

Commissioned by the Bethel College Department of Music

Postcard prairie

Soprano, Piano, Tenor Saxophone and Trombone



Paul Rudy

Duration ca. 11'

Text: Gazetteer by Nathan Bartel

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Postcard prairie

Program Notes

Postcard prairie was commissioned by Bethel College for their faculty as part of a residency around their Greer Lectureship in the Arts (2010). *Gazetteer*, the text by one of my favorite poets, and long time friend Nathan Bartel, is an expansive romp through the prairie of the central US plains (a place I have trekked across often for the past 35 years), and the hallways of the human heart...viewed as a topographical map that can only hint at the grandeur and intricacy of both. The instrumentation, along with the middle stanza of the text, suggested to me a jazz energy that launched the piece, and the rest of the musical landscape fell into step behind...well, actually in front...of that. There is lots of straightness here, but, as with Kansas and the surrounding prairie, I hope you won't be fooled by languid contour lines. Lack of relief is not the same as flat, and a surface that appears featureless camouflages an surprising multiplicity of riches! Its expansive un-containedness is just like the Dixie Chicks (some of my other favorite poets) sing: "wide open spaces, room to make the big mistake, new faces, she knows the high stakes!" The open prairie, as outwardly expansive as the inwardness of the human spirit, is poetry enough. Words and music pale by comparison...but still...we attempt...

Biography

Paul Rudy (1962) is a life-long student whose music encompasses desert to kitchen, inside to outback, and chamber/orchestral. A fascination with sound has led from instrumental works to radio programs in London and Aspen Colorado, to interactive, installation, and cinematic works, with, and without visuals. Rudy has received awards from the Guggenheim (2008), Fulbright (1997) and Wurlitzer Foundations (2007 and 2009), Sounds Electric '07 Competition (1st Prize), Bourges Electroacoustic Music Competition (including a 2008 commission), EMS (Sweden 1st Prize), Citta di Udine (Prize ex aequo), SEAMUS, Meet the Composer, the American Composer's Forum, SCI, National Music Teacher's Association and the Missouri Music Teacher's Association. He promotes the music of living composers by curating concerts Internationally and lectures widely on the analysis of non-notated sonic art, sound in film and timbral practice. He teaches at the University of Missouri at Kansas City where he received the 2008 Kauffman Award for Artistic Excellence. He has an avid interest in bicycling, hiking, camping, and mountaineering. In 1994 he completed the Colorado Grand Slam after climbing all 54 of Colorado's 14,000 ft peaks and still hopes some day to go above 20,000 ft. Rudy's CD Series *2012 Stories* are available online at iTunes. Visit: www.paulrudy.com for more information.

*Text by Nathan Bartel
Gazetteer*

o

You are a little meadow
made parenthetical
by nettles
& you are the site of their loves'
arrival
Here is a rainbow once used as a rope
slung over his schooner
discarded
coiled
around a tuft of prairie grass
now
You are the site of their naming
the cloths & entwining
bindweed & briar rose

oo

You the sky teal & gray over
the site of their trustmaking
You investigate nearly
everything I care about without malice
At times you correspond
via clouds their colors
basalt bithmus benthic
upside-down ocean bottom housing
your fish
with bioluminisms
strung a path
With their names tacked up
they wove a cobalt lace

ooo

You the trees
that took notes
Damasks in the oaks
The black walnut's serrated gums
Leprous hackberry
Mulberry seeping the scent of wine
Osage wall
Leprous sycamore
Cedars making catacombs breaks
A pine alone
Sand plum to the west
Stupefied giant cottonwood buffeting in the east
Red maple to the north
Scrub oak grimace to the south
Along the banks &
the creases in ditches & q-tipped
from the rimmed outer eardrums of

toads & litter, the berm
that divides my bit of road
from yours
your marginalia I get
& your postcards & your youthful toys & rosy
recollections
I'm just beginning translating
your kinds & your interviews

oooo

In grass we experience each other & ourselves
we become aware of our presence
on Kansas
our calves brushing against dewy Kansas
our knees rasping against rock city Kansas
our ankles interstate exchanges in insect Kansas
our toes' noses inhaling ruddy Kansas
balls of our feet & our heels feeling significant Kansas
& the prairie as it did then with them recites prayers
with our assistance

ooooo

We are two as they were, too
One morning glory & the other a stick
in the ground, one
one's up
one one's
coiffure

Transposed Score

Postcard prairie

Commissioned by Bethel College Department of Music

Text: Nathan Bartel

Paul Rudy

b. 1962

Loving...tender ♩=60

The musical score is arranged for Tenor Sax, Trombone, Soprano, Piano, T Sax, and Pno. The tempo is marked as ♩=60. The score begins with a Tenor Sax part in treble clef, marked *port. molto legato*, with dynamics *fp* and *mf*. The Trombone part is in bass clef, marked *mp*. The Piano part is in grand staff, marked *mf*. The T Sax part is in treble clef, marked *mp*, *pp*, and *pp*. The Soprano part is in treble clef, with lyrics: "You, you, you a lit-tle mea-dow made par-en-thet-ic-al". The Piano part is in grand staff, marked *p* and *mp*. A section marker 'A' is placed above the T Sax staff at measure 8. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings.

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14

T Sax

Tbn

mp

Sop

by lit-tle net-tles & you are the site of their loves' ar - riv - al

3

Pno.

6

19

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Here is a lit - tle rain-bow once used as a rope slung o - ver his scho - oner dis -

19

Pno.

B

mf *pp* *mp*

f

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23

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

carded & coil-ed a - round a tuft of prair - ie now.

