

Part Songs

SATB *A Capella*

2015 - 2018

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The title "Part Songs" refers to the genre of the work's vocal miniatures, i.e., mainly homophonic songs for four voices a capella, and also to the fact that none of these songs is quite complete, each being a setting of a fragmentary or fragment-like text that records only a fleeting moment or the moment's fleeting. This uneasy alliance of lyric recollection and its elusiveness, reflecting but also resisting nostalgia for an unavailable wholeness, finds its echo in the harmony, which mixes chord types and sonorities in ways that are sometimes familiar and sometimes strange. The final song, echoing the first, frames the cycle with a paradox: music that emerges and persists in the act of recalling the vanishing of another music.

Composed 2015 - 2020. Duration: 13 minutes.

Music, when soft voices die,
Vibrates in the memory.

--Shelley

Sit underneath this tall green pine
whose voice is a rustling of branches
in the western breeze. Beside
my shimmering waters the pipe of Pan
will call down drowsiness
on your enchanted eyelids.

The brown waves of fog toss up to me
Twisted faces from the bottom of the street. . .
An aimless smile that hovers in the air
And vanishes along the level of the roofs.

--Eliot

--Plato (Greek Anthology)

The stars around the beauteous moon
Hiding their shimmering forms
When she shines at the full on the earth....
Silver...

--Sappho

I stand as on some mighty eagle's beak,
Eastward the sea absorbing, viewing, (nothing but sea and sky,)
The tossing waves, the foam, the ships in the distance,
The wild unrest, the snowy, curling caps—that inbound urge and urge
of waves,
Seeking the shores forever.

--Whitman

This music crept by me upon the waters . . .
Where should this music be? [In] the air
Or [in] the earth? It sounds no more.

--Shakespeare

I. ♩ = 66

Soprano (S): Treble clef, 4/4 time. Notes: - (Measure 1), ♯ (Measure 2), ♯ (Measure 3), ♯ (Measure 4), ♯ (Measure 5), ♯ (Measure 6). Dynamics: **p** (Measure 1), **p** (Measure 2).

Alto (A): Treble clef, 4/4 time. Notes: - (Measure 1), - (Measure 2), ♭ (Measure 3), ♭ (Measure 4), ♭ (Measure 5), ♭ (Measure 6). Dynamics: **p** (Measure 2), **p** (Measure 3).

Tenor (T): Treble clef, 4/4 time. Notes: ♪ (Measure 1), ♪ (Measure 2), ♪ (Measure 3), ♪ (Measure 4), - (Measure 5), - (Measure 6). Dynamics: **p** (Measure 1).

Bass (B): Bass clef, 4/4 time. Notes: - (Measure 1), - (Measure 2), ♭ (Measure 3), ♭ (Measure 4), ♭ (Measure 5), ♭ (Measure 6). Dynamics: **p** (Measure 1).

Lyrics:

Music, when soft voices die,
Music, when soft voices die,

II

Soprano (S) vocal line:

die _____

ppp

Alto (A) vocal line:

soft voi - ces die, _____

ppp

Tenor (T) vocal line:

die _____

ppp

Bass (B) vocal line:

when soft voi - ces die, _____

ppp

vi - brates, _____

pp

18

Soprano (S) vocal line:

vi - brates _____

pp

vi - brates in the mem-o - ry, _____ ah, _____

Alto (A) vocal line:

vi - brates in the mem-o - ry, _____

p

Tenor (T) vocal line:

vi - brates _____

pp

vi - brates in the mem-o - ry, _____

Bass (B) vocal line:

vi - brates _____

pp

vi - brates in he mem-o - ry, _____

rit.

24 ***pp*** *a tempo*

S

A

T

B

in the mem - o - ry,

in - the mem - o - ry,

in the mem - o - ry,

28

S

mem - o - ry.

A

mem - o - ry.

T

mem - o - ry.

B

mem - o - ry.

28

rit.

