Braydon Baxter

# Seven Songs After William Carlos Williams

*for Tenor and String Quartet*

*2025*

The first performance was given on May 24, 2025, in Hanover, NH, by
Charles Blandy, Tenor; Jesse MacDonald, Violin I; Amelia Perron, Violin II;
Santiago Vazquez-Loredo, Viola; and Jacob MacKay, Violoncello.

Duration: ca. 17 minutes

# Seven Songs After William Carlos Williams

## I.
## Between Walls

the back wings
of the

hospital where
nothing

will grow lie
cinders

in which shine
the broken

pieces of a green
bottle

## II.
## Tree

The tree is stiff, the branch
is arching, arching, arching
to the ground. Already its tip
reaches the hats of the passersby
children leap at it, hang on it—
bite on it. It is rotten, it
will be thick with blossoms in
the spring. Then it will break off
of its own weight or from the pulls
of the blossom seekers who will
ravish it. Freed of this disgrace
the tree will remain, stiffly upright

## III.
## Silence

Under a low sky—
this quiet morning
of red and
yellow leaves—

a bird disturbs
no more than one twig
of the green leaved
peach tree

## IV.
## The Yellow Chimney

There is a plume
of fleshpale
smoke upon the blue

sky. The silver
rings that
strap the yellow

brick stack at
wide intervals shine
in this amber

light—not
of the sun not of
the pale sun but

his born brother
the
declining season

## V.

12/2 The first snow was a white sand that made the white rocks seem red.

## VI.
## The Locust Tree in Flower

Among
of
green

stiff
old
bright

broken
branch
come

white
sweet
May

again

## VII.
## Lines

Leaves are graygreen,
the glass broken, bright green.

*to Zedo*

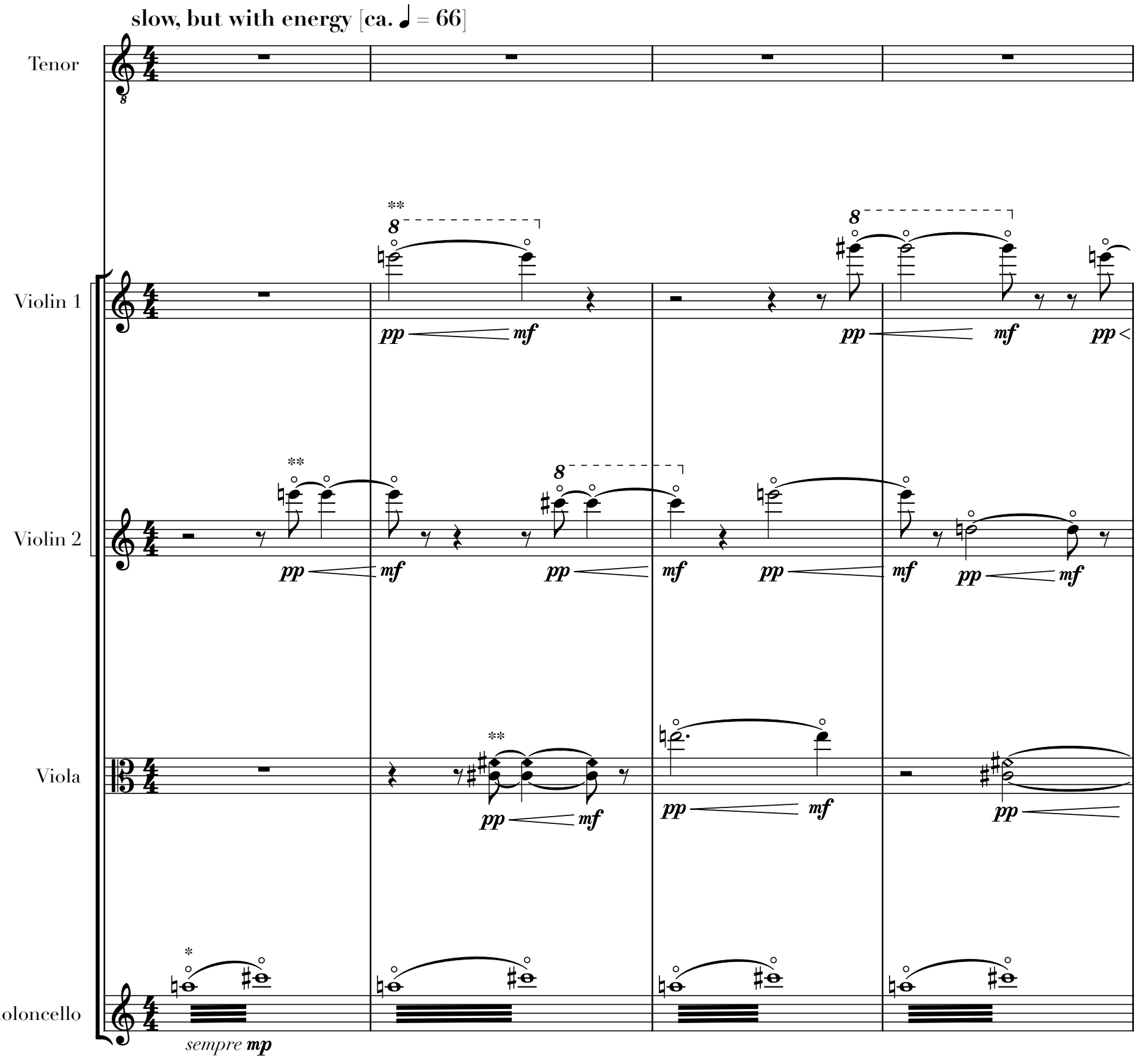
# Seven Songs After William Carlos Williams

