

Boy

for mezzo-soprano and piano

Music by
Jeff Myers

Poetry by
Jennifer de Guzman

Boy

By Jennifer de Guzman

for my son

Problem child –
They may say
You're a problem, child
You may think
You're a problem, child.

But –
You are the edges of my temper
You are the loose ends of my attention
Bundled into four-foot-nothing of boy –
Into brown eyes,
Brown hair,
Long legs.
You are all the energy
I do not have,
The streak of activity
that whirls around me
as I sit,
Hands folded in my lap.

But –
You are not my tangle
to unsnarl, to work,
starting at the center
and then outward,
until a clean, smooth
length of thread is
in my hands
and I can wind it
through my fingers.

But instead –
I must learn
To chase while you run
And to spread my arms wide,
To be ready –
when you have a moment
to be still –
to close them around you
and then –
Let you go again.

for Anna Laurenzo

JENNIFER DE GUZMAN
Poem: *Boy* (2017)

Boy

JEFF MYERS
(2019)

Dolce
♩ = 54

Mezzo-soprano

Piano *p*

Ped. ad lib. sempre

5 *mf*

M-S.

Prob-lem_ child_____ They may say you're a prob - lem, child_____

Pno. *mp*

8 *poco*

M-S.

_____ They may think you're a prob - lem, child_____

Pno. *cant.*

10 *rit.* *a tempo* *rit.* *p* *p*

M-S. *3* *3* *p* *p*

you think may you're a prob - lem, child But-

Pno. *p* *3*

12 **Più mosso** ♩ = 58

M-S. *pp*

You are the ed - ges of my tem - per

Pno. *pp*

14 *mp* *3* *pp*

M-S. *3* *pp*

You are the loose ends of my a - ten - tion

Pno. *p* *5* *5* *6* *6*

Meno mosso

rit. ♩ = 48

♩ = 52

16 *mp cresc.* *3* *più f* *mf*

M-S. Bun - dled in - to a four - foot - no - thing of boy In - to

Pno. *cresc.* *6* *6* *6* *più f* *mf*

18 *rit.* *f* *poco accel.* ♩ = 52

M-S. *<>* *<>* *< f >* brown eyes, Brown hair, Long legs. —

Pno. *cant.* *f* *p*

Più mosso

♩ = 58

21 *p*

M-S. You are all the en-er-gy I do not have, —

Pno. *pp*

23 *mp*

M-S. the streak of ac - ti - vi - ty that whirls a - round

Pno. *p*

25 *mf*

M-S. me

Pno. *f*

26 *mf* *mf*

M-S. as I sit hands fold - ed on my

Pno. *ff* *f* *fff*

white-note gliss. black-note gliss. *Ped. ad lib.*