

That Music Always Round Me

Three Poems of Walt Whitman

for High Voice and Piano

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This setting of three poems by Walt Whitman--my first song cycle--was written for tenor Darrell Lauer in 1984. Each of the poems evokes a different aspect of music, and the songs might accordingly be thought of as attempts to supply the music that Whitman, an ardent music lover, tells us he "hears."

"I Hear America Singing" is Whitman's vision of a world in which people are fulfilled, not alienated, by their work. But it belongs to a world that was perhaps already lost when the poem was written; the work Whitman describes is physical and most often artisanal, the work of a preindustrial America. The music expands with the text; as the song proceeds, its texture gradually grows richer; its pace quickens. "Dirge for Two Veterans" mourns the dead of the Civil War. The song is haunted by the drumbeats imagined by the text, which it tries, and ultimately fails, *not* to hear. A more welcome hearing returns with "That Music Always Round Me." The poem is at once a paean of praise for music and a vision of human community. The song responds with rich sonorities and a liquid vocal line. It aims at a tranquility that persists even at the most exalted moments.

Duration: 18 minutes. The text of the "Dirge" has been slightly modified.

1. I Hear America Singing

$\text{♩} = 88 \text{ poco rubato}$

The musical score consists of six staves of music for voice and piano. The top staff shows a piano part with six rests. The second staff begins with a piano dynamic **p dolce**, followed by a vocal entry with a sustained note. The third staff continues the piano part with dynamics **poco cresc.** and **p...
poco.** The fourth staff starts with a piano dynamic **p**, followed by a vocal entry with a sustained note. The fifth staff continues the piano part with dynamics **f**, **p**, **mp**, and **p**. The sixth staff begins with a piano dynamic **p**, followed by a vocal entry with a sustained note. The vocal parts include lyrics such as "I hear", "A - mer-i - ca sing - ing," and "I hear A - mer-i - ca sing -". The piano part includes dynamics **f**, **mp**, and **cresc.** The score is marked with various performance instructions like **Reo.**, *****, and **3**.

That Music Always Round Me

That Music Always Round Me

27

cresc.

sing - ing his _____ as it should _____ be,

27

8va-- *simile*

cresc.

30 *ff* blithe _____ and strong, the car-pen-ter

30 *ff*

8va--

34 sing - ing his _____ as he mea - sures his plank or beam,

34

That Music Always Round Me

37

the ma - son sing - ing his, sing - his -

37

mf

5

p

SP

40

as he makes rea - dy for work, or leaves

40

pp

5

p

43

off work,

43

5

sf

f

SP

That Music Always Round Me

7

46

the boat-man sing-ing _____ sing - ing what be - longs ³ to him in his

46

RH

SP

3

49 *ff*

rit.

boat, the deck-hand sing-ing on the steam-boat deck,

49 *ff*

rit.

