

for Jasmin

Alleycat Love Song

Come into the garden, Fred,
For the neighborhood tabby is gone.
Come into the garden, Fred.
I have nothing but my flea collar on,
And the scent of catnip has gone to my head.
I'll wait by the screen door till dawn.

The fireflies court in the sweetgum tree.
The nightjar calls from the pine,
And she seems to say in her rhapsody,
"Oh, mustard-brown Fred, be mine!"
The full moon lights my whiskers afire,
And the fur goes erect on my spine.

I hear the frogs in the muddy lake
Croaking from shore to shore.
They've one swift season to soothe their ache.
In autumn they sing no more.
So ignore me now, and you'll hear my meow
As I scratch all night at the door.

Dana Gioia

Joelle Wallach

Langorous, sensuous and seductive ♩.=60-63

The piano introduction is written for a grand piano in 12/8 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo is marked as ♩.=60-63. The music is characterized by a lush, sensuous texture with a prominent bass line and a melodic line in the right hand. The dynamics are marked *mp* (mezzo-piano).

3 *mp* *seducentemente**

The vocal entry begins on the third measure of the piano accompaniment. The melody is written in the treble clef with a key signature of two flats. The lyrics are: "Come in - to the gar - den, Fred; the neigh - bor - hood tab - by is". The dynamics are marked *mp* and the tempo is *seducentemente**.

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* Throughout this song, dynamics and tempo may be modified in the service of a tasteful hamminess (tuna-y-ness?).

7

gone. Come in - to the gar - den, Fred; I've no-thing but my flea col - lar

9

on. *mf* the scent of cat - nip has gone to my head. I'll wait by the

11

screen door till dawn. *mp* *mezza voce* I'll wait by the screen door till

13

dawn. *mp* The fire - flies court in the sweet - gum tree, the night - jar calls from the

15

pine, and she seems to say in her rhapsody, "Oh, mustard brown Fred, be mine."

17

mf
The scent of catnip has

19

gone to my head.

21

mp
The full moon lights my whiskers a fire, the fur goes erect on my

23 *pocof**

spine, the scent of cat - nip has gone to my head.

25 *mp* *mp*

Oh, must-tard brown Fred, be mine. I hear the frogs in the

mf (Frogs...)

27 *mf*

mud - dy lake, croak - ing from shore to shore. They've one swift

* *pocof* is less loud than *mf* throughout.

29

poco ominoso 5

sea - son to soothe_ their ache. In au - tumn they sing no more. Ig - nore__ me

31

mf a shade more insistant

now and you'll hear my me - ow as I scratch all night at the door. The scent of cat - nip__

33

mp *mf*

has gone to my head. I'll wait by the screen__ door till dawn.

35

mp dolce

The full__ moon lights_ my

37 *mf deciso*

6
whis-kers a - fire, the fur goes e - rect on my spine, the scent of cat - nip has

39 *mf* *apassionato ma poco lontano*

gone to my head. Oh, must-tard brown Fred, be mine. The scent of cat - nip

41

has gone to my head. I'll wait by the screen door till dawn.

43 *mf*

Mee — ow!

8^{va} pp dolcis.
(the empty moonlight)

sfp *fpp*

(screen door banging shut)

8^{vb}