Echoes and Memory

“Although the texts of these two songs are by different poets, Hart Crane and Theodore Roethke, *Echoes* and *Memory* have often been performed as a group, and both were composed in the same year (2002). Both songs are based on love poems, and from a compositional standpoint, they often seek to envelope the voice and the poetry in rich, warm piano sonority, with the pianist a near-equal partner to the baritone. The songs are brief, lasting about 5 minutes in total.” LK

Texts

*Echoes*

Slivers of rain upon the pane,
Jade-green with sunlight, melt and flow
Upward again: they leave no stain
Of all the storm an hour ago.

Over the hill a last cloud dips
And disappears, and I should go
As silently but that your lips
Are warmer with a redder glow.

Fresh and fragile, your arms now
Are circles of cool roses, so….
In opal pools beneath your brow
I dream we quarreled long, long ago.

Poetry by Hart Crane

*Memory*

In the slow world of dream,
We breathe in unison.
The outside dies within,
And she knows all I am.

She turns, as if to go,
Half-bird, half-animal.
The wind dies on the hill.
Love’s all. Love’s all I know.

A doe drinks by a stream,
A doe and its fawn.
When I follow after them,
The grass changes to stone.

Poetry by Theodore Roethke

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