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What a Beast Art Thou! - Three Shakespeare Songs

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Music Presentation

WHAT A BEAST ART THOU! - THREE SHAKESPEARE SONGS

Eric Malmquist and David Vayo*
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"What a beast art thou! - Three Shakespeare Songs" was commissioned by William Roberts III, currently a senior vocal performance major at Illinois Wesleyan University. His idea was to set violent or otherwise abhorrent Shakespeare texts to music for his performance. The three texts selected are from "Titus Andronicus" and "Timon of Athens." My goal with these songs is two-fold. First, expression of the meaning of the texts, with special care given to the context of the scene, is most important. Second, the pieces showcase the stage presence and talent of the performer, Mr. Roberts. The music intends to highlight the dark and grotesque aspects of humanity using tension between dissonance and consonance, black humor, drama, and the performing skills of William Roberts III.