

***TENNESSEE
DANCE AND
BLUES***

for Clarinet in A and Piano or String Quartet

**Based on Poems by
TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

**Music by
BRUCE TRINKLEY**

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Preface and Song Texts

1. Youth Must Be Wanton	5
2. Gold Tooth Blues	8
3. Kitchen Door Blues	12

Tennessee Williams was born March 26, 1911 in Columbus, Mississippi. He began writing and publishing his poetry while a student at the University of Missouri. Although he always wanted to be a poet, he began a remarkable career as a playwright with the success of *The Glass Menagerie* in 1944. He wrote several volumes of poetry, many short stories, as well as the plays and screenplays for which he is most famous. He died in New York City on February 25, 1983.

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The original song cycle, *Tennessee Williams Songs*, was composed during a residency at Dorland Mountain Arts Colony in Temecula, California in March 2017. Three songs from the cycle were transcribed for clarinet and piano in State College, Pennsylvania in October 2020.

The present version is dedicated to Smith Toulson and Diane Gold Toulson, with gratitude and admiration. **Duration: approximately 5 minutes.**

Preface (from manuscript collection, Butler Library, Columbia University)

It hasn't all been useless. Unless the box is destroyed the words that had value will rise again. Mine, all that mattered much of me except my response to your love, mostly that given me by those whom I never met: so many letters unanswered because the letter to you all was still being written: if writing survives, in mine you'll find all my answers, signed with my love. All my writing has been a letter to you, 'you all' as we say in the South.

1. Youth Must Be Wanton

Youth must be wanton, youth must be quick,
Dance to the candle while lasteth the wick,

Youth must be foolish and mirthful and blind,
Gaze not before and glance not behind,

Mark not the shadow that darkens the way –
Regret not the glitter of any lost day,

But laugh with no reason except the red wine,
For youth must be youthful and foolish and blind!

2. Gold Tooth Blues

Now there's many fool things a woman will do
To catch a man's eye, she'll wear a tight shoe,
She'll wear a light dress and catch a bad cold
And she'll have a tooth pulled for a tooth of gold.

*I'm a gold tooth woman with the gold tooth blues
'Cause a gold tooth makes a woman look old!*

Now gold in the bank is a wonderful thing,
And a woman looks nice with a nice gold ring,
But, honey, take a tip, and the tip ain't cold,
Your mouth's no place to carry your gold!

*I'm a gold tooth woman with the gold tooth blues
'Cause a gold tooth makes a woman look old!*

Some late Sunday mawnin' when you're still in the hay
And you want a little lovin', your sweet man'll say,
With a look that'll turn your heart's blood cold,
Woman, that gold tooth makes you look old!

*I'm a gold tooth woman with the gold tooth blues
'Cause a gold tooth makes a woman look old!*

When he don't have a dollar but he must have his drink,
He'll sneak up behind you at the kitchen sink,
And before you can holler, I'm telling the truth,
He'll brain you with a blackjack and pull your gold tooth!

*I'm a gold tooth woman with the gold tooth blues
'Cause a gold tooth makes a woman look old!*

3. Kitchen Door Blues

My old lady died of a common cold.
She smoked cigars and was ninety years old.
She was thin as paper with the ribs of a kite,
And she flew out the kitchen door one night.

Now I'm no younger'n the old lady was,
When she lost gravitation, and I smoke cigars.
I feel sort of peaked, an' I look kinda pore,
So for God's sake, lock that kitchen door!

1. Youth Must Be Wanton

Poem by Tennessee Williams
from *The Night of the Iguana* (1961)

Music by Bruce Trinkley

Danza con brio ♩ = 112

Clarinet in A

Piano

6

very well-articulated

mf

mp

f

p

12

cresc.

18

mf

f *mp*

24

f

f

30

pochiss. rit.

dim.

pochiss. rit.

dim.

Poco meno mosso ♩ = 92

36

mf

espressivo

p

42

mp

48

dim. al fine, morendo

p

molto rit.

pp

dim. al fine, morendo

molto rit.

2. Gold Tooth Blues

Poem by Tennessee Williams

Clarinet in A **Freely** *swing all dotted 8th and 16th notes* **Andante con moto** ♩ = 100

Piano *swing all dotted 8th and 16th notes* *p*

4 *poco cresc.*

8 *mf* *dim.* *poco rit.* *ten.* *a tempo* *p*

11 *poco cresc.* *mf* *poco cresc.* *mp*

15

mp sub.p mf sonore mp p

Detailed description: This system contains measures 15 through 18. The right-hand part (treble clef) begins with a whole rest in measure 15, followed by a melodic line starting in measure 16. Dynamics include *mp* and *sub.p*. The left-hand part (bass clef) features a bass line with chords and octaves, marked *mf sonore*, *mp*, and *p*. A grand staff bracket encompasses the piano and bass staves.

19

cresc. poco a poco f cresc. poco a poco f

Detailed description: This system contains measures 19 through 22. The right-hand part continues the melodic line, marked *cresc. poco a poco* and *f*. The left-hand part features a bass line with chords and octaves, also marked *cresc. poco a poco* and *f*. A grand staff bracket encompasses the piano and bass staves.

23

poco rit. ten. a tempo sub.p poco cresc. mp poco rit. ten. a tempo p 3 3 simile poco cresc.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 23 through 25. The right-hand part includes tempo markings *poco rit.*, *ten.*, and *a tempo*, with dynamics *sub.p*, *poco cresc.*, and *mp*. The left-hand part includes *poco rit.*, *ten.*, and *a tempo*, with dynamics *p* and *poco cresc.*. It also features triplet markings (*3 3*) and the instruction *simile*. A grand staff bracket encompasses the piano and bass staves.

26

mp mf sonore

Detailed description: This system contains measures 26 through 29. The right-hand part features a melodic line with dynamics *mp* and *mf sonore*. The left-hand part features a bass line with chords and octaves, marked *mp* and *mf sonore*. A grand staff bracket encompasses the piano and bass staves.

30

pp

mp

pp non arpeggio

33

mp *molto cresc.* *f almost bellowing*

molto cresc. e sonore *f*

37

ten. allarg. a tempo

mp

ten. allarg. a tempo

ten. ff p semplice

41

poco cresc. *mf* *p* *poco rit.*

cresc. *mf* *dim.*

Slow and expressive ♩ = 88

45

pp *molto cresc. poco a poco*

49

ff *allarg.*

53

Tempo primo

mp

56

rit. e dim.

3. Kitchen Door Blues

Poem by Tennessee Williams

Blues tempo ♩ = 88 *swing all dotted 8th and 16th notes*

Clarinet in A

Piano

swing all dotted 8th and 16th notes

mp

f

mf

mp

4

cresc. poco a poco

cresc. poco a poco

8

f

mp

mf

sonore

12

mf

mp

mf

15

poco marcato allarg.

a tempo

mp

f

allarg.

a tempo

mf

18

quickly

f

15^{ma}

quickly

f

8^{va}