

Character Pieces

for Male Chorus

Peter Schaffter

1. *Slender Boy*

2. *Just Me*

3. *In Darkness, Almost Unaware*

Slender Boy

Peter Schaffter

Slender boy —
no euphemism there
when an opened door —

He stands,
clothes conscious,
beckoning law and men's desire,

And, somewhat invisible,
a universe is fluid
with dark and lights around him.

He is a sun,
which captures him,
and arrogant to have planets bound,
circling.

Slender boy;
not for those who seek
but those who stare
and wonder.

Just Me

Peter Schaffter

Just me,
lonely in my special place of night.

I want to point, say: "Look!"
See, and I am not alone.

In Darkness, Almost Unaware

Peter Schaffter

Your tongue I
 where lips are crushed
 in desperation
cling to
 stifling cries of other love
 denied escaping.

Symbol now, this act,
I have no fear of strangeness;
 being what you are
 I make you more;
 in dark your understanding
 of it only helps a little.

Holding arms—
 such only men possess
 so gently
take from me mature obsuring;
 love released,
 your hands become the cradle
 to a hidden son.

You gaze,
 your expectations tender,
 not demanding;
lift my head and lead me
to a place where, strength imparted,
 my mouth encloses the all of you I could not have
 and moving child's body lulls you to relax
 and fill me with a father's milk.

Against you now,
 my empty hunger over,
 and exploring with my hands
 in affection almost unaware,
dark and warm,
 pretending to the one
 I did not know
your body, lying quiet
takes the child's gift of love.

Slender Boy

Peter Schaffter
Text: Peter Schaffter

Lento amabile (♩ = 48)

p
Tenor I
8
Slender boy — no euphemism there — when an

p
Tenor II
8
Slender boy — no euphemism there — no euphemism

p
Bass I
8
Slender boy, slender boy no euphemism there — When an

p
Bass II
8
Slender boy — no euphemism there — when an

Piano
(rehearsal only)

T. I
 op - ened door - He stands, - clothes con - scious, -
 there He stands, - clothes con - scious, -
 op - ened door - He stands, - clothes con - scious, -
 op - ened door - He stands, - clothes con - scious, -
 Pno.

mp *p* *poco più mosso ma non agitato*

beck - on - ing law
 beck - on - ing law
 beck - on - ing
 beck - on - ing

T. I
 and men's de - sire, And, some - what in - vi - si - ble,
 and men's de - sire, And, some - what in - vi - si - ble,
 law and men's de - sire, And, some - what in - vi - si - ble,
 law and men's de - sire, And, some - what in - vi - si - ble,
 Pno.

rall. f *p* *a tempo mp* *mf*

and men's de - sire, And, some - what in - vi - si - ble,
 and men's de - sire, And, some - what in - vi - si - ble,
 law and men's de - sire, And, some - what in - vi - si - ble,
 law and men's de - sire, And, some - what in - vi - si - ble,

p *poco meno mosso*

T. I
8 a un - i - verse is flu - id with dark and lights a - round him. —

T. II
8 a un - i - verse is flu - id with dark and lights a - round him. —

B. I
a un - i - verse is flu - id with dark a - round him. —

B. II
— a un - i - verse is flu - id with dark a - round him. —

Pno.

Più mosso (♩ = 58)

T. I
8 He is a sun, — which cap-tures him, — and — ar-ro-gant — to have

T. II
8 He is a sun, — and — ar-ro-gant — to have

B. I
He is a sun, — and — ar-ro-gant — to have

B. II
He — is a sun, — and — ar-ro-gant — to have

Pno.

rit. ----- *mp* **Tempo I (♩ = 48)** *mf*

T. I
8 plan - ets bound, — circ - ling. — Slen - der boy; — not

T. II
8 plan - ets bound, — circ - ling. — Slen - der boy; Slen - der boy; not

B. I
8 plan - ets bound, — circ - ling. — Slen - der boy; Slen - der boy; not

B. II
8 plan - ets bound, — circ - ling. — boy; Slen - der boy; not

Pno.
3 3 3

p *rit. e dim. al fine*

T. I
8 for those who seek, but those who stare and won - der.

T. II
8 for those who seek, but those who stare and won - der.

B. I
8 for those who seek, but those who stare and won - der.

B. II
8 for those who seek, but those who stare and won - der.

Pno.
rit. e dim. al fine

Just Me

Peter Schaffter
Text: Peter Schaffter

Larghetto (♩ = 58)

5/4 *p* 3 + 2 2 + 3 4/4

Tenor I
8 Just me, lone - ly in my spe-cial place of night.

Tenor II
8 Just me, Just me, Just me, Just me, Just _____

Bass I
8 Just me, Just me, Just me, Just me, Just me.