$\frac{12}{8}$

$\frac{12}{8}$

$\frac{12}{8}$

II. $\text{♩} = 60$

S 32 **p**

A **p**

T **p**

B 32 **p**

Sit un-derneath this tall green pine, tall green pine whose

S 35 **mf**

A **mf**

T **mf**

B 35 **mf**

voice is a rust-ling of branch-es in the west - ern breeze. Be-

38

S side my shim-mer-ing wat-ters the pipe _____ of Pan _____ of

A side my shim-mer-ing wat-ters the pipe _____ of Pan _____ of Pan _____

T 8 side my shim-mer-ing wat-ters the pipe _____ of Pan _____ of Pan _____

38

B side my shim-mer-ing wat-ters the pipe _____ of Pan _____ of Pan _____

41

S decresc. Pan _____ of Pan _____ will call down drow - si - ness _____ on your _____ en- **p**

A decresc. _____ of Pan _____ will call down drow - si - ness _____ on your _____ en- **p**

T 8 decresc. _____ of Pan _____ will call down drow - si - ness _____ on your _____ en- **p**

41

B decresc. _____ of Pan _____ will call down drow - si - ness _____ on your _____ en- **p**

44

S chant - ed eye - lids. Be - side my shim-mer-ing wat-ters the pipe

A chant - ed eye - lids. Be - side my shim-mer-ing wat-ters the pipe

T chant - ed eye - lids. Be - side my shim-mer-ing wat-ters the pipe

B chant - ed eye - lids. Be - side my shim-mer-ing wat-ters the pipe

47

S of Pan of Pan of Pan will

A of Pan of Pan of Pan will

T of Pan of Pan of Pan will

B of Pan of Pan of Pan will

S *A* *T* *B*

call down drow si - ness on your en -

call down drow si - ness on your en -

call down drow si - ness on your en -

call down drow si - ness on your en -

S *A* *T* *B*

chant ed eye - - - lids.

III. $\text{♩} = 92$

Soprano (S) 57 *mf*
The brown waves of fog *mf* 3 3 toss up to me, _____ toss up to
Alto (A) The brown waves _____ of fog _____ toss up to me, _____ toss up to
Tenor (T) 8 *mf* 3 3 The brown waves _____ of fog _____ toss up to me, _____ toss up to
Bass (B) 57 *mf* The brown waves _____ 3 of fog _____ 3 toss up to me, _____ toss up to

Soprano (S) 61 (solo)
me _____ twist _____ ed
Alto (A) me _____ (ah) _____ twist - ed
Tenor (T) 8 me _____ (ah) _____ twist - ed
Bass (B) 61 me _____ (ah) _____ twist - ed

65 *cresc.*

S fac - es from the bot - tom of the street *f*

A fac - es twist - ed fac - es

T fac - es twist - ed fac - es

B fac - es twist - ed fac - es

68 (all)

S

A from the bot - tom of the street *3* (ah) *3* *3* *3*

T from the bot - tom of the street *3* (ah) *3* *3* *3*

B from the bot - tom of the street *3* (ah) *3* *3* *3*

71 ***p***

S fac-es from the bot-tom of the street from the bot-tom of the
A twist - ed fac - es from the bot-tom of the
T 8 twist - ed face - es, fac - es from the bot-tom of the
B twist - ed fac - es, fac - es from the bot-tom of the

75 *cresc.*

S street _____ (ah) _____
A street _____ (ah) _____ an
T 8 street _____ (ah) _____ an
B 75 *cresc.* street _____ (ah) _____ an

77

Soprano (S) **f(solo)**

Alto (A) **f**

Tenor (T) **f**

Bass (B) **f**

an__ aim - *3* less smile _____

aim - less smile _____

80

Soprano (S) **p**
(all)

Alto (A) **p**

Tenor (T) **p**

Bass (B) **p**

that ho - - - - vers in the

that ho - vers in the air, _____

that ho - vers in the air, _____

that ho - vers in the air, _____

85 *rit.* *a tempo*

S air, _____

A ho - vers in the air, (ah) — and

T ho - vers in the air, (ah) — and

B ho - vers in the air, (ah) — and

89 $\text{♩} = 66$ $\text{♩} = 92$

S — — — —

A va-nish-es a - long the le-vel— of the roofs, and va-nish-es a -

T va-nish-es a - long the le-vel— of the roofs, and va-nish-es a -

B va-nish-es a - long the le-vel— of the roofs, and - va-nish-es a -

93 ***pp***

S rit.

