MYSTERIOUS BUTTERFLIES
for eight voices and chamber ensemble (2017)

RYAN LINDVEIT

PIANO-VOCAL SCORE
INSTRUMENTATION
Oboe 1
Oboe 2 / English Horn
Bassoon
Trumpet (mutes: cup and straight)
Piano
Two sopranos
Two altos
Two tenors
Two basses
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
‘Cello
Bass

PROGRAM NOTES & TEXT
Santiago Ramón y Cajal was a Nobel Prize-winning scientist who is often called the father of modern neuroscience. Among other things, Cajal discovered the neuron and also made meticulous pencil drawings of many of the nerve cells he saw under his microscope—bridging the gap between art and science. He wrote beautifully about his discoveries and was aware that neuroscience held the secrets to unlocking the mysteries of the human psyche. I have been wanting to write a piece related to neuroscience for a long time, and Cajal’s imagery-rich words spoke to me immediately. He calls brain cells “the mysterious butterflies of the soul,” and wonders if their “flapping wings” will someday provide us with the secrets of the human mind. Ultimately, Mysterious Butterflies is a manifestation of my belief that one of music’s greatest powers is to provide a space for listeners to explore mysterious mental terrain.

The text has been translated & adapted from Recuerdos de mi Vida (Recollections of my Life) by Santiago Ramón y Cajal (1923).

Informal pronunciation guide:

Who knows the secret of mental life?  thə ; 'sē-krət

Like the entomologist hunting  thē ; en-tə-'mä-la-jist
For brightly colored butterflies
My attention hunted
In the garden of gray matter
For cells of delicate and elegant forms:

The mysterious butterflies of the soul
Whose flapping wings may
Someday—who knows?—
Clarify the secret
Of mental life.
MYSTERIOUS BUTTERFLIES

TEXT:
Santiago Ramón y Cajal

MUSIC:
Ryan Lindveit

Diaphanous, spacious $\frac{\text{b}}{\text{a}} = 80$

Soprano (2)

Alto (2)

Tenor (2)

Bass (2)

Piano

©2018 Ryan Lindveit / Lindveit Music (ASCAP)
www.ryanlindveit.com
MYSTERIOUS BUTTERFLIES
Who knows the secret?

C

Who knows the secret?
MYSTERIOUS BUTTERFLIES

57

S

A

T

B

Pno.

57

of mental life of mental life

cret of mental life

se - cret of mental life

the se - cret?

############

Pno.

f

f

f

f

f

f

Pno.

rit. a tempo

60

S

men - tal life men - tal life

men - tal life

men - tal life

men - tal life

men - tal life

men - tal life

Pno.

3

3

3

5

3

5

3

5

3

3

3
molto rit. \[ \dot{q} = 54 \]

S

men\_tal\_ life

A

men\_tal\_ life

T

men\_tal\_ life

B

men\_tal\_ life

Pno.

Who knows the se-

Who knows the se-

Who knows?

MYSTERIOUS BUTTERFLIES
Vivacious $\frac{3}{4} = 120$ (sempre)
Like the entomologist hunting hunting

Like the entomologist hunting hunting
MYSTERIOUS BUTTERFLIES

118 [L] (2+2+3) (2+3)

S

A

T

B

Pno.

123 [M] (2+3) mp

S

A

T

B

Pno.
my attention hunted in the garden of

my attention hunted in the garden of

my attention hunted in the garden

my attention the garden

gray matter for cells of

gray matter

gray matter

gray matter
Mysterious Butterflies

142

S

\(\text{delicate}\) and \(\text{elegant}\) forms

A

\(\text{delicate}\) \(\text{forms}\)

T

\(\text{delicate}\) \(\text{forms}\)

B

\(\text{delicate}\) \(\text{forms}\)

Pno.

\(\text{delicate}\) \(\text{forms}\)

146

S

\(\text{delicate}\) and \(\text{elegant}\) forms

A

\(\text{delicate}\) \(\text{forms}\)

T

\(\text{delicate}\) \(\text{forms}\)

B

\(\text{delicate}\) \(\text{forms}\)

Pno.