sp

sp

3

mp

52 *a tempo*

p

3

the shoe-mak - er sing - ing as he sits _____ at his bench,

52 *a tempo*

p

2d. *

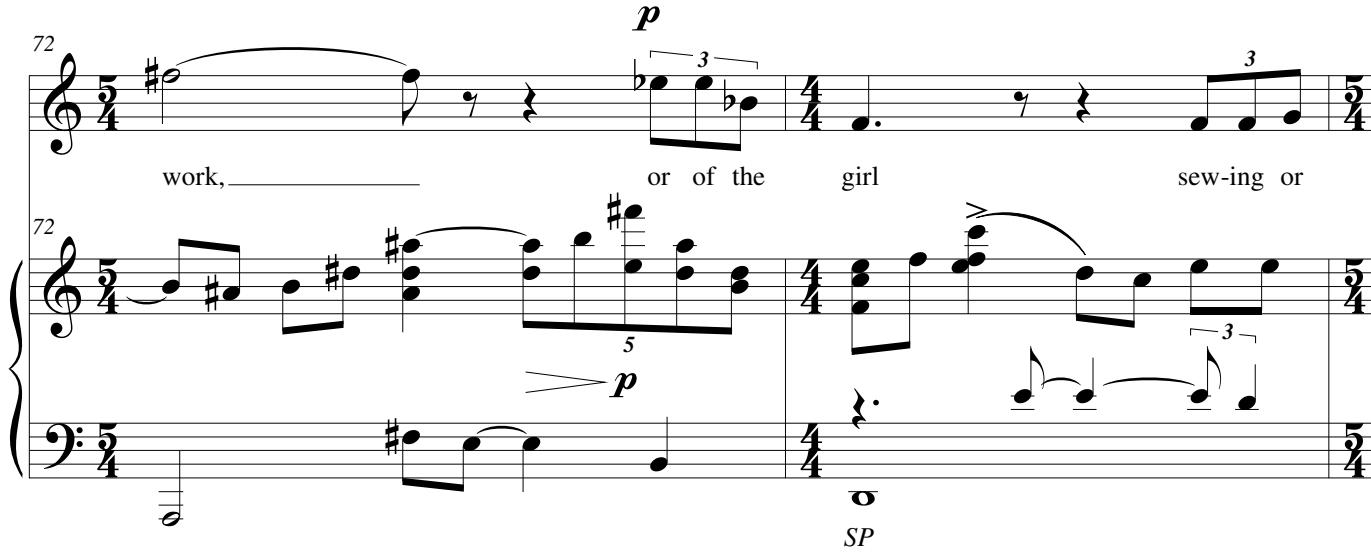
simile

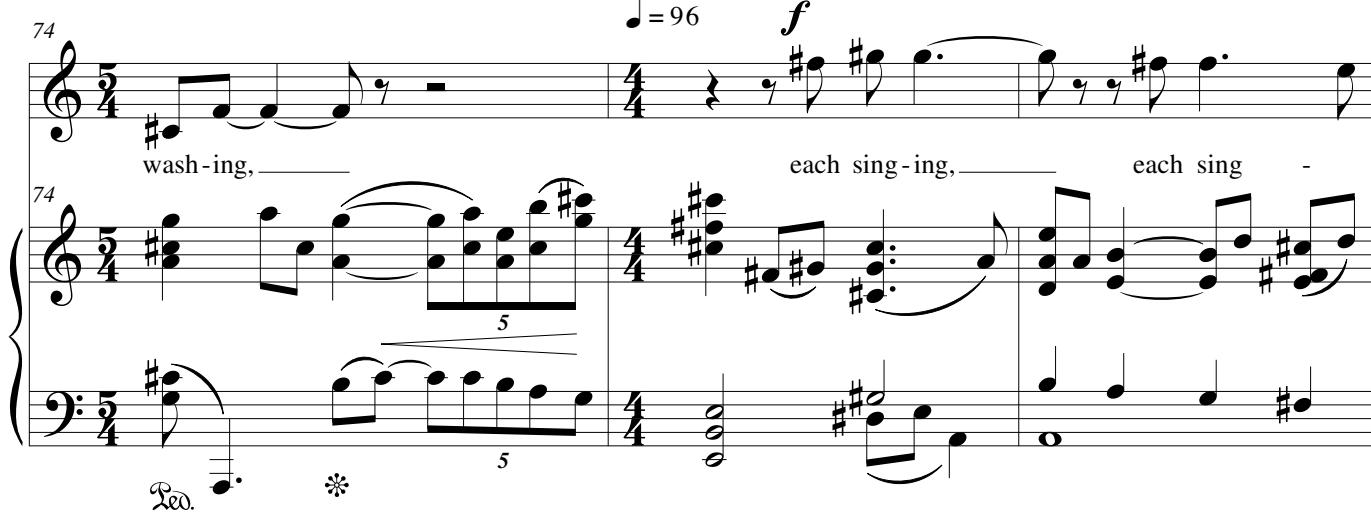
That Music Always Round Me

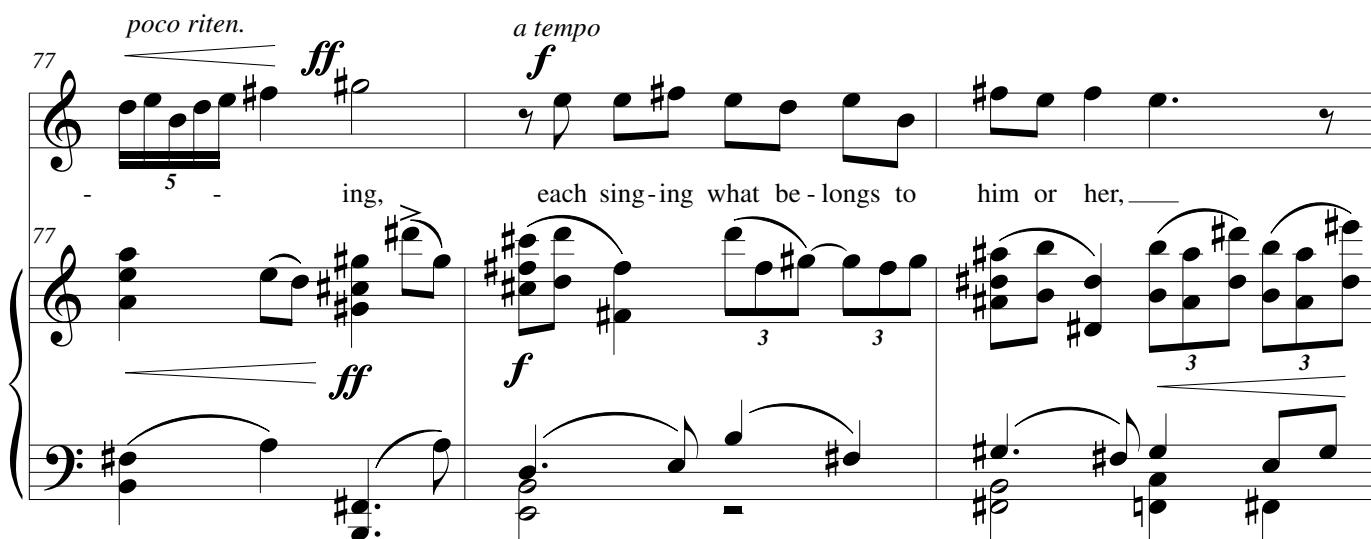
That Music Always Round Me

10

p

72 

74 

77 

That Music Always Round Me

80 *ff* *p*
and to none o - ther, none o - ther, —

80 *ff* *p* sub. *cresc. poco a poco*
SP *SP*

83 *mf* *f*
the day what be-longs to the day, —

83 *mf* *f* *RH*
Leō. * *Leō.* * *simile*

86 *mp*
at night the par - ty of young fel - lows,

86 *mp*

That Music Always Round Me

88 *cresc.*

mf *f*

ro - bust, friend - ly, sing - ing with o - pen

88

cresc.

5

5

5

SP

simile to end.

91

mouths their strong me - lo - dious songs.

91

5

5

5

6

5

6

94

espressivo, con licenza

5

3

3

3

3

3

3

That Music Always Round Me

13

96

ritenuto *tor-* *nan-* *do* *a tempo* *molto rall.* 5

99

tornando *a tempo* *molto rall.*

That Music Always Round Me

14

2. Dirge for Two Veterans

J = 54

102 *rit.* *a tempo*

pp *p* *pp*

SP

107

sf p *mp* <> *p*

rit.

The

mf *p* *ff* *p*

Reo. *** *Reo.* *** *Reo.*

a tempo

116

last sun - beam light - ly falls on the fi - nish'd Sab - bath on the

116

{

119

pave - ment here, and there be-yond, it is look - ing down a

119

{

122

molto rall. *molto rall.* *a tempo* *mp*

new made dou - ble grave. Lo, the moon a-scend-ing,

122

{

That Music Always Round Me

poco cresc.

134 *f* > *p* > non cresc.

hear the sound of com-ing full-key'd bu-gles, all the chan - nels of the ci-ty street they're

134

135

136

137

138

139

f > *p* > non cresc.

* Reo. * Reo. *

flood-ing — as with voi - ces and with tears.

I hear the

f

ff *sempre*

That Music Always Round Me

18

141

great drums pound - ing, and the small drums steady whir - ring, and eve - ry

141

sf
3

3

143

ff

blow of the great con-vul-sive drums strikes me through and through!

