

Nathaniel Parks

ARGO

**for The Hour Prior
(SSATB)**

Poem by Caroline Preziosi

FOR PERUSAL USE ONLY

ARGO

the landscape is made
 into windows of the car at the station alone
 bronzed with dust and wheat

a penny on the ground counts back
 ten years of dying, never
 and not afraid of it

passing through the headland
 the closed or open window
 which is false with nothing outside

this time I
 will be Orpheus

white loaded asphalt out of the claim
 to go to her in the garden

not walking through smoke
 not whipping up dust but rather

the sound of metal falling onto pavement

some but not all
 of something

down among dead gods
 leaves close at night and again

the girl is held
 by plaster palms and again

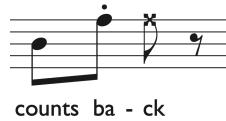
wheels tire
 over dry earth crumbling turning back
 into sand

Program Note

ARGO is, at its core, a reflection on loss and separation filtered through the lens of Caroline Preziosi's poem of the same name. The text speaks to the loss of something or someone and the reader's inability to turn back to that thing or to hold on too tightly to its memory. Similarly, the music of ARGO seeks to capture the ever fragmenting, reunifying, and slipping away of a memory as time passes.

Performance Notes

This piece should be sung with minimal vibrato.



Put space between the vowel and the closing consonant, with the consonant arriving on the beat.

Staccatos not marked as above should be followed immediately with a consonant, unless one is not present at the end of the syllable.

for *The Hour Prior*

ARGO

Text by Caroline Preziosi

Nathaniel Parks (2019)

Reminiscent $\text{♪} = 112$

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Alto

the land-scape is made in-to win-dows of the car ____

Tenor

Baritone

5

S 1

S 2

A

at the sta - tion a lone bronzed with ____

T

B

ARGO

6
9

S 1

S 2

A

T

B

dust and wheat a pen - ny on the
a pen - ny

p

13

S 1

S 2

A

T

B

ground counts back ten years of
on the ground counts ba - ck ten years

mp p

6
8

8
8

6
8

6
8

p

ARGO

7

S 1

S 2

A

T

B

dy-ing ne-ver and no - t a-fraid of i - t pas-sing

of dy-ing ne-ver and no - t a - afraid of i - t

19

S 1 *pp* pas - sing through the

S 2 *pp* pas - sing through the

A *mp* through the head - land the closed or open

T *pp* pas - sing through the

B *mp* pas - sing through the head - land

ARGO

ARGO

8
23

S 1 *mp*

S 2 *mp*

A *mf p*

T *mp*

B *mf p*

head - land which is

head - land which is

win - dow

head - land which is

the closed or o - pen win - dow

26

S 1

S 2

A

T

B

ARGO

9

29

S 1

S 2

A

T

B

out - side this time I
out - side this time I
which is fal - se this time I
out - side this time I
which is fal - se this time I

subito più mosso

33

S 1

S 2

A

T

B

— will be Or - phe - us white loa - ded
— will be Or - phe - us white loa - ded
will be Or - phe - us white loa - ded
will be Or - phe - us white loa - ded
will be Or - phe - us white loa - ded

a tempo **f** *mp* *pp* molto **f** molto *pp*
a tempo **f** *mp* *pp* molto **f** molto *pp*
a tempo **f** *mp* *pp* molto **f** molto *pp*
a tempo **f** *mp* *pp* molto **f** molto *pp*
a tempo **f** *mp* *pp*

ARGO

10 36

S 1

p 3

as - phal - t out of the claim

S 2

p 3

as - phal - t out of the claim

A

p 3

as - phal - t out of the claim to go to her in the gar - den

T

p 3

out of the claim to go to her in the gar - den

B

p 3

out of the claim to go to her in the gar - den

40

S 1

pp

in the gar - den not wal - king through

S 2

pp

in the gar - den not wal - king through

A

pp

in the gar - den not

T

pp

in the gar - den

B

pp

in the gar - den

ARGO

45

S 1 *mp* *mf* *pp*

S 2 *mp* *mf* *pp*

A — wal — king —

T — — *pp*

B — —

II

49

S 1 *ff* *mf* *mp*

S 2 *ff* *mf* *mp*

A — — —

T — — —

B — —

the sound of me - tal fal - ling on - to

the sound of me - tal fal - ling on - to

the sound of me - tal fal - ling on - to

ther the sound of me - tal fal - ling on - to

the sound of me - tal fal - ling on - to

12

p

ARGO

S 1

pave - men - t some ____ but not all of some - thing *mf*

S 2

pave - men - t some all of some - thing *mf*

A

pave - men - t some but not all of some - thing *mf*

T

pave - men - t some all of some - thing *mf*

B

pave - men - t some but not all of some - thing *mf*

53

mp

S 1

down a - mong dead gods [o] [a]

S 2

down a - mong dead gods leaves close at night

A

down a - mong dead gods [æ] [a]

T

down a - mong dead gods

B

down a - mong dead gods

ARGO

13

60

S I

S 2

A

T

B

63

pp *3* *3*

light and ethereal

S 1 and a-gain the girl is held

S 2 gain and a-gain and a-gain

pp sempre *3*

A and a - gain and a - gain

pp sempre

T and a - gain

pp sempre

B and a - gain and a - gain

14

ARGO

S 1 by pla - ster palms

S 2 and a - gain and a - gain and a - gain and a - gain

A and a - gain and a - gain

T and a - gain and a - gain

B and a - gain and a - gain

69

S 1 *p* *mp* *mf* *p*

S 2 wheels ti-re o-ver dry earth

A *p* *mp* *mf* *p*

T wheels ti-re o-ver dry earth

B *p* *mp* *mf* *p*

wheels ti-re o-ver dry earth

ARGO

15

73

S 1 **p** turn-ing back **pp** crum-b(uh)-ling

S 2 back crum-b(uh) - ling **pp**

A **p** turn-ing back crum-b(uh) - ling

T **p** turn - ing back **pp** crum - b(uh) - ling

B turn - ing back crum - b(uh) - ling

77

S 1 **ppp** in - to sand

S 2 in - to sand

A **ppp** in - to sand

T **ppp** in - to sand

B in - to sand