

# The Child in the Hole

a narrative for soprano & B-flat clarinet

words & music by William Vollinger (ASCAP) ©2002

This piece is based on the true story of a man who wishes to remain anonymous. As a young Jewish boy in Poland, he was the sole survivor in his family of the Nazi holocaust. His father paid a Polish farmer to hide him. He was hidden in a hole in the ground for three years until the war ended and he moved to America.

The musical score is written for Soprano and B-flat Clarinet in 4/4 time, with a tempo of quarter note = 94. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat).

**Measures 1-5:** The Soprano part is silent. The B-flat Clarinet part begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic, playing a rhythmic pattern of quarter notes. At measure 10, the dynamics shift to fortissimo (*ff*) as the clarinet plays a rapid ascending scale.

**Measures 6-15:** The Clarinet part continues with a forte (*f*) *rubato* dynamic, followed by a mezzo-forte (*mf*) section. Measures 10-15 show a dynamic range from mezzo-forte (*mf*) to piano (*p*).

**Measures 16-20:** The Soprano part enters with the lyrics: "I'm in this hole, be-cause I have to be in this hole, be-cause it's". The dynamic is mezzo-piano (*mp*) *half spoken*. The B-flat Clarinet part provides accompaniment with a dynamic of *slight, but heard*.

**Measures 21-25:** The Soprano part continues with the lyrics: "safe here. But it's dark here. They put boards and dirt and grass on top of this". The dynamic is mezzo-piano (*mp*). The B-flat Clarinet part continues with accompaniment at a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic.

26 *p dolce* *mp* *p*

S. hole, and I can't e - ver — look out, be - cause they'd find me. I have to

Cl. *p dolce* *mp*

32 *mp*

S. stay down, where it's safe and dark. Pa - pa ar - ranged it

Cl. *p* *mp*

37 *mf*

S. all. He paid the far - mer, — and then he left me. He had to get a - way.

Cl. *mf*

44 *p* *mf*

S. I hope he got a - way. I have to keep lov - ing my Pa - pa,

Cl. *p* *mf*

51 *mp* *mf*

S. e - ven though I can't see him. And some - times — I sing to him:

Cl. *mp* *mf*

56 *mp* lively

S. *Bim bim bim bim bim bim bim bim! Oo ah oo ah dee - dum doo - ah doo - ah doo!*

Cl. *mp* lively

60

S. *Bim bim bim bim dyie - dee die - dee dum dum! Dyoo dum dyoo dum dyoo dum dyoo dum*

Cl.

63

S. *doo!* Like that. I — eat a - ny food they throw down. I have three

Cl. *mf*

68

S. blan - kets and three — books, but not a - ny can - dles. They'd see them burn - ing.

Cl.

72

S. *f* I can see in the day. *p* I can't see at night. *mp* But — I see a

Cl. *f* *p* *mp*

77 *mf* *mp*

S. star some - times. I sleep on the straw. I get half wet

Cl. *mf* *mp*

82

S. when it rains, but I don't drown, — be - cause they made a drain.

Cl.

86 *mf* 3

S. This straw was put here for me, but I don't know if this hole was

Cl. *mf*

90 *mp* *f* 3

S. dug here for me, or if it was here be - fore. I think a lot of the time,

Cl. *mp* *f* 3

94 *mp* *f*

S. but I don't like to think. That's why — I have to keep on

Cl. *mp* *f*

99 *rit.* *mf* *mp*

S. sing - ing: Doop doop doo - dle oo dah doop doop! Doop doo doop

Cl. *mf* *mp*

103 *p*

S. doo - dle doo dah doo dah! Ahh

Cl. *p*

105 *mp* *p*

S. doo - dle - doo - dle - loop doo - dle - doo - dle - loop! Ahh

Cl. *mp* *p*

107 *mp* *mp*

S. doo - dle - doo - dle - doo - dle - doo - dle loop tah! Some - times I hear voi - ces:

Cl. *mp* *mp* *rubato* to m. 119

110

S. good voi - ces and bad voi - ces.

Cl.

116 *mf*  
 S. I hear noi - ses like ma -  
 Cl. *f* ugly

120 *f* *harsh* *mf*  
 S. chine - nnns and ex - plo - ho - ho - ho - ho - sions, and may - be e - ven some  
 Cl. *very harsh*

124 *ff* *f* *mf*  
 S. screams. When I hear the screams I close my  
 Cl. *ff*

128 *mp*  
 S. eyes and my mouth tight. But when it's safe to get out, I'm gon - na run to my Pa - pa and  
 Cl.

