

## Musical analysis of **Songs from the High Sierra**:

Individual songs –

### 1. “Ascent”

Why is the notation without meter at the beginning? Why is metered notation introduced, and why start it at this place?

What is the harmonic language of this song?

Are there sections to the song? And if so, do the sections correspond to sections of the text?

What is the function of the “Grandly” passage in mm. 17-18, 31-32?

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### 2. “Glory in the Mountains”

In what keys or modes is this music placed? What might be the significance of the choices of tonalities? What is the overall harmonic plan?

How does the imagery of the text, and the shape of the text, affect the musical setting?

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### 3. “Yosemite Falls”

How does this song fit into the overall form of the cycle? What is the harmonic plan? What is the significance of mm. 46-7?

Explain the sonority in m. 54. Explain the final 3 mm.

How does the vocal range relate to the text?

What is the role of the piano accompaniment in this song?

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#### 4. "Ice!"

How is this song different from, and similar to, the other songs in the cycle? Why was this song placed as #4 in the set?

How would you describe the harmonic language of this song, and the texture of the piano accompaniment?

What is the role of the recitative-style singing?

What is the value of humor in music?

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#### 5. "Descent: Sequoia"

How are the trees depicted in this song?

How does this song relate to the first song?

What are the sections in this song? Why are there various changes in key signature?