

The Owl

Barbara Drake

Sylvia Gray

il primo parte quasi come recitativo

The owl swi-veled its head and looked at me from the

pp

5 *ad lib - quasi parlando*
play with the note

shelf inside the cabin in the light of my flash - light. A small owl from the woods had come in the

colla voce - ad lib no. of beats

10

win-dow while I was gone. I grabbed a down filled jack-et and cast it a-round the bird's

15 *ad lib - quasi parlando*
play with the note

bo- dy picking it up and carrying it out to the porch. It did-n't strug-gle or try to

colla voce - ad lib no. of beats

21

bite me — I could feel how light it was, the down of its small bo-ny

pp

25

bo - dy and its hot fea - thered - ness. I could feel the swi-ve-ling-of its head

pp

30

— and the beat-ing of its owl's heart.

pp

35

Then I tossed it up in a mo-tion that seemed to go right to my toes,

mf

39

I felt I could fly from the porch as the owl took off, its wings

43

ad lib.

spread—ing in-to some-thing large as an o-ver coat, pull-ing me out of my-

48

mp

self so I could fly for a mo-ment in the dark.

52

Musical score for measures 52-54. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. A fermata is placed over the first note of the top staff. The grand staff contains a piano introduction marked *p*. The music transitions from 4/4 to 3/4 time in measure 53 and returns to 4/4 in measure 54. A long slur covers the right hand of the grand staff across all three measures. The instruction *ritardando to end. ...* is written in the right hand of the grand staff in measure 54.

55

Musical score for measures 55-57. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. The top staff contains a fermata. The grand staff contains a piano introduction marked *pp*. The music is highly technical, featuring rapid sixteenth-note passages in both hands. The right hand of the grand staff is marked with *8^{va}* and *15^{ma}* in the first two measures. The left hand of the grand staff is marked with *8^{vb}* in the first two measures. The instruction *Ped.* is written at the beginning of the grand staff in measure 55. The piece concludes with a fermata in the right hand of the grand staff in measure 57.