(ah) _____

A long _____ the le - vel of the roofs.

T 8 long _____ the le - vel of the roofs.

B 93 long _____ the le - vel of the roofs.

This musical score page features four staves for SATB (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) voices. The Soprano staff begins with a sustained note labeled '(ah)' followed by a ritardando instruction ('rit.') above the staff. The Alto, Tenor, and Bass staves begin simultaneously with eighth-note chords. The vocal parts sing the lyrics 'long _____ the le - vel of the roofs.' The bass part continues from measure 93. Measure numbers 93 and 8 are indicated above the staves. Dynamic markings include ***pp*** (pianissimo) and *rit.* (ritardando).

IV. $\text{♩} = 66$

97

Soprano (S) **p**
The stars _____ a - round _____ the beau - teous moon,

Alto (A) **p**
The stars _____ a - round the beau - teous moon _____

Tenor (T) **p**
8 The stars _____ a - round the beau - teous moon, _____

Bass (B) **p**
97 The stars _____ a - round the beau - teous moon, _____

102 **mp**
Soprano (S) hid - ing their shim - - - - mer-ing forms _____

Alto (A) **mp** hid - ing their shim-mer-ing forms, **p** shim - - - - mer-ing forms

Tenor (T) **mp** hid - ing their shim-mer-ing forms, **p** shim - - - - mer-ing forms,

Bass (B) **mp** hid - ing their shim-mer-ing forms, **p** shim _____ mer-ing forms,

107

Soprano (S) vocal line:

when she shines _____ at the full _____ on the earth, _____

Alto (A) vocal line:

when she shines at the full on the earth, _____ on the earth, _____

Tenor (T) vocal line:

when she shines at the full on the earth, _____ on the earth, _____

Bass (B) vocal line:

when she shines at the full on the earth, _____ on the earth, _____

III

Soprano (S) vocal line:

sil - ver sil - ver sil - ver The stars _____

Alto (A) vocal line:

sil - ver sil - ver sil - ver The stars a -

Tenor (T) vocal line:

sil - ver sil - ver sil - ver The stars a -

Bass (B) vocal line:

sil - ver sil - ver sil - ver The stars a -

116

S — a - round hid - ing their shim - - - - -
 A round, hid - ing their shim-mer-ing forms,
 T 8 round, hid - ing their shim-mer-ing forms,
 B 116 round, hid - ing their shim-mer-ing forms,

mp *mp* *mp* *p*

p

p

p

120

S sil - ver sil - ver
 A sil - ver sil - ver
 T 8 sil - ver sil - ver
 B 120 sil - ver sil - ver

mf *pp*

mf *pp*

mf *pp*

mf *pp*

V. ♩ = 88

124 ***mf***

S I stand as on some might - y ea - gle's _____ beak,

A I stand as on some might - y ea - gle's _____ beak,

T I stand as on some might - y ea - gle's _____ beak, ***p*** East-ward ____ the sea ab-

124 ***mf***

B I stand as on some might - y ea - gle's _____ beak,

129 ***p***

S East-ward ____ the sea ab - sorb - ing, view - ing no-thing but

A East-ward ____ the sea ab - sorb - ing, view - ing no-thing but

T sorb - ing, _____ the sea ab - sorb - ing, view - ing no-thing but

129 ***p***

B East-ward ____ the sea ab - sorb - ing, view - ing no-thing but

133

S sea and sky, _____ sea and sky, _____

A sea and sky, sea and sky, _____

T sea and sky, sea and sky, _____

B sea and sky, sea and sky, _____

139

S the toss - ing waves _____ the foam the ships in the dis-stance, _____
3

A the toss - ing waves, _____ the foam, the ships in the dis - tance,

T 8 the toss - ingwaves, _____ the foam, the ships in the dis - tance, _____

B the toss - ingwaves _____ the foam, the ships in the dis - tance, _____

142

S the wild un rest, 3 the snow - y curl ing caps

A the wild un rest, the snow - y curl - ing caps

T 8 the wild un rest, the snow - y curl - ing caps

B the wild un rest, the snow - y curl - ing caps

145

S that in - bound urge, that in - bound
cresc.