\(\text{delicate}\) \(\text{forms}\)
MYSTERIOUS BUTTERFLIES

\( \text{\( \frac{4}{4} \)} \) \( \text{\( \frac{6}{6} \)} \) \( \text{\( \frac{8}{8} \)} \) \( \text{\( \frac{10}{10} \)} \) \( \text{\( \frac{12}{12} \)} \)

\( \text{\( \frac{4}{4} \)} \) \( \text{\( \frac{6}{6} \)} \) \( \text{\( \frac{8}{8} \)} \) \( \text{\( \frac{10}{10} \)} \) \( \text{\( \frac{12}{12} \)} \)

\( \text{\( \frac{4}{4} \)} \) \( \text{\( \frac{6}{6} \)} \) \( \text{\( \frac{8}{8} \)} \) \( \text{\( \frac{10}{10} \)} \) \( \text{\( \frac{12}{12} \)} \)
like the en-to-mo-lo-gist
hunt-ing hunt-ing for bright-ly col-ored but-ter-flies

like the en-to-mo-lo-gist
hunt-ing hunt-ing for bright-ly col-ored but-ter-flies
MYSTERIOUS BUTTERFLIES

\( (3+2) \)

\( S \)

\( A \)

\( T \)

\( B \)

\( Pno. \)

\( 194 \)

\( 198 \)
MYSTERIOUS BUTTERFLIES
MYSTERIOUS BUTTERFLIES

Pno.

1. Pno. plays a melody in unison with the S, A, T, and B parts.
2. The text is sung as "mysterious butterflies flies flies flies flies.
3. The melody is repeated three times.

V

S

A

T

B

Pno.

213

218
MYSTERIOUS BUTTERFLIES

Pno.

228
MYSTERIOUS BUTTERFLIES

233

\( \text{flapping wings} \) \( \text{flapping wings} \)

237

\( \text{flapping wings} \) \( \text{flapping wings} \)
Pno. \[ \begin{array}{c}
\begin{array}{c}
\text{mf} \ \text{ma non troppo}
\end{array}
\end{array} \]

primeval

Pno. \[ \begin{array}{c}
\begin{array}{c}
\text{distinct}
\end{array}
\end{array} \]

my - ster - i - ous
but-ter-flies
of the soul
whose flap-ping wings may some-day who knows?

butterflies
of the soul

29 MYSTERIOUS BUTTERFLIES
Who knows?

may some day

clar i fy the

clar i fy the
MYSTERIOUS BUTTERFLIES

II

331 pp sotto voce

some - day clarify

A

331 pp sotto voce

some - day clarify

T

331 pp sotto voce

some - day clarify

B

331 pp sotto voce

some - day clarify

Pno.

338 JJ accel.

Pno.

343

j = 150

Pno.

346 accel.

Pno.
\[ d = 150 \]

\[ d = \frac{3}{4} \cdot \frac{3}{4} = 150 \]

\[ \text{S} \]

\[ \text{A} \]

\[ \text{T} \]

\[ \text{B} \]

\[ \text{Pno.} \]

\[ 381 \]

\[ \text{385} \]

\[ \text{LL} \ (2+2+3) \]

\( \text{S} \)

\( \text{A} \)

\( \text{T} \)

\( \text{B} \)

\( \text{Pno.} \)
Mysteries of Butterflies

399

\( \text{S} \)

\( \text{A} \)

\( \text{T} \)

\( \text{B} \)

\( \text{Pno.} \)

\( \Rightarrow p \ \text{ff} \) (don't overpower bassoon)
MYSTERIOUS BUTTERFLIES

S

p

\( \text{life} \)

p

\( \text{life} \)

p

\( \text{life} \)

A

p

\( \text{life} \)

p

\( \text{life} \)

p

\( \text{life} \)

T

p

\( \text{life} \)

p

\( \text{life} \)

p

\( \text{life} \)

B

\( \text{life} \)

\( \text{life} \)

\( \text{life} \)

\( \text{life} \)

Pno.

\( \text{life} \)

\( \text{life} \)

\( \text{life} \)

\( \text{life} \)
sneak a breath and subtly re-enter if needed