

If I Were a Dog
GP - R017.3
medium voice, piano

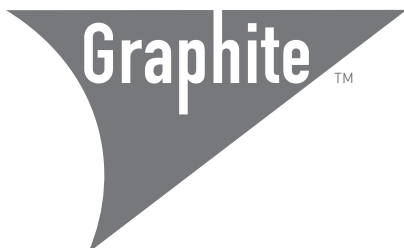
Paul John Rudoï

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Paul John Rudoï

If I Were a Dog

for medium voice and piano



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Text:

I would trot down this road sniffing
on one side and then the other
peeing a little here and there
wherever I felt the urge
having a good time what the hell*
saving some because it's a long road

but since I'm not a dog
I walk straight down the road
trying to get home before dark

if I were a dog and I had a master
who beat me I would run away
and go hungry and sniff around
until I found a master who loved me
I could tell by his smell and I
would lick his face so he knew

or maybe it would be a woman
I would protect her we could go
everywhere together even down this
dark road and I wouldn't run from side
to side sniffing I would always
be protecting her and I would stop
to pee only once in awhile

sometimes in the afternoon we could
go to the park and she would throw
a stick I would bring it back to her

each time I put the stick at her feet
I would say this is my heart
and she would say I will make it fly
but you must bring it back to me
I would always bring it back to her
and to no other if I were a dog

- *"If I Were a Dog" by Richard Shelton, from The
Last Person to Hear Your Voice. © University of Pitts-
burgh Press, 2007. Reprinted with permission.*

From the Composer:

I own many different books of poetry from local writers to the legends we know and love which I reference to find the right texts for new commissions and projects. But Richard Shelton's wonderfully vibrant "If I Were a Dog" came from one of my occasional encounters with *The Writer's Almanac*, NPR's indispensable resource for downright great poems. I wanted to set this beautifully crafted gem without feeling fake, and I hope I've done it some justice.

Above all, don't take it too seriously or too lightly. Deliver the text clearly and phrase as you would speak it. Don't go overboard with tempo shifts and let the piano bounce rather than tiptoe. No need to hit an audience over the head with a wink (e.g. measures 51-53) or something deeper (e.g. measures 67-70). In essence, let Shelton's words do the work and revel in the joy of a pet's unconditional love.

- *Paul John Rudoi, 2018*

Performance Notes

* In m. 12, while the score uses the alternate word "heck," the original text is found on this page. Feel free to use either at your discretion.

If I Were a Dog

for medium voice and piano

Richard Shelton

Paul John Rudoj

Thoughtful (♩ ~ 72) Trotting (♩ ~ 116)

mp

If I were a dog... notable. elevated.

Thoughtful (♩ ~ 72) Trotting (♩ ~ 116)

mf

* Play full value, non staccato

5 *mf*

I would trot down this road sniff-ing on one

5

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notable. elevated.

Lyrics from the poem "If I Were a Dog" from *The Last Person to Hear Your Voice*,
 by Richard Shelton, © 2007. All rights controlled by the University of Pittsburgh Press,
 Pittsburgh, PA 15260. Used by permission of University of Pittsburgh Press.

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notable. elevated.

Please report performances of this piece to
the composer at paul@pauljohnrudoj.com

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side and then the oth - er pee-ing a lit - tle here and there wher - ev-er I felt the

3

Graphite notable. elevated.

11

urge hav-ing a good time what the hell sav-ing some — be-cause it's a

f 3

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14

long road but since I'm not a dog I walk


mf

Graphite notable. elevated.