A that in - bound urge, that in - bound
cresc.

T 8 that in - bound urge, that in - bound urge and
cresc.

B that in - bound urge, that in - bound urge and
cresc.

147

S *ff*

urge and urge and urge of waves, urge _____

A *ff*

urge and urge and urge of waves, urge _____

T *ff*

8 urge and urge of waves, urge _____

147

B *ff*

ugre and urge of waves, urge _____

f cresc.

f cresc.

f cresc.

f cresc.

This musical score page shows four staves of vocal music for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The piano part is represented by a single staff below the voices. The vocal parts are in soprano, alto, tenor, and bass clefs. The piano part uses a bass clef. The music is in common time. Measure 147 starts with the vocal line "urge and urge and urge" followed by "of waves," with dynamic markings *ff* and *f cresc.*. The piano part has eighth-note chords. Measure 151 continues with "and urge and urge" followed by "of waves," with dynamic markings *ff* and *f cresc.*. The piano part has eighth-note chords. Measures 147 and 151 both end with "urge _____". The vocal parts have lyrics written below them, and the piano part has lyrics written above it.

151

S *ff*

— and urge and urge of waves, —

A *ff*

— and urge and urge of waves, —

T *ff*

8 — and urge of waves, —

151

B *ff*

— and urge of waves, —

This continuation of the musical score follows the same structure as the previous page. It consists of four staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano staff. The vocal parts are in soprano, alto, tenor, and bass clefs. The piano part uses a bass clef. The music is in common time. Measure 151 starts with the vocal line "— and urge and urge" followed by "of waves," with dynamic marking *ff*. The piano part has eighth-note chords. Measure 151 continues with "— and urge of waves," with dynamic marking *ff*. The piano part has eighth-note chords. The vocal parts have lyrics written below them, and the piano part has lyrics written above it.

156

S **p** *3* rit. *3* > **pp**

A seek-ing the shores, — seek-ing the shores for - e - ver.

T **p** *3* **p** *3* > **pp**

B 8 seek-ing the shores, — seek-ing the shores for - e - ver.

156 **p** *3* > **pp**

seek-ing the shores, — seek-ing the shores for - e - ver.

VI. ♩ = 66

162

S

A

T

B

pp hummed

sung: ahs

pp hummed

sung: ahs

pp hummed

sung: ahs

167

S

A

T

B

p

sic _____ crept u-pon me by the wa - ters.

p

mp

This mu -

This mu -

172

S *p*

A *p* <> *mp* *mf*

T *8* sic _____ crept u-pon me by the wa - ters.

B *172* *mf*

176

S *mf*

A ah,

T *8* this mu - sic, mm, ah,

B *176* *p* *pp*

S *p* *pp*

A ah,

T this mu - sic, mm, ah,

B ah,

180

S *mf* Where _____ should this mu - sic be?

A *mf* mm, ah, this mu -

T *mf* mm, ah,

B *mf* ah, ah,

184

S — This mu-sic crept by me u-upon the wa -

A *p* sic, this mu - sic, this mu -

T *p* ah, this mu - sic, this mu -

B *p* this mu - sic, this mu - sic, this mu -

a tempo

rit.

