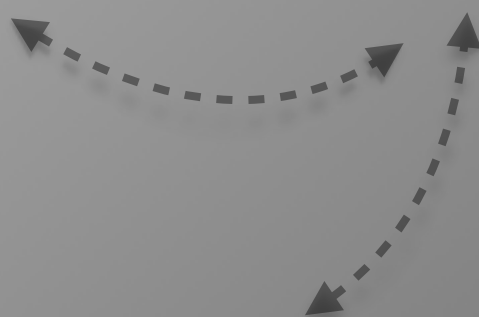
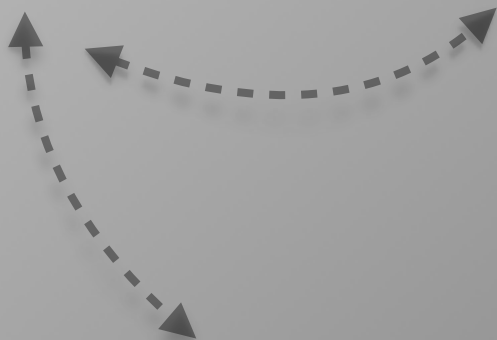
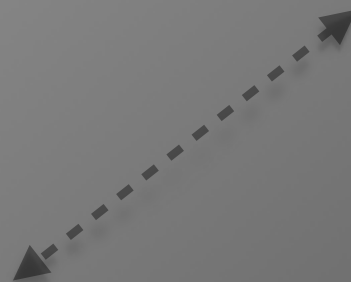
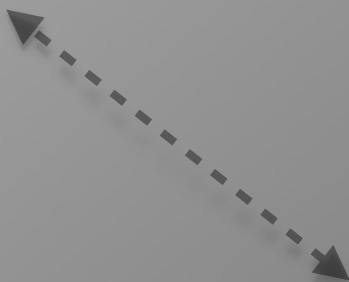


HANNAH  
HAYDEN

EVAN L.  
SNYDER



A SYMPTOM OF YEARS



Music by **Evan L. Snyder**

and Words by **Hannah Hayden**

# A SYMPTOM OF YEARS

dramatic scene for solo baritone

Alone in his office, a plastic surgeon grapples with the effects that time is having on his body. As he surveys his future, for the first time, he considers taking matters into his own hands.

## **Performance Notes:**

A note from the librettist:

Although this is mainly a soliloquy, the text shifts between moments of interiority and direct address. Sometimes this address is to the patient on the other end of the line, and sometimes it is directed at the reflection in the mirror. I think that this provides an interesting tension between the internal, non-verbalised world and the external world. Moments of unnerving are interlaced between a desire for, and obsession with, beauty. The oscillation between the two, and the definition of what either thing represents are both something to bear in mind throughout the performance of this piece.

Composer's note — a word about tempo in this piece:

The great number of tempo descriptions (and their accompanying metronome markings) that can be found in this score are meant as a useful guide to the performer, but never hard and fast rules for interpreting the scene.

There are essentially two approaches to rhythm (and tempo) in this piece. The first of these is found in sections like the opening — there is a kind of natural sung rhythm, which is always going somewhere and open to rubato and rhythmic expression. The other approach is a kind of unnatural, uncanny evenness — lacking any rhythmic drive or life (seen first in b.10). This latter approach is usually marked as slow and even, and, in its most extreme forms, given stemless noteheads and ad libitum pauses (in the form of slash notation). As the surgeon's descent continues throughout the piece, the lines between these two rhythmic modes begin to blur — the natural eventually failing into the artificial.

# A SYMPTOM OF YEARS

Hannah Hayden

Evan L. Snyder

**Starting slowly** (♩=66) **stringendo** . . . . .

*mp* warm, tenderly *f* proud

The Surgeon

Glove— my hands Glove my— hands Their

**Sweeping forward** (♩=100) **poco rall.** . . . . . **tempo I** (♩=66) **poco rall.** . . . . .

5 *mp* dismissively

God is a la - zy sculp - tor— He does not speak in

**molto rall.** . . . . . (♩=50)

8 *f* *p*

skin I wield my knife, be - come him

**Unnaturally slow and completely evenly** (♩=40)

10 *p* dolce, almost whispered

sym - me - try whis - pers to me Each

**In time, moving again** (♩=66) **stringendo** . . . . .

11 *cresc., warming* *piu f* *cresc.* 3

stitch, each su - ture E - ra - ses years Watch de - for - mi - ty

**rall.** . . . . Interrupted by the telephone ring **Tempo recitativo** (♩=132)

14 *f* *mp parlando* She talks

Dis - ap - (pear) Hel - lo? Yes Ma - dam, what

17 *She talks* **Quick** (♩=100) *mp* *terse, cutting her off*

time is your ap-point-ment? I saw the pho-to-graphs. I know what to do.

20 **stringendo** *mf* *piu f*

Cheek aug-men - ta - tion, ble - pha - ro - plas - ty,

22 (♩=120) **molto rall.** *f* *ff* *sub. mf* **Calmer** (♩=80)

bo - tox for crow's feet. Our fil - ler price in-cludes a

24 *mp* *f* *mp*

nerve block so you can't feel a - ny-thing an ice mask to take

26 *p* *f*

home So your loved ones don't wit - ness the swel - ling

28 **Slower, losing its drive** (♩=60) *sub. mp* *contemplative* **rall.**

I've done it all be - fore, per-haps a hun-dred times be-fore

31 **Indulgently** (♩=50) *p* *dolce* *She talks* **A little slower than before** (♩=92) *mp* *off-the-cuff*

I could do it with my eyes closed Just a few things But

34 *mf* *f*

they will change ev-ery-thing And I will change ev-ery-thing Good -

**Suddenly slow (♩=50)**

36 *ff* *exuberantly* Slamming the phone down  
and suddenly alone. *p* *floated*

bye! \_\_\_\_\_ With my eyes closed...

**Broadly, with rubato (♩=100)** **a tempo (♩=100)**

39 *mp* *contemplative* **rall.** *mf* *decadently*

Twen - ty thou-sand dol - lars to un - ra - vel sen -

**poco rall.** **Slower, gently (♩=80)**

43 *p* *dolce, legatissimo* *piu p*

sa - tion What good\_\_ is a mo - ther's smile\_\_ If

**Faster again (♩=100)**

47 *mp* *mf*

no - bo - dy\_\_ turns to look? life with - out beau - ty is

**poco a poco rall.** *dim. poco a poco*

51 waste. When you're gone, no - bo - dy

54

cares Un - moved by the pas - sing of years