

John Featherstone

My Diving Boy

For mezzo-soprano and cello

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My Diving Boy

1.
What shall they see
the watchers from the shore?

A boy diving and diving and diving,
Swift limbs turning
In the swelling sea.

2.
Do they see the blue, the blue
The deep pure blue?

The mystery of the sea
Shines in your eyes
Flotsam, fishbone, sea-spangles
Float in their depths.

3.
The deep - do they see the deep
the dark, dark deep?

Your eyes tell
Of gold and silver
Of light and - flickering
On the shadowy sea floor.

4.
But the swinging, clinging twists
In the rocking deep below?

Only seaweed curling
Caressing you in its sway
It does not fasten and hold you
Like my love, my darling boy.

5.
And the dark razor shapes
In the shadows there below?

Sharp rocks, caves
Are not so cruel
As the cold wall of the shore
Where you lose kind voices,
My different diving boy.

6.
You are my selkie boy
Searching for a neat skin fit.
No edge between water and bone
In the overswelling
Swing and sway of the tide.

Mary Barnes

For the caring mother seen singing while swimming with her adult son. His speech and movement on land were severely impaired, but in the water he could dive and swim. In the sea he was free.

My Diving Boy

Poem realised by Mary Barnes
from the composer's original idea.

John Featherstone

Ondeggiamento ♩ = 84

Mezzo-soprano *mf* *pp*

Violoncello *mf* *Legato* *pp*

5 M-S. *mf*
wat-chers from the shore? A boy di - ving and

Vc. *cresc.*

10 M-S.
di - ving

Vc. *f* *dim.* *6* *5* *6* *7* *5* *p*

14 M-S. *mf* *f* *mf* *mp* *poco rit.*
Swift limbs tur - ning, tur - ning, turn ing in the

Vc. *f* *3* *mf* *mp*

A

Meno mosso ♩ = 66

17

M-S. *swel - ling sea.*

Vc. *5:3 3:2 pizz. p*

21

M-S. *mp mf*

Vc. *arco mp Sonore mf*

Do they see the blue, the blue, the

26

M-S. *blue, The deep pure blue? The my - ste - ry, the*

Vc. *simile 5 cresc. poco a poco. 5 5 5*

Allargando ----- A tempo ♩ = 66

30

M-S. *f dim.*

Vc. *5 5 5 3 dim.*

my - ste - ry of - the sea Shines in your eyes Flot -

Più mosso

34 *pp*

M-S. sam, flot - sam, fot - sam,

Vc. *pp* *mf*

39 *mf* *p* *f* *mf* *pp*

M-S. fish - bone, fish bone,

Vc. *mp* *pp* *f* *pp* *mp*

rit. *Meno mosso* ♩ = 54

43 *mf* *mp* *p*

M-S. sea span - gles, span - gles Float, float in their

Vc. *mf* *dim.*

48

M-S. depths. The

Vc. *p*

B Tempo primo ♩ = 84

53 *mf*

M-S. *mf*

Vc. *arco*
mp *sempre ondeggiamento*

deep, do they see the deep, the dark, dark deep? Your

58

M-S. *mf* *f* *dim.*

Vc. *mf* *f* *dim.*

eyes gleam - ing tell of gold, of gold and

62

M-S. *p*

Vc. *p*

sil ver, Of

64

M-S. *mf* *dim.*

Vc. *mf* *dim.*

light and flick - er - ing,

poco rit.

66 *mp* 3 5 3 *p dim.*

M-S. flick-er-ing, flick-er-ing on the sha - do-wy sea floor.

Vc. 3 3

C *Meno mosso* ♩ = 66

70

M-S.

Vc. *pp* *ff* *sempre ondeggiamento* 3 5 6

73 *mp* *mf* 5

M-S. But the swing - ing, cling - ing twists in the

Vc. 7 5 5 5 3 3 5 3

p *mf*

76 *mf* 3

M-S. rock - ing deep be - low? On-ly the sea - weed curl ing

Vc. 3 5 3 3 3

mf

80 *mp* *poco rit.* *mf*

M-S. Ca - res - sing you in its sway

Vc. *mf*

84 *Meno mosso* ♩ = 56 *poco rit.* *mf*

M-S. *subito p espress.* It can - not fas - ten and hold you Like my love, my dar - ling boy.

Vc. *arco flautando pp mp*

89 **D** *Più mosso* ♩ = 66 *mp*

M-S. And the

Vc. *f Agitato sfz sfz < > p*

92 *f*

M-S. dark ra - zor shapes in the sha - dows there be

Vc. *ff mf*

95 *f* *sf*

M-S. *5* *(b)* *5*

low? _____

Vc. *spiccato* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3*

Sharp rocks, caves

99 *mp* *mf* *f*

M-S. *3* *4* *3* *4* *3* *4*

Are not so cruel _____ As the cold wall of the

Vc. *spiccato* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3*

mf *f*

102 *dolce* *mp*

M-S. *3* *4* *3* *4* *3* *4*

shore where you lose _____ kind voi - ces,

Vc. *3* *5* *6* *5*

p *f*

105 *mf*

M-S. *4* *4* *4* *4*

my dif - fer - ent

Vc. *5* *5* *5* *5* *6*

cresc.

107

M-S. *mf dim.* boy, my dif - fer - ent

Vc. *mf dim.* 5 5 3 3

rit.

E Tempo primo ♩ = 84

109

M-S. div - ing boy.

Vc. *mp f* Risoluto *dim.* 3 3

Allargando

A tempo

115

M-S. *mp* *subito p* *pp* *mp* You are my sel - kie boy Sear - ching for a

Vc. *p* Calmato ma sempre ondeggiamento.

120

M-S. neat skin fit. No edge bet - ween

Vc. *mf* 3

125

M-S. *p* *mp*

wa - - ter and bone In the

Vc. *mp* *p* *pp cresc.*

128

M-S. *rit.*

o - ver swel - ling Swing and sway of the

Vc. *mf dim.*

131

M-S. *molto rit.*

tide.

Vc. *p*