143

sf
3

3

146

p
3
pp

For the son is brought with the fa - ther,

8va-----,
8va-----
146

f ff mp p pp

8va-----
8va-----

Re. * Re. *

That Music Always Round Me

20

152

grave a - waits them. *espress.*

152 5

Reo.

154 *mp cresc.*

Now near-er blow the bu-gles— and the drums strike more con-

154 *sf mp* *mp cresc.*

Reo. *

157 *f ff f decresc.*

vul - sive, — and the day - light o'er the pave-ment quite has fad - ed,

157 *f* *f decresc.*

2

2

2

159 *mf* < *f* cresc. >
 and the strong _____ dead

159 *mp* < *f* cresc.

160 march en - wraps me. o
ff cresc. 5 *espress.*
mf sub. < *p*

162 *accel.* rit. *a tempo*

162 RH *fp*
ped. *

That Music Always Round Me

22

165 **p**

In the east - ern sky up - buoy-ing, the sor - row ful vast phan - tom moves il -

molto espress.

165

168 **pp**

lu - mined,

'tis some mo - ther's large trans - pa - rent

168

5

pp
una corda

Ped.

170 **poco riten.** **a tempo** **f**

face, in the hea - vens bright - er grow-ing.

170

tre corde

p **f**

173 ***ff***

strong dead march, you please me. O moon immense,

173

with your sil - very face you soothe me. O my sol - diers

176

twain, pas-sing to bur - i - al, _____ what I have I al - so give you.

178

twain, pas-sing to bur - i - al, _____ what I have I al - so give you.

That Music Always Round Me

24

181 ***pp***

The moon gives you light, and the bugles and the drums give you music,

181 ***pp*** <***p***> ***pp***

185

and my heart, O my soldiers son and father,

185 ***Poco.***

189

my heart, my heart gives you love.

189 ***pp*** long ***ff*** ***SP***

* 190

194

194

195

196

197

198 *accel.*

a tempo

Ped.

198

That Music Always Round Me

26

 $\text{♩} = 66$

3. That Music Always Round Me.

202

202

p

207

p

p

That mu-sic al-ways round ____ me,
un-ceas-ing,

poco cresc.

211

un-be-gin - ning, still un-taught I did not hear,

p

poco cresc.

5

214 *mp cresc.*

but now the chor - us I hear _____ and am e - la - ted.

214 *mp cresc.*

215 *f*

A te - nor strong,____ as - scand - ing with pow - er and health,

217 *subito p*

220

That Music Always Round Me

28

poco rit. *a tempo*

224 **p**
 a so - pra - no, — at in - ter - vals sail - ing o - ver the top of im - mense waves,

224
 a trans - par - ent bass, — shud - der - ing lus - cious - ly

231
 un - der and through the u - ni - verse, the tri -
 f sub.

That Music Always Round Me

um - phant tut - ti, — the fun-e-ral wail - ings — with sweet flutes and vi - o - lins,

all, all — these I fill — my - self with, I

hear — not the vol - umes of sound — mere-ly, — I am moved —

That Music Always Round Me

30

244 *rit.* *a tempo*

by the ex - qui - site mean - ings.

244 *espress.* **p**

247 *mf cresc.* *f* *f* *ff*

I lis - ten to the dif - ferent voi - ces wind-ing in - and out, striv -

247 *mf cresc.* *f* *ff*

ing, con-tend - ing with fi - e - ry ve - he - mence to ex - cel each o - ther in e -

250 (8^{va}) *loco* *sfp*

8^{va} - - -

253 *a tempo* rit. *a tempo* **p** *parlando*

mo - tion. I do not think the per-

253 **p** **pp** with *Rod.*

257 *cantabile* *poco cresc.* **p** *parlando* *cantabile*

for - mers know them-selves, but now I think I be -

257 *poco cresc.* **p** with *Rod.* *simile*

261 *rit.*

gin to know them.

261 **mp** **p**

That Music Always Round Me

32

266 *a tempo*

rit.

266

ff *subito p* *pp* *ppp*

8va - - - - - *

Led.

266

rit.

266

ff *subito p* *pp* *ppp*

8va - - - - - *

Led.