132  
 S. ne - ver ne - ver leave, and al - ways sing to him, not e - ven like I have to  
 Cl. *p*

136 *mf* *mp*

S. sing now, but hap-pi-er than this: *Doop doop doop doop doop duh doo doo doop doop!*

Cl. *mf* *mf*

140

S. *Doop doop doop doop eee!* *Noo-dle noo-dle noo-dle noo-dle noo-dle noo-dle noo-dle noo-dle*

Cl.

143

S. *noo - dle doo - dle doop doo. Ah ah ah ah da-da - da-da - da dum dum!*

Cl.

146 *mp half spoken*

S. There's a buc - ket that I use. I can smell the buc - ket all the time.

Cl. *mp plain*

149

S. And I can smell this hole too. Some - times I can e - ven smell my - self.

Cl.

153 *p lighter*

S. Some-times I get pur-ple ber-ries, but not to-day.

Cl. *p lighter*

159 *SPOKEN mf with disdain*

S. One time I e-ven got some of their cof-fee. But I did-n't like their

Cl. *mf*

162 *mp* *mf*

S. cof-fee. I don't tell them that, be-cause I don't talk to them. A-ny-way my voice sounds

Cl. *mp* *mf*

166 *f* *SPOKEN mf* *no breath*

S. strange,— more like noi-ses than words, ex-cept when I sing:—

Cl. *f* *mf*

171 *subito mp* *p*

S. Lie-dee lie-dee lie-dah like lie-dee like! Whoa— dim-ble dim-ble dim!

Cl. *subito mp* *p*



175 *f* *p* *mf*

S. *Hie ha da ha-da-ha-da-ha! Hie ha da ha-da-ha-da-ha! Ha-uh ha-uh ha-uh ha-uh ha-uh ha-uh ha!*

Cl. *f* *p* *mf*

178 *p* *f* *mf*

S. *Dim dib - ble dib - ble dib - ble dah! I've got three books: a*

Cl. *p* *f* *mf*

181 *mp* *mf*

S. *book a - bout a - ni - mals, a book a - bout Pa - ris, and a prayer book, but I did - n't learn that*

Cl. *mp*

185 *p* *mp*

S. *lan - guage. Pa - pa told me that one day I'd learn that lan - guage. It*

Cl. *p*

190 *p* *mp* *f*

S. *must mean some-thing. Some - thing must mean some - thing. It has to mean some - thing.*

Cl.

197 *mp* *mp*

S. It can't all be like it is in this hole, all of the time. I look at the let - ters:

Cl. *p* *mp*

202 *f*

S. a - leph \_\_\_\_\_ beth. \_\_\_\_\_

Cl. *f* *mf*

209 *f* *mf* *p*

S. What — if the roof breaks? I'm scared they'll find me. I'm

Cl. *ff* *f* *mf* *p*

214 *mf* *f* *mf*

S. scared they won't find me. I just have to sing all the time: — Eye ad - da eye ya

Cl. *mf* *f* *mf*

218

S. doo - dle - ab - ba oo - da ee! — Ab - ba - ba - ba - ba - ba - ba ya da oo - dah - doo - dah.

Cl.

221 *f* *mf* *f*

S. *Ee - yih! Ee - yih! Ya da yie - duh yah - duh. Ee - yih! Ee - yih!*

Cl.

224 *mf* *f intense*

S. *Yab-ba-dahm dub dah dah! — But one day, when — eve - ry - thing stops ex -*

Cl. *f intense*

230

S. *plod - ing, they'll take this roof off of me, and they'll tell me that it's safe, —*

Cl.

236 *mf* *ff* *mp* *mp but with dynamic shadings*

S. *and then they'll pull me all the way up. — And I'm*

Cl. *mf* *ff*

244

S. *gon - na walk — all a - round up there, where it's*

Cl.

251

S. *peace* \_\_\_\_\_ *and* *light* \_\_\_\_\_ *and* *safe.* \_\_\_\_\_ *Then I'll be who I*

Cl.

259

S. *real* \_\_\_\_\_ *ly* *am,* \_\_\_\_\_ *in - stead of like I am now.* \_\_\_\_\_ *And my*

Cl.

*mf* *mp*

267

S. *Pa - pa's* *gon - na* *come* *and* *bring* *me* *home.* \_\_\_\_\_ *And we'll*

Cl.

275

S. *eat* *for* *at* *least* *three* *days,* \_\_\_\_\_ *and* *al - ways* \_\_\_\_\_

Cl.

281

S. *sing.* \_\_\_\_\_ *I have to*

Cl.

*p*

287

S. *sfp* sing like this for now: *sfp* La *sfp* la

Cl. *p* *mf*

292

S. *sfp* la.. *sfp* La *sfp* la

Cl. *f*

296

S. *sfp* la..

Cl. *ff* *p*

298

S. *mp* half spoken be - cause I'm still in this hole.

Cl. *mp*