Graphite TM

17 *For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.*

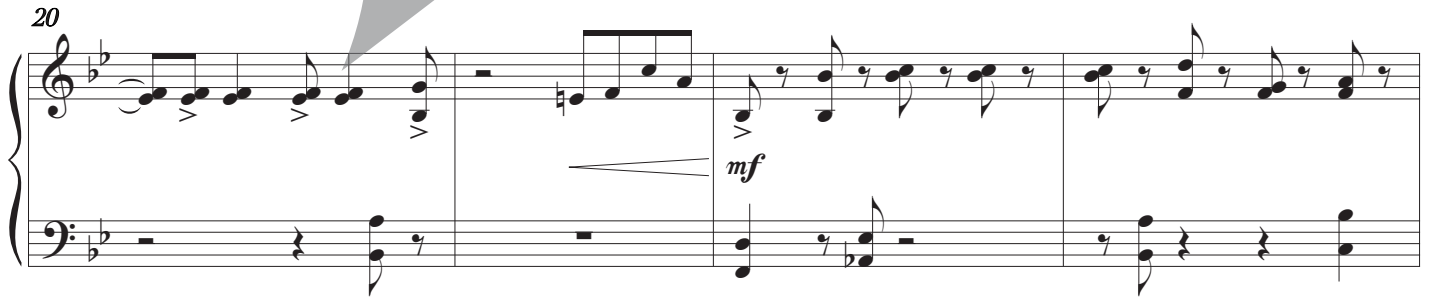
straight down the road *rit.* try - ing to get home *a tempo* be - fore dark



17 *Graphhite* *notable. elevated.*



20 *mf*



24 *For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.*

mp if I _____ were a dog



24 *Graphhite* *notable. elevated.*



27 *mf*
and I had a mas - ter who beat me

27 *mp* *p*
Graphite *notable. elevated.*

30 *p* *mf*
I would run a - way and go

30 *mp*
Graphite *notable. elevated.*

33 *f*
hun - gry and sniff a - round un - til I found a mas - ter who loved me

33 *f*
Graphite *notable. elevated.*

36 *mf*
 I could tell by his smell and I would lick his

36 *mf*
 Graphite™

39 *mp*
 face so he knew or may-be it would be a

39
 Graphite™

42 *mf*
 wo - man I would pro - tect her we could go eve - ry where to - geth - er

42 *mf*
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45 For perusal purposes only. Do not copy

e - ven down — this dark road and I would - n't run from side to side

45

Graphite notable. elevated.

48 *mp* *mf*

sniff - ing I would al - ways be pro - tect - ing her

48

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51 *mp*

and I would stop to pee on - ly once in a - while

51

Graphite notable. elevated.

espress.

mp

54 For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

some - times in the af - ter -

54 *dolce*

mp *p*

pedal harmonically

rit. -----

57

noon we could go to the park and she would throw a

rit. -----

57

mp *p* *mp* *p*

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

Thoughtful (♩ ~ 72)

60

stick I would bring it back to her

Thoughtful (♩ ~ 72)

60

63 *For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.*

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notable. elevated.

67 *p*

each time — I put the stick at her feet I would say — this is my

67

70 *For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.*

heart and she would say I will make it fly but you must

rubato *mf* *p*

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notable. *p*. elevated.

73

bring it back to me I would al - ways

73

notable. elevated.

Graphite

75

bring it back to her and to no oth - er

75

mf

78

If I were a dog...

78

p *rit.*

notable. elevated.

Graphite

Paul John Rudoï



Paul John Rudoï is an award-winning composer, conductor, tenor vocalist, and arts entrepreneur.

Deemed “indisputably unique, confident, and innovative” through the American Prize, Paul’s award-winning compositions have been commissioned and performed by various ensembles and artists throughout North America and Europe. Garnering grants and support from the Jerome Foundation, the ACF, MRAC, MSAB, the NEA, and ASCAP, his music is published through PJR Music alongside Graphite, Santa Barbara, Walton, Morningstar, and ECS music publishers.

As a professional tenor vocalist, Paul has performed and recorded a wide range of music in professional ensembles nationwide including Seraphic Fire, The Santa Fe Desert Chorale, True Concord, the Oregon Bach Festival Chorus, and most notably Cantus.

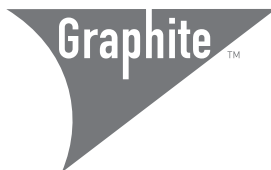
Paul is also a fierce advocate for new music trends, resources, and issues. His most recent project Consortio is a commissioning platform bringing composers, conductors, and ensembles together over common themes, interests, and accessibility. Visit consortio.io for more information.

Paul holds degrees from The Hartt School and the University of Oregon, and his teachers have included Sharon Paul, Craig Phillips, Robert Kyr, Libby Larsen, and Edward Bolkovac.

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Paul John Rudoï	GP - R017.1	If I Were a Dog	SSA, piano
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