for Tenor and String Quartet
2025

## I. Between Walls

William Carlos Williams

Braydon Baxter




*Harmonic trill, occasionally allowing the fundamental to sound.
**Allow all harmonics to ring.

5

mp

the back wings

9

of the_

13

hos - pi - tal where where where

17

noth - ing will grow lie cin - ders

21

ff

ff

ff

pp

8

pp f

pp f

8

pp f

pp

8

pp f

pp f

pp f

pp

25

mp

3

in which shine the bro - ken

8

pp f

pp f

pp f

pp f

f

pp f

pp f

pp f

pp

f

pp f

pp f

pp f

pp

29

*mezza voce*

pie - ces of a green bot -

33

- tle

-
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-

# II. Tree

William Carlos Williams

Braydon Baxter

**stately** [**ca.** ♩ = 58]

Tenor

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

*

**

(normal)

pizz.

arco

pp ff

sfp n

mf

6

mp

The tree is stiff,

*Extremely heavy bow pressure to produce a discontinuous creaking. No pitch.

**Circular bow rapidly across all four strings, mostly toward and away from the bridge. Left hand gliss., pitch approx.

11

*mp*

the branch is arch - ing, arch - ing, arch - ing

*pp* *ff* *sfp* *n* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *f* *pp*

*pp* *ff* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *f* *pp*

*sfp* *n* *mf*

arco

*sfp* *n*

15

to the ground. Al - read - y its tip

*pp* *mp* *pp* *sfp* *n*

*pp* *mp* *pp*

*mf* *sfp* *n*

pizz. pizz. arco

** *mf* *mf* *sfp* *n*

*p* *mf* *p*

**See p. 7

21

rea - ches the hats of the

pp mf pp mf pp f pp

pp mf pp mf pp f pp

mf

pizz.

mf

24

poco accel.

mf

pass - ers - by chil - - dren

*

mf

*

mf

*

mf

pizz.

mf

arco

mp pp

*See p. 7

27 **with more energy** [ca. ♩ = 62]

leap at it, hang on it—

pizz.

*mf*

pizz.

*mf*

pizz.

*mf*

pizz.

*mf*

30

bite on it

**rit.**

33

**a tempo**

*f*

It is rot - ten it will be thick with blo-ssoms

arco

*f*

*mp* > *pp*

arco

*pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *f* *pp*

arco

*f*

arco

*f*

*pp*

38

**slower** (**tempo I**)

*ff*

in the spring.

*mp*

Then it will

*ff*

*pp* *fff* *pp*

snap pizz.

*ff*

arco

*pp* *fff* *pp*

**

*ff*

*pp* *fff* *mp*

*ff*

pizz.

