



ART SONG

# NEW CASTLES

Poetry by

**JESS  
AZEVEDO**

Music by

**DANIEL  
MEHDIZADEH**



**Program Notes:** New Castles is inspired by the poetry of Jess Azevedo, the spouse of composer Daniel Mehdizadeh. Their creative partnership frequently overlaps, with Jess' evocative poetry igniting much of Daniel's musical vision. Commissioned by the Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra for their Songs of Hope album, New Castles explores the theme of hope through adversity, offering a message of resilience and renewal.

**Poetry by Jess Azevedo**

We collapsed in the intensity.  
I am here in the rubble,  
recovering with you  
but I am semi-permeable  
and am already building  
new castles.

EAST CHAMBER MUSIC

**Duration:** 5 minutes

# NEW CASTLES

Commissioned by the Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra  
Dedicated to Maghan McPhee & Danielle MacMillan

Music by DANIEL MEHDIZADEH  
Words by JESS AZEVEDO

$\text{♩} = 68 \text{ (ca 66-80)}$

Soprano

Mezzo-soprano

Piano

*p* (dark tone)

*ped.* (use plenty of pedal to blend voices)

Violoncello

4

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Watermarkly

2

8



Music score for measures 8-10. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a vocal line, a piano accompaniment, and a bass line. The lyrics are: "We coll-apsed in the in-ten-si-ty— I am here in—".

Lyrics: We coll-apsed in the in-ten-si-ty— I am here in—

11



Music score for measures 11-14. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a vocal line, a piano accompaniment, and a bass line. The lyrics are: "— the ru— rubble, I am here— in—".

Lyrics: — the ru— rubble, I am here— in—

15

musical score for measures 15-17. The score is written for a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The vocal line starts with a rest in measure 15, followed by the lyrics "ru-bble," in measure 16 and "the ru-bble, re -" in measure 17. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a similar pattern in the left hand. A large, diagonal watermark reading "ECM" is visible across the score.

18

musical score for measures 18-21. The score is written for a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The vocal line starts with a rest in measure 18, followed by the lyrics "-co-ve-ring with you" in measure 19, "but I am se-mi" in measure 20, and "per-mea-ble\_\_\_ and" in measure 21. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a similar pattern in the left hand. A large, diagonal watermark reading "ECM" is visible across the score. A bracket in the piano part indicates a "blend in & out seamlessly" instruction.

am al-ready build-ing,

*p sub*

First Chamber Music

ECM

I'm build-ing new ca-stles.

I'm build-ing new ca-stles,

*p*

*mf* *fp*

*mp*

*mf* *cresc.* *fp*

Watermarkly

29

Music score for measures 29-31. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "We collapsed in the in - ten - si-ty. I am". The piano part includes a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, with a *mp sub* marking. A large red watermark "ECM" is visible across the score.

32

Music score for measures 32-34. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "here in the rubble, re - co-vering with you". The piano part includes a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, with a *mp sub* marking. A large red watermark "ECM" is visible across the score.

I am se-mi per-mea-ble and am al - ready\_ I'm al-

*(mf)*

-ready\_ buil-ding these new\_ am al-

-ready\_ buil - ding buil-ding these new\_ am al - ready\_ am al-

*f* *mf*



43

musical score for measures 43-45. The score is written for four staves: two vocal staves (treble clef) and two piano staves (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: -ready\_ build - ding these new\_ build - ding these new\_ here in the. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

46

musical score for measures 46-48. The score is written for four staves: two vocal staves (treble clef) and two piano staves (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: here in the we collapsed in their - ten - si - ty I'm here in the rubble, in the. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand. Dynamic markings include *p* and *sub*.

8

49

ru-bble, we coll-apsed in the in-ten-si-ty I'm

ru-bble, I'm

ECM

Rehearsal Copy

Watermarkly

musical score for measures 49-51. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a vocal melody, a piano accompaniment, and a bass line. The lyrics are: 'ru-bble, we coll-apsed in the in-ten-si-ty I'm' and 'ru-bble, I'm'. The piano part has a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The bass line has a simple harmonic accompaniment.