S - ters. This mu-sic crept by

A sic: **pp** **p** upon the wa-ters. This mu-sic crept by

T sic: **pp** upon **3** the wa-ters. This mu-sic crept by

B **188** **pp** **p** upon the wa-ters. This mu-sic crept by

cresc. rit. **f** **J = 80**

S me u - pon the wa - ters. _____

A **cresc.** **f** **p** me u - pon the wa - ters. _____ Where should this mu - sic

T **cresc.** **f** **p** me u - pon the wa - ters. _____ Where should this

B **192** **cresc.** **f** **p** me u - pon the wa - ters. _____

197

Soprano (S) vocal line:

p

Where should this mu - sic be? _____

Alto (A) vocal line:

be? _____

Tenor (T) vocal line:

8 mu - sic be? Where should this

Bass (B) vocal line:

197 *p*

Where should this mu - sic be? Where should this

202

Soprano (S) vocal line:

mf

In the air, _____ in the air? _____

Alto (A) vocal line:

mf

In the air, _____ in the air? _____

Tenor (T) vocal line:

8 mu - sic be? or in the earth?

Bass (B) vocal line:

202 *p*

mu - sic be? or in the earth/ _____

208 *f* *pp* $\text{♩} = 66$

S in the air? *pp* It sounds no more.

A in the air? *pp* It sounds no more.

T *mf* *f* *pp* It sounds no more.

B or in the earth? *pp* It sounds no more.

214

S It sounds no more. It sounds no

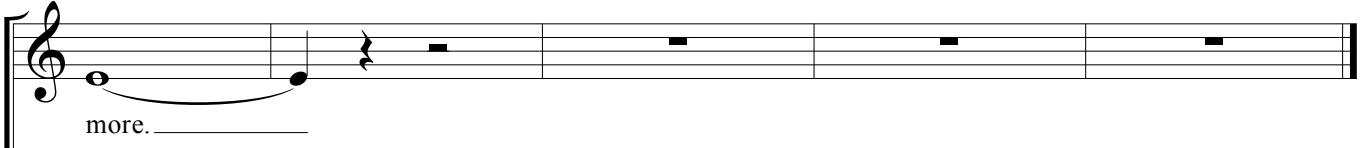
A It sounds no more. It sounds no

T It sounds no more. It sounds no

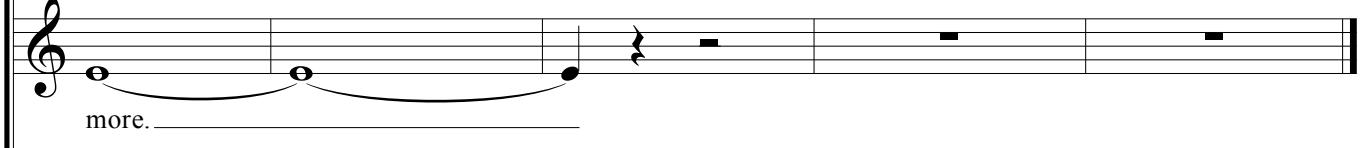
B It sounds no more. It sounds no

220

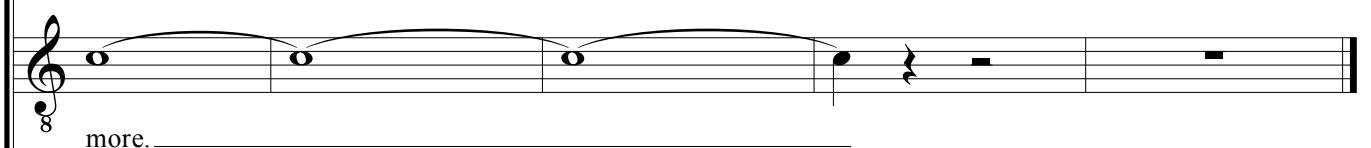
S



A

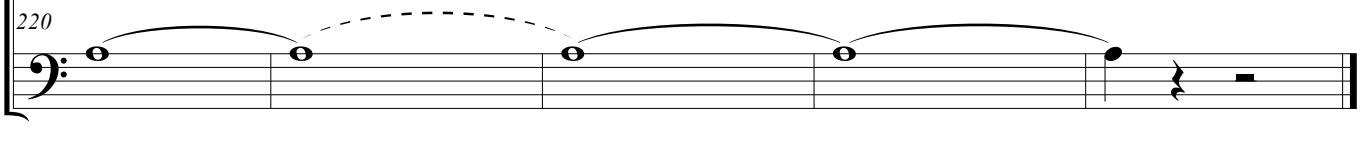


T



more.

B



more.