

# Destruction

Text by Charles Baudelaire  
Translated and excerpted by Kim Archer

Kimberly K. Archer (ASCAP)

## Sultry (♩ = 126)

(all snap fingers  
on cts. 2 & 4)

**Piano**

*f*

**T**

*mf*

The de - vil — is al-ways — at my

**B**

*mf*

The de - vil — is al-ways — at my

**Pno.**

*mf*

**T**

side. He's swim - ming — a -

**B**

side. He's swim - ming — a -

**Pno.**

*sfz*

*tr*

The score consists of four systems of music. Each system includes a Piano (Pno.) part and vocal lines for Tenor (T) and Bass (B). The Piano part is written in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and features a steady eighth-note accompaniment with occasional chords and dynamics like *f*, *mf*, and *sfz*. The vocal lines are in a single staff with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'The de - vil — is al-ways — at my side. He's swim - ming — a -'. The music is in a minor key (three flats) and common time (C). The tempo is indicated as Sultry (♩ = 126). Performance instructions include 'all snap fingers on cts. 2 & 4'. The score includes dynamic markings (*f*, *mf*, *sfz*) and a trill (*tr*) in the piano accompaniment.

Destruction / 2

(Stop finger snapping on ct. 2)

**f**

T  
round me, e - lu - sive as air: I

B  
round me, e - lu - sive as air: I

Pno.

T  
swal - low and he burns my lungs,

B  
swal - low and he burns my lungs,

Pno.

**f** **sfp**

(all snap fingers on cts. 2 & 4)

T  
bring - ing e - ter - nal, guil - ty de - sire.

B  
bring - ing e - ter - nal, guil - ty de - sire.

Pno.

**fp** **f**

Destruction / 3

26

*mf*

S He knows my in - ner mind. —

*mf*

A He knows my in - ner mind. —

*mp*

T The de - vil — is al - ways — at my side. He's

*mp*

B The de - vil — is al - ways — at my side. He's

Pno. *mf*

31

(Stop finger snapping on ct. 2)

S He comes in a wo - man's most — se - duc - tive —

A He comes in a wo - man's most — se - duc - tive —

*mf*

T swim - ming — a - round me, — se - duc - tive —

*mf*

B swim - ming — a - round me, — se - duc - tive —

Pno.

Destruction / 4

35

S *f*  
form. \_\_\_\_\_

A *f*  
form. \_\_\_\_\_

T *f*  
The sssspe - cious cock-roach! Leads me far from the

B *f*  
The sssspe - cious cock-roach! Leads me far from the

Pno. *f*

39

S *f*  
To the vast, bar - ren de - sert,

A *f*  
To the vast, bar - ren de - sert,

T *f*  
sight of God. I'm spent and

B *f*  
sight of God. I'm spent and

Pno. *f*

Destruction / 5

43

S  
far from God! Spe - cious *ff*

A  
far from God! Spe - cious *ff*

T  
gasp - ing, but my lips are in - ured

B  
gasp - ing, but my lips are in - ured

Pno.

46

S  
cock - roach!

A  
cock-roach! —

T  
*ff* to his po - tent, — sa - la - cious

B  
*ff* to his po - tent, — sa - la - cious

Pno.

Destruction / 6

50

*fff*

T

8

chords.

*fff*

B

chords.

50

*ff*

Pno.

*fff*

(all snap fingers  
on cts. 2 & 4)

53

*mp*

T

8

The de - vil — is

*mp*

B

The de - vil — is

*mf*

Pno.

Destruction / 7

58 *p*  
S (to your — de - struc - tion) —  
A (to your — de - struc - tion) —  
T al - ways — at my side. The de - vil, — he knows my in - ner mind. —  
B al - ways — at my side. The de - vil, — he knows my in - ner mind. —  
Pno.

63 *pp*  
S Ah, — de - struc - tion. —  
A Ah, — de - struc - tion. —  
T — Hmm — hmm — hmm —  
B — Hmm — hmm — hmm —  
Pno.

68 *whistle softly*  
T — *whistle softly*  
B — *whistle softly*  
Pno. 2 2

(Stop finger snapping on ct. 2)