

to all parents who allow and encourage their children to dream

# Notice to Mother

NOTICE to Mother and nobody else

Dear Mother:  
I have written this to tell you my worrying secret.  
Now don't cry when you read it because it is neither yours nor my fault.  
I suppose I will have to tell it now without any nonsense.  
To begin with I was not meant to be an athlete [sic].  
I was meant to be a composer, and will be I'm sure.  
I'll ask you one more thing.—Don't ask me to try to forget this unpleasant thing and go play football.  
—Please—  
Sometimes I've been worrying about this so much that it makes me mad (not very),

Love,

Sam Barber II

Samuel Barber, II (at age 9)  
(1910-1981)

Lee Hartman (b. 1979)  
(Kansas City, MO 2012-13)

**Unrushed. Natural. Spoken.** **Timidly, ♩ = 80**

**ff** **mp** **short** **mp** **mf**

**SOPRANO** NO - TICE Dear Moth - er:

**ALTO** NO - TICE Dear Moth - er: I have

**TENOR** NO - TICE to Moth-er and no - bo - dy else Dear Moth - er: I have

**BASS** NO - TICE Dear Moth - er:

*solo, spoken notated rhythm is a mere approximation like a precocious, but respectful, nine-year-old boy*

**tutti** **mp** **mf**

5

*mp* *pp* *mp* *poco rit.*

to tell you. Now don't cry

writ-ten this to tell you. Now don't cry

*mp* *mp dim.* *pp* *mp*

writ-ten this to tell you my wor-ry-ing se-cret. Now don't cry

*mp* *mp dim.* *pp* *mp*

to tell you my wor-ry-ing se-cret. Now don't cry

A tempo accel. rit.

12

*mf cresc.*

be - cause it is nei-ther yours (s) nor my

*p* *mf cresc.*

when you read it be - cause it is nei-ther yours (s) nor my

*p* *mf cresc.*

when you read it be - cause it is nei-ther yours (s) nor my

*mf cresc.*

be - cause it is nei-ther yours (s) nor my

17 **A tempo** *f* **Slowly** (♩ = ♪) *p* **poco rit.** *mf* <sup>3</sup>

*f* fault. *p* I sup- pose to tell it now *p* I will have to *mf*

*f* fault. *p* I sup- pose to tell it now *mf*

*f* fault. *p* I will have to tell it now *mf*

*f* fault. *pp* *p* (ten.) *mf*

fault. to tell it now

21 **A tempo** *sub. p* **Assuredly** (♩ = 120) *mf* **dancingly** *f*

*sub. p* with-out an - y non - sense. (audible To be - gin with I was  
inhalation)

*sub. p* with-out an - y non - sense. *p* (echo) To be - gin with

*sub. p* with-out an - y non - sense. *p* (echo) To be - gin with

*sub. p* with-out an - y non - sense. *p* (echo) To be - gin with

\* - Like you're nervous and about to burst with a secret

27 *fp* *ff* angrily

not meant to be an ath - lete.

*ff* angrily

not meant to be an ath - lete.

*ff* angrily

not meant to be an ath - lete.

*ff* angrily

not meant to be an ath - lete.

Meno mosso

rit. *pp* cresc.

molto rall.

32

I was meant to be

*pp* cresc.

I was meant to be

*pp* cresc.

I was meant to be

*pp* cresc.

I was meant to be

Adagio (♩ = 60)

(two singers on B♭)

37 *ff* (ah) *pp*

a com - pos - er, and will be

a com - pos - er, and will be

a com - pos - er, and will be

(ah) a com - pos - er, and will be

42 *contemplative cresc.*

I'm sure. I'll ask you one more

I'm sure. I'll ask you one more

I'm sure. I'll ask you one more

I'm sure. I'll ask you one more

47 *f* *sub. f dim., pleadingly* *pp dejectedly*  
 thing. Don't ask me to try to for - get this un-pleas-ant thing and go play foot- ball...

48 *f* *sub. f dim., pleadingly* *pp dejectedly*  
 thing. Don't ask me to try to for - get this un-pleas-ant thing and go play foot- ball...

49 *f* *sub. f dim., pleadingly* *pp dejectedly*  
 thing. Don't ask me to try to for - get this un-pleas-ant thing and go play foot- ball...

50 *f* *sub. f dim., pleadingly* *pp dejectedly*  
 thing. Don't ask me to try to for - get this un-pleas-ant thing and go play foot- ball...

51 *fff* *short mp* **Tempo I** (♩ = 80)  
 Please Some - times I've been wor - ry - ing

52 *fff* *short mp*  
 Please Some - times I've been wor - ry - ing

53 *fff* *short mp*  
 Please Some - times I've been wor - ry - ing

54 *fff* *short mp*  
 Please Some - times I've been wor - ry - ing

55 *ppp* *rit.*  
 a - bout this (mmm)

56 *dim.*  
 a - bout this so much that it makes me

57 *dim.*  
 a - bout this so much that it makes me

58 *ppp*  
 a bout this (mmm)

62

mad, Love, Sam

mad, Love, Sam

mad, Love, Sam

mad, (not ver - y) Love, Sam

*p* *f dim.*

*p* *f dim.*

*p* *f dim.*

*p* *mp* *f dim.* (float the D)

66

**molto rall.**

Bar - ber \* Bar - ber

Bar - ber (the sec - ond)

Bar - ber (the sec - ond)

Bar - ber \*

Bar - ber \*

\* - match the "ə" vowel without a perceptive entrance