

Dirge in Jazz Time

Vassar Miller*

For Sophie Tucker

Fred Blumenthal

$\text{♩} = 80$

Voice

Her voice for - ev - er

5

match to dry wood Since, a girl, she sang for a crust, Her in-no-cence ev-en then

Pno.

9

und-er-stood As a subt - ler word for lust As in age her wis-dom would

Pno.

*in (edited by) Sascha Feinstein and Yusef Komunyakaa: The Jazz Poetry Anthology (Bloomington and Indianapolis: University of Indiana Press, 1991) pp. 154-155.

13

mean de - light Red - hot Ma - ma who is cold to - night. Her

Pno.

Measures 13-17: The vocal line begins with a quarter rest, followed by the lyrics. The piano accompaniment consists of a continuous eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand, primarily using triads and dyads.

18

voice in the veins of eve - ry man Like ra - di - ant fi - re would glist - en Till his

Pno.

Measures 18-21: The vocal line continues with the lyrics. The piano accompaniment maintains the eighth-note bass line and chordal accompaniment, with some chord changes in the right hand.

22

bod - y, tuned ear, did no - thing else than Keep cocked to her tones and list - en. But the

Pno.

Measures 22-25: The vocal line concludes the phrase. The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note bass line and chordal accompaniment, ending with a final chord in measure 25.

26

lilt in his bones has tak - en flight, Since Red - hot Ma-ma is cold to-night.

Pno.

30

“One of these days you’ll miss me.” Oh yes, Though they couldn’t cred-it it

Pno.

34

then That she who had flashed in a se - quined dress And danced in the nerves of

Pno.

38

men Should have giv - en them this ter-rib-le slight, Not Red - hot Ma-ma grown

Pno.

42

cold to-night! Turn the spot - light down on the night - club floor. Let the

Pno.

46

jazz - men muf - fle their drums And their sax - o - phones she will hear no more Where

Pno.

50

wint-er for-ev - er numbs. Where no one can warm her whose heart burned bright, Where

Pno.

54

Red - hot Ma-ma is cold to-night.

Pno.

8/30/16