

to my friend, pianist Soheil Nasseri

Lullaby of War

a setting of six war poems for piano and narrator
commissioned by 21st Century Classical

Haskell Small
2007

I. War is Kind

Stephen Crane

(each reading to be read in full
before start of music that follows)

Narrator: Do not weep, maiden, for war is kind.
Because your lover threw wild hands toward the sky
And the affrighted steed ran on alone,
Do not weep.
War is kind.

Hoarse, booming drums of the regiment,
Little souls who thirst for fight,
These men were born to drill and die.
The unexplained glory flies above them,
Great is the battle-god, great, and his kingdom -
A field where a thousand corpses lie.

Prayer

Very slow, sustained, with awe and mystery (♩ = 48)

Piano

pp *ppp*

And. normale, except as marked

senza espr.

(sempre ♩ = ♩)

pp *pppp* *pp*

8ba

15ma *8va*

mf *ppp* *pp*

8ba