26

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

You are _____

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28

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

you are the site of their nam - ing the cloths en -

30

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

twin - ing bind - weed bri - ar rose

ff

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32

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

32

pva

36

C

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

p *mf* *pp* *mf*

p *mf* *pp* *mf*

mp *mf*

You _____ you _____

mf *pp*

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40

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

p *mf*

You — the sky — teal and —

Rubato

43

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

gray o - ver — the site of their trust - mak - ing — You in - vest - i - gate near - ly ever - y thing I care a - bout with - out ma - lice —

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47 **D** *in tempo*

T Sax *f*

Tbn *f*

Sop

You the sky You the sky At times you co - re -

Pno. *f* *mf*

50

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

spond vi-a clouds their co - lours ba - salt bith-mus benthic up-side-down o - cean bot - tom

Pno. *p* *f* *mf*

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53

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

hous-ing your fish ___ with bi-o-lu-min-ism-s strung a path You

55

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

the sky You _____

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57

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

the sky With

mp *mp* <

mf

Detailed description: This system covers measures 57 to 59. The T Saxophone part has a long note in measure 57, followed by a rest in 58 and 59. The Tuba part has a similar long note in 57, with a crescendo leading to *mp* in 58 and 59. The Soprano part has a long note in 57, a rest in 58, and a note in 59 with the lyrics "With". The Piano part features a complex rhythmic accompaniment with arpeggiated chords and sixteenth notes. Dynamics include *mf* at the end of the system.

60

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

st mute

their names tacked up they wove a co - balt lace

mp *p* *mp* *f*

mp

acc.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 60 to 62. The T Saxophone part has a rhythmic accompaniment starting in measure 60, with a crescendo leading to *mp* in 61 and 62. The Tuba part is marked "st mute" and has a rhythmic accompaniment starting in measure 60, with a crescendo leading to *p* in 61 and *mp* in 62. The Soprano part has a melodic line with lyrics "their names tacked up they wove a co - balt lace" starting in measure 60, with a crescendo leading to *f* in 62. The Piano part has a rhythmic accompaniment starting in measure 60, with a crescendo leading to *mp* in 62. The system includes an *acc.* (accelerando) marking.

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E Vibrant, animated $\text{♩} = 104$

64

T Sax *f*

Tbn *f*

Sop

You the trees that took notes You the trees

Pno. *f*

67

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

You the trees Dam - asks in the oaks

Pno.

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70

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

You the trees Black wal - nuts ser - rate gums You the trees

73

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

Le - prous hack - be - rry O - sage wall Mul - be - rry seeping the scent of wine

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76

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Le - prous sy - ca - more you Ce - - - - - dars ma - king cat - a - combs — break

76

Pno.

79

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

f

you! you the trees. you...

79

Pno.

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F ...*slower*
(ca. ♩ = 72)

82

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

mf *sub f* *p*

mf *sub f* *p*

mp

a lone pine _____

mp *sub f* *mp*

85

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

mf *pp*

mf *pp*

mp

Sand plum in the west _____

p

3 3 3 3

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89

T Sax

sub mf *pp* *mf*

Tbn

sub mf *pp* *mf*

Sop

stu-pe-fied gi-ant cot-ton-wood

Pno.

mf *p* *mf*

94

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

buf - fet - ing in the

Pno.

f *sost*

5 6

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96

T Sax *f*

Tbn *f*

Sop *mf*
east Red maple to the north _____ Scrub

Pno. *f*
secco!

99

T Sax *mf*

Tbn *mf*

Sop *mf*
oak grim-ace to the south _____ You, the trees A-

Pno. *mf*

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104

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

long the banks n crea-ses in ditch - es n q - tipped from out - er rimmed

108 *accel.*

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

ear - drums of toads n lit - - - ter the

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111

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

burn that di - vides my bit of road from

G ♩ = 104

113

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

yours the trees your mar-gin-a - lia I

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116

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

get your post-cards your youth - ful toys ros - y re - col - lec - tions

Pno.

119

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

I'm just be - gin - ing trans-lat-ing your kinds your in - - - ter - views You!

Pno.

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122

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

ooh ah

125

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

ff

open

f ff

you the trees you the trees! You!

ff

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128

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

mf

mf

mf

In

131

H

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

p

mf

grass we ex - per - i - ence each o - ther and our -

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134

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

selves we be - come a -

Pno.

137

I

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

ware of our pre - sence on prai - rie

Pno.

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140

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

our calves our calves bru - - - - shing dew - - -

143

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

- - y Kan - sas - - - our knees rasp -

ff

ff *mf*

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146

T Sax *mf*

Tbn

Sop

ing a - gainst rock ci - ty prai - rie

Pno.

149

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

our ank - les in - ter - state ex -

Pno.

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152

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

chang - es in - sect prai - - - rie

ff

f *ff*

f

J

155

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

our toes - es no - ses in - hail - ing

mf

mf

mf

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158

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

rud - dy Kan - - - - sas & prai - rie as it did

Pno.

161

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

then with them re - cites prayers with our as - is - tance

Pno.

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K

164

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

f

f

balls of our feet & our heels feel sig - nif - - i - cant

167

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

mp

mp

Kan - sas prai - - - rie

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molto rit.

♩ = 88

170

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

ff

ff

ff

Kan - - - - - sas!

173

L

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

p

p

mp

mp

f

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179 *poco rit.*

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

mp

We are two _____ as they were, too _____

Pno.

186 **M** *...slower*

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

We are two as they were too One mor-ning glo - ry

Pno.

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193 *rit.*

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

the o-ther a stick in the ground the ground

200 **N**

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

mp

one one's up one one's coif - fure

200 3 3 3 3

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205

O

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

mf

p

mf

mf

mf

p

one

we were two

210

T Sax

Tbn

Sop

Pno.

pp

p

mp

p

pp

as they are too...