

# ARACHNE

A Dramatic Song Cycle  
for Soprano Solo (with Crotale)

Jordan Smith\*

Hilary Tann

## I. A Primer for Those Who Have Dealings with the Gods

Andante flessibile (♩ = 52)

D crotale  
l.v.

*mf*

*p*

A - - - - - ra - ne - a. Say

5 *poco parlando*

first the cat is stretch - ing in the sun, knead - ing her paws. The

7 *più cantando*

low sun streaks the ta - ble, gilds the loom, the room where work is done. Tell

9

plain - ly what you see, the sta - ble house - hold. These things are the

11

sun - light's al - tars, un - al - tered and spe - ci - fic,

13 *mf* *cantando*

splen - did flecks of con - stan - cy. For the gods all

15 *p*

this is nei - ther here nor there. They pre-fer

17

rhe-to-ric, the breath of force. They take noth - ing on faith. Ah,

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19 *mf*

Here are \_\_\_\_\_ the slim mar - gins \_\_\_\_\_ they re - serve for us. *Ah,* \_\_\_\_\_

21 *f*

We are \_\_\_\_\_ the stage - set \_\_\_\_\_ for their \_\_\_\_\_ play \_\_\_\_\_ of met - a -

23 *p*

mor - pho-sis. They are all nerve, the sway of branch-es \_\_\_\_\_ in your yard. \_\_\_\_\_

25 *mf* *p*

When they \_\_\_\_\_ ap - proach, \_\_\_\_\_ a slip-ping \_\_\_\_\_ knot of cun - ning, \_\_\_\_\_

27 *mf espr.*

of - - fer what you can least af-ford, a shard, \_\_\_\_\_ some loved \_\_\_\_\_ thing. \_\_\_\_\_

30 *p* *D crotale* *l.v.*

Show \_\_\_\_\_ what can't \_\_\_\_\_ be un - done. \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Arachne's Boast

### Allegretto semplice (♩ = 56)

33 *mp*

I was a girl \_\_\_\_\_ when I took to this craft \_\_\_\_\_ of thread en-twined with thread, \_\_\_\_\_

38 *p* *mp*

\_\_\_\_\_ A-the-ne's gift. \_\_\_\_\_ She taught my weft \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ fol-low the shut-tle's lead. I

43 *cresc.* *mf*

learned too well, \_\_\_\_\_ too well for her. More deft, *ah,* \_\_\_\_\_ sur-er in skill - and

49

speed, I no long - er weave to her de - sign, ah, no long - er weave the

55

*p* *sotto voce* *mf*

land - scape where power re-sides, our shim - m'ring coast where the di-vine

60

*f* *liberamente* *dim.*

ruth-less-ness, like a tide, floods, floods

**a tempo**

65 *mp* *mf*

like a tide, floods and floods. Why waste my fine

70

*rit.*

ta - lent to praise, praise, praise a

**Poco meno mosso**

75 *p* *deciso*

lie? I've learned to grasp the mo-ment when the gods' de-ceits are made

80

*mp* *dim.* *rit.*

plain, when Zeus' eag-le, bull, and swan are gone. See what re -

**Tempo di Andante**

86 *p*

mains: some tang - led girl, like a thread that turns at the sel - vage,

91

*l.v.* *l.v.* *l.v.* *pp*

turns, turns a - gain. Ah.