52

here, re - co-ve-ring with you now but— I'm

here, here in the ru-bble, but— I'm

mp

musical score for measures 52-54. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a vocal melody, a piano accompaniment, and a bass line. The lyrics are: 'here, re - co-ve-ring with you now but— I'm' and 'here, here in the ru-bble, but— I'm'. The piano part has a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The bass line has a simple harmonic accompaniment. The dynamic marking 'mp' (mezzo-piano) is present.

55

se-mi — but I am se-mi per - mea-ble, new

se-mi — but I am se-mi per - mea-ble, new

*mp*

This block contains the musical notation for measures 55 through 57. It features two vocal staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "se-mi — but I am se-mi per - mea-ble, new". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves in bass clef, with a key signature of one sharp. The music includes various note values, rests, and dynamic markings. A large, semi-transparent watermark "ECM" is visible across the score.

58

castles. I'm al-ready build-ing new castles. I'm al-ready

castles. I'm al-rea-dy build-ing new castles. I'm al-ready

*mf*

*mf*

This block contains the musical notation for measures 58 through 60. It features two vocal staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "castles. I'm al-ready build-ing new castles. I'm al-ready". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves in bass clef, with a key signature of one sharp. The music includes various note values, rests, and dynamic markings. A large, semi-transparent watermark "ECM" is visible across the score.

10

61

building here in the rubble,

building here in the rubble, we're in the rubble,

ECM

musical score for measures 61-63. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It features a vocal melody in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "building here in the rubble," and "building here in the rubble, we're in the rubble,". The piano part consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand and a melody in the right hand. The score is marked with a large red watermark "ECM".

64

here the

here the

mf

musical score for measures 64-66. The score is in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). It features a vocal melody in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "here the" and "here the". The piano part consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand and a melody in the right hand. The score is marked with a large red watermark "ECM". The dynamic marking *mf* is present at the bottom left.

67

ru-bble, in the ru-bble, we're here in the ru-bble, we're in the

ru-bble, in the ru-bble, we're here in the ru-bble, we're in the

*mp*

This block contains the musical notation for measures 67 through 69. It features two vocal staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "ru-bble, in the ru-bble, we're here in the ru-bble, we're in the". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves in bass clef, with a key signature of one sharp. The music includes various note values, rests, and dynamic markings. A large, semi-transparent watermark "ECM" is visible across the score.

70

ru-bble, here, the ru-bble, (*p - echo*)

ru - bble, here, we're in the

*mf*

This block contains the musical notation for measures 70 through 72. The lyrics continue: "ru-bble, here, the ru-bble, (p - echo)" and "ru - bble, here, we're in the". The notation includes vocal staves with lyrics and piano accompaniment staves. Dynamic markings include *mp* and *mf*. A large, semi-transparent watermark "ECM" is visible across the score.

*x-noteheads: slightly out of sync with one another, freely and naturally speak the poem*

73 **neutral tone**-----

"We collapsed in the intensity.  
I am here in the rubble,  
recovering with you  
but I am semi-permeable  
and am already building  
new castles."

*(space out words, but don't stretch out - keep rhythms natural.  
Use a neutral voice.  
Plan to arrive on "building" in bar 77)*

wecoll-apsed in....

rubble, wecoll-apsed....

*p*

76

*(together - very neutral tone)*

....building new castles.

....building new castles.

let ring

*fff*

*mf*

*n*

**About the composer:** Described as a “hypnotic masterwork” by Daniel Vnukowski of Classical Jukebox Radio, Daniel Mehdizadeh’s music captivates audiences worldwide. Holding a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Composition from the University of Toronto, Mehdizadeh’s works are revered for their intricate, unpredictable, and haunting qualities. Based in the Greater Toronto Area, he is currently the music and choir director at Stouffville United Church, having completed a successful three-year tenure as composer-in-residence for the Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra. With a renewed focus on chamber, vocal, and choral writing, his music continues to gain international recognition, with performances at major festivals across Europe and North America. Featured on CBC and Classical Jukebox Radio, his music appears on multiple commercial recordings released by Akashic Classics and distributed by Universal Music Group. For more visit [www.danielmehdizadeh.com](http://www.danielmehdizadeh.com)

EAST CHAMBER MUSIC