*mf*

*pp* *fff* *pp*

**See p. 7

43

break off of its own weight

pp mf pp mf pp f pp ff pp

pp mf pp mf pp f pp ff pp

mf mf mf

pizz. arco

mf p mf

47

or from the pulls of the blo - ssom - seek - ers who will

f mf

mp f mf

mp f

pizz. arco

p f

p f

52

tempo II

rav - ish it.

mp

*

mf < f

(—)

pp < f > ppp

pizz.

mp

3

mf

56

*See p. 7

60

63

rit.

arco
***

mf fff

***Heavy pressure, no pitch

crystalline

66

*f*

freed of this dis - grace the tree will re - main

arco

*sfp*

arco

*sfp*

arco
II and III

*sfp*

arco

*sfp*

70

stiff - ly up - right

*sfp*

# III. Silence

Williams Carlos Williams

Braydon Baxter

**airy** [**ca.** ♩ = 84]

Tenor

*mp*

Un - der a low sky this qui - et morn - ing of red and yel - low leaves

Violin 1

molto flautando

*mp*

Violin 2

molto flautando

*mp*

Viola

molto flautando

*mp*

Violoncello

molto flautando

*mp*

8

*mp*

a bird dis - turbs no more than one twig of the green leaved peach tree

*p*

# IV. The Yellow Chimney

William Carlos Williams

Braydon Baxter

**expansive** [**ca.** ♩ = **66**]

Tenor

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

*p* < *mf* > *p*

*pp*

*mf*

*mp*

5

There is a plume of flesh-pale smoke up-on the

pizz.

arco

9

blue sky. The sil - ver

SP normal

SP normal

SP normal airy and distant

SP normal airy and distant

12

rings that strap the yel - low brick stack at

normal

normal

*Harmonic gliss.

15

wide in - ter - vals shine in this

normal → MSP → normal → MSP → normal

normal → MSP → normal → MSP → normal

rit. a tempo

18

am - ber light not of the sun not of the pale sun

cresc. cresc.

21

mp

— but his born bro-ther the de - cli - ning sea - son

pp

pp

p < mf > p

p < mf > p

p < mf > p

p < mf > p

p < mf > p

p < mf > p

p < mf > p

p < mf > p

mf

25

8

mf

mp

mp

p

pizz.

# V. 12/2

William Carlos Williams

Braydon Baxter

**distant** [**ca.** ♩ = **76**]

Tenor

Violin 1

sul tasto
with mute

*sempre* ***pp***

Violin 2

sul tasto
with mute

*sempre* ***pp***

Viola

sul tasto
with mute

*sempre* ***pp***

Violoncello

(no mute)

***p*** ***mf***

4

***mp*** ***mf*** ***p***

7

10

*mp*

13

*mp*

*mf*

17

*pp*

21

*mf*

The first snow was a

*mf*

*mf*

25

white sand that made the first snow was

29

a white rocks seem The

33

*f*

first snow was a white sand that

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*f*

37

made the white rocks seem red rocks seem

*mp*

*mp*

41

red

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

# VI. The Locust Tree in Flower

William Carlos Williams

Braydon Baxter

**still** [**ca.** ♩ = 58]

Tenor

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

pizz.

arco

5

*Heavy bow pressure, continuous scratch noise. No pitch.
**White noise, lightly press finger on inharmonic area of string while bowing.
***Harmonic trill, very light bow, airy sound with little pitch.

11

p

A - mong

mp

p

p

p

****

mp

p

p

pizz.

ppp

arco

p

pizz.

ppp

16

p

of

green

mp

p

p

ppp < p > n

mp

p

p

mp

arco

p

pizz.

ppp

arco

p

pizz.

ppp

****Rapid ricochet directly on the bridge, no definite pitch.

22

mp

stiff

old

p

bright

normal → → MSP

p

mp

p

normal → → MSP

p

mp

p

normal → → MSP

3

p

mp

p

normal → → MSP

p

mp

p

27

mezza voce

p

bro - ken

(normal)

p

branch_ come___

white

normal

p

p

mp

p

normal

p

p

normal

p

p

pizz.

3

ppp

normal

p

pizz.

3

pp

p

arco

pizz.

3

ppp

arco

p

32

sweet

May

mp

mp

mp

8

3

p

pp

p

3

p

pizz.

3

ppp

36

pp

3

a - gain

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

arco

pp

pp

# VII. Lines

William Carlos Williams

Braydon Baxter

**like the beginning** [ca. ♩ = 66]

Tenor

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

mp

5

mf

Leaves are gray - green, the glass bro - ken

11

*mp*

bright green

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

15

*pp*

*pp* < *mp* > *pp*

*pp*

*pp* < *mp* > *pp*

*pp*

*pp* < *mp* > *pp*

*pp*

*pp* < *mp* > *pp*

May 1, 2025, Hanover, NH