Bass II
8 lone - ly lone - ly lone - ly lone - ly

Bass III
8 Just me, lone - ly Just me, lone - ly lone -

Presto (♩ = 200) *cresc.* *mf*

T. I
8 Just me. I want to point, say: "Look." *mp cresc.* *mf*

T. II
8 me. I want to point, say: "Look!" *cresc. mp* *mf*

B. I
8 I want to point, say: "Look!" *mp cresc.* *mf*

B. II
8 lone - ly I want to point, say: "Look!" *mp cresc.* *mf*

B. III
8 ly. I want to point, say: "Look!"

In Darkness, Almost Unaware

Peter Schaffter
Text: Peter Schaffter

Adagio (♩ = 58)
(♩ = ♩ throughout)

mp

Tenor I
8
sti - fling cries of oth - er

Tenor II
8
Your tongue I cling to

Tenor III
8
where lips are crushed in des - per - a - tion

Bass I
8
where lips are crushed in des - per - a - tion

Bass II
8
Your tongue I cling to

Piano
(rehearsal only)

rit. *pp* *a tempo*

T. I
love de-nied es - cap - ing.

T. II
rit. es - cap - ing. *a tempo* *p* *mp*
Sym - bol now, this act, I have no fear of

T. III
rit. es - cap - ing. *a tempo*

B. I
rit. es - cap - ing. *a tempo* *p* *mp*

B. II
es - cap - ing. *a tempo* *p* *mp*
Sym - bol now, this act, I have no fear of

Pno.
rit. *a tempo*

mp

T. I
in dark your un-der-stand-ing of it

T. II
p
strange - - - ness; I - - - make

T. III
p
be - ing what you are I make you more; I - - - make

B. I
p
be - ing what you are I make you more; I - - - make

B. II
p
strange - - - ness; I - - - make

Pno.

rit. *a tempo*

T. I
on - ly helps a lit - tle.

T. II
you more. Hold - ing arms - such on - ly men pos - ses - so gent - ly

T. III
you more. Hold - ing arms - such on - ly men pos - ses - so gent - ly

B. I
you more. Hold - ing arms - such on - ly men pos - ses - so gent - ly

B. II
you more. Hold - ing arms - such on - ly men pos - ses - so gent - ly

Pno.
rit. *a tempo*

mp

T. I
take from me ma - ture ob - scur - ing;

T. II
love re - leased, your hands be - come the cra - dle

T. III
love re - leased, your hands be - come the cra - dle

B. I
love re - leased, your hands be - come the cra - dle

B. II
love re - leased, your hands be - come the cra - dle

Pno.

Tenor solo

T. I

T. II *p* *pp* **T.I, T.II** *mp* *sonoro*

T. III *p* *pp* *mp* *sonoro*

B. I *p* *pp* *mp* *sonoro*

B. II *p* *pp* *mp* *sonoro*

Pno.

to a hid - den son. — You gaze, your ex - pec - tat - tions ten - der, not de - mand - ing,

to a hid - den son. — You gaze, your ex - pec - tat - tions ten - der, not de - mand - ing,

to a hid - den son. — You gaze, your ex - pec - tat - tions ten - der, not de - mand - ing,

to a hid - den son. — You gaze, your ex - pec - tat - tions ten - der, not de - mand - ing,

(Tenor solo)

T. I *mf*

T. II **(T.I, T.II)** *fp*

T. III *fp*

B. I *fp*

B. II *fp*

Pno.

lift — my head and lead me to a place where, strength

lift my head and lead me to where, strength

lift, — lift my head and lead me where, strength

lift my head and lead me to a place where, strength

my mouth en - clos - es the

(Tenor solo)

T. I
all of you I could not have and mov-ing child's bo - dy lulls you to re-lax and

(T.I, T.II)

T. II
im -

T. III
im -

B. I
im -

B. II
im -

Pno.

(Tenor solo)

T. I
fill me with a fa - ther's milk.

(T.I, T.II)

T. II
part - ed A - gainst you now, my emp-ty hun-ger o -

T. III
part - ed

B. I
part - ed

B. II
part - ed A - gainst you now, my em-ty hun-ger o -

Pno.

rit. ----- *p* *a tempo*

rit. ----- *pp* *a tempo* *p* (non cres.)

rit. ----- *pp* *a tempo*

rit. ----- *pp* *a tempo* *p* (non cres.)

rit. ----- *pp* *a tempo*

rit. ----- *pp* *a tempo* *p* (non cres.)

mf

(Tenor solo)

T. I

(T.I, T.II)

T. II

p

T. III

p

B. I

B. II

Pno.

ver and ex - plor - ing with my hands in af - fec - tion al - most un - a -

and ex - plor - ing with my hands in af - fec - tion al - most un - a -

and ex - plor - ing with my hands in af - fec - tion al - most un - a -

ver and ex - plor - ing with my hands in af - fec - tion al - most un - a -

(Tenor solo)

T. I

(T.I, T.II)

pp

p

T. II

pp

T. III

pp

B. I

pp

B. II

Pno.

ware, dark and warm pre-tend-ing to the one I did not know your bo - dy ly-ing

ware, dark and warm pre-tend-ing to the one I did not know

ware, dark and warm pre-tend-ing to the one I did not know

ware, dark and warm pre-tend-ing to the one I did not know

(Tenor solo) *rit. al fine*

T. I
8
qui - et takes the child's gift of love

T. II
8
(T.I, T.II) *rit. al fine* *ppp*
gift of love.

T. III
8
rit. al fine *ppp*
gift of love.

B. I
rit. al fine *ppp*
gift of love.

B. II
rit. al fine *ppp*
gift of love.

Pno.
rit. al fine