

CUT

for female speaker
and string octet (4,2,2)

Ivan Moseley

for Susan Ailsa Letitia
October 6 2010

Sylvia Plath: *Cut*, for Susan O'Neill Roe

What a thrill –
My thumb instead of an onion.
The top quite gone.
Except for a sort of hinge

Of skin,
A flap like a hat,
Dead white.
Then that red plush.

Little pilgrim,
The Indian's axed our scalp.
Your turkey wattle
Carpet rolls

Straight from the heart.
I step on it,

Clutching my bottle
Of pink fizz.

A celebration, this is.
Out of a gap
A million soldiers run,
Redcoats, every one.

Whose side are they on?
O my
Homunculus, I am ill,
I have taken a pill to kill

The thin
Papery feeling.
Saboteur,
Kamikaze man –

The stain on your
Gauze Ku Klux Klan
Babushka
Darkens and tarnishes and when

The balled
Pulp of your heart
Confronts its small
Mill of silence

How you jump –
Trepanned veteran,
Dirty girl,
Thumb stump.

24 October 1962

Sylvia Plath

CUT

Ivan Moseley

Fast ♩ = 112

Voice
(female)

Violin I

Violin II

Violin III

Violin IV

Viola I

Viola II

Violoncello I

Violoncello II

14

Voice

The top quite gone. Ex-cept for a sort of hinge Of skin, a flap like a hat, Dead white. Then that red plush. Lit-tle

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. III

Vln. IV

Vla. I

Vla. II

Vc. I

Vc. II

B

arco

f

mp

arco

f

mp

arco

p

f

mf

arco

p

f

mf

arco

p

p

arco

p

f

p subito

pizz.

arco

f

p subito

pizz.

arco

f

p subito

pizz.

31
 Voice *pil-grim, The In-di-an's axed our scalp. Your tur-key wat - tle Car - pet rolls__ Straight from the heart. I step on it, Clutch-ing my bot-tle Of pink fizz.__ A ce le-bra-tion,* **f** **C**

Vln. I *p dolce* *p dolce* *p cresc.*

Vln. II *p dolce* *p dolce* *p cresc.*

Vln. III *pizz.* *p* *p cresc.* *arco*

Vln. IV *pizz.* *p* *p cresc.* *arco*

Vla. I *p dolce* *p dolce* *mf*

Vla. II *p* *arco* *mf*

Vc. I *p* *arco* *p cresc.*

Vc. II *arco* *p dolce* *pizz.* *p cresc.*

46

Voice

this is. Out of a gap A mil-lion sol-diers run, Red-coats,e-ve-ry one. Whose side are they on? O my hom-un-cu-lus, I am ill, I have ta-ken a pill to

Vln. I

mf

Vln. II

arco

mf

Vln. III

mp dolce

mp

Vln. IV

mp dolce

mp

Vla. I

arco

mf

mp

Vla. II

mp dolce

mp

Vc. I

mp dolce

sfp

Vc. II

arco

mp dolce

sfp

62

Voice

kill The thin pa-per-y feel-ing. **D** Sa-bo-teur, Ka-mi-ka-ze man The stain on your Gauze Ku Klux Klan Ba-boush-ka

Vln. I

p subito *mf* *sfp* *f* pizz. arco sul pont. pizz. *mp*

Vln. II

p subito *mf* *sfp* *f* pizz. arco sul pont. pizz. *mp*

Vln. III

mf *sfp* *f* pizz. arco sul pont. nat. *mp*

Vln. IV

mf *sfp* *f* pizz. arco sul pont. nat. *mp*

Vla. I

mf *sfp* *f* pizz. arco sul pont. nat. *mp*

Vla. II

mf *sfp* *f* pizz. arco sul pont. nat. *mp*

Vc. I

mf *f* pizz. arco sul pont. pizz. *mp*

Vc. II

mf *f* pizz. arco sul pont. pizz. *mp*

E

77 *ff*

Voice

Dar-kens and tar-nish-es and when The balled Pulp of your heart Con-fronts its small mill of si-lence How you

Vln. I

ff

arco *p* *mf* *p subito*

tr

Vln. II

ff

arco *p* *mf* *p subito*

Vln. III

ff

p *mf* *p subito*

Vln. IV

ff

p *mf* *p subito*

Vla. I

ff *p*

pizz.

Vla. II

ff *p*

Vc. I

ff arco *p* *mf*

Vc. II

ff arco *p* *mf*

Voice
89
jump - Tre - panned ve - te - ran,
ff 3
Dir - ty girl,
mp
Thumb stump.
ff
Cut!

Vln. I
ff
pp
fff
Cut!

Vln. II
ff
pp
fff
Cut!

Vln. III
ff
pp
fff
Cut!

Vln. IV
ff
pp
fff
Cut!

Vla. I
f arco
f
ff
pp
fff
Cut!

Vla. II
f pizz.
f arco
ff
pp
fff
Cut!

Vc. I
f pizz.
f arco
pp
fff
Cut!

Vc. II
f pizz.
f arco
pp
fff
Cut!

pizz. *pp* *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff*