc. Dear friend. *mp*

21 *f*

V. son re__ cei-ving this let-ter, this let-ter. Hel-lo__ beaut-i-ful peo-ple.

Nar. Hello, whoever you are.

Vln. I arco *f* *n*

Vln. II arco *f*

Vla. arco *f*

Vlc. *f*

xii: tell me what you ate for lunch

casually in intention but rhythmically tight, ♩ = 80 *p*

V. At the mo - ment, win-ter is ap-

Nar. (in sync with strings)
 [At the moment, winter is approaching.] [But we can't tell, what it will be like.]

Vln. I

Vln. II in sync, shadow with narrator with speech rhythm

Vla. in sync, shadow with narrator with speech rhythm
mf (with voice)

Vcl. in sync, shadow with narrator with speech rhythm
mf (with voice)

6

V. proach ing and we can't tell what it will be like.

Nar. [It's been raining] [but not been cold]

Vln. I

Vln. II (with narrator)
mp

Vla. (with narrator)
mf

Vcl. (with narrator)
mf

ix: not forgotten (interlude)

high energy, ♩ = 142 *f* (with cello)

V. You are not for -

Nar. Not all Australians feel this way. Not many of us believe in what the government has to say. So few of us believe that people can be treated so inhumanely.

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vlc. *f* (with voice)

V. got - - - ten.

Nar. Many Australians think about you every day and despair.

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. *mf*

Vlc. *mp*



clear, tribal (calling out to be heard), ♩ = 60

f freely, with intensity and depth

V. *We are sad - dened to see you locked up with - out con -*

Nar.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

Detailed description: This system contains the first vocal line and the beginning of the string accompaniment. The vocal line is in 4/4 time and starts with a melodic phrase. The strings (Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vlc.) are mostly silent, with some sustained notes in the Viola and Violoncello parts. A large green watermark 'Sample Score Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

V. *sent. With-out pro-per treat ment we want to*

Nar.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. *flaut. 3 p freely, improv sul pont. as before n*

Vlc. *mp as before freely, improv*

Detailed description: This system continues the vocal line and string accompaniment. The vocal line has a melodic phrase with a triplet of eighth notes. The strings continue with sustained notes and some rhythmic patterns. The Viola part has a triplet of eighth notes marked 'p' and 'freely, improv'. The Violoncello part has a melodic line marked 'mp as before' and 'freely, improv'. A large green watermark 'Sample Score Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.