Two Madrigals on Poems of Rupert Brooke

for SATB choir

by

Justin Henry Rubin
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Forward

These choral madrigals have no indication of dynamics, instead it is intended that this aspect of the music should flow naturally and give the text depth based on the character of the passage as interpreted by the director. The poems themselves (reprinted here) are not set in their entirety, and on occasion some sections are reconfigured to provide meaning suited perhaps more closely to the composer’s concerns than those of the author.

Rupert Brooke (1887–1915)
from Collected Poems (1916)

1. Seaside

SWIFTLY out from the friendly lilt of the band,
    The crowd’s good laughter, the loved eyes of men,
    I am drawn nightward; I must turn again
Where, down beyond the low untrodden strand,
There curves and glimmers outward to the unknown
    The old unquiet ocean. All the shade
Is rife with magic and movement. I stray alone
    Here on the edge of silence, half afraid,

Waiting a sign. In the deep heart of me
The sullen waters swell towards the moon,
And all my tides set seaward.
    From inland
Leaps a gay fragment of some mocking tune,
That tinkles and laughs and fades along the sand,
And dies between the seawall and the sea.

2. Beauty and Beauty

WHEN Beauty and Beauty meet
    All naked, fair to fair,
The earth is crying-
    sweet,
    And scattering-bright the air,
Eddying, dizzying, closing round,
    With soft and drunken laughter;
Veiling all that may befall
    After—after—

Where Beauty and Beauty met,
    Earth’s still a-tremble there,
And winds are scented yet,
    And memory-soft the air,
Bosoming, folding glints of light,
    And shreds of shadowy laughter;
Not the tears that fill the years
    After—after—
I: Seaside

**Graceful, expressive** \( \frac{j}{=} \text{ca. 62} \)

Music: Justin Henry Rubin (2011)
Texts: Rupert Brooke (1887–1915)
from Collected Poems (1916)

Soprano

Swiftly out from the lilt of the band,
The crowd's good laugh-ter, the
good laugh-ter, the

Alto

Swiftly out from the lilt of the band,
The crowd's good laugh-ter, the

Tenor

Swiftly out from the lilt of the band,
The crowd's good laugh-ter, the

Bass

Swiftly out from the lilt of the band,
The crowd's good laugh-ter, the

Piano

(for rehearsal only)

I: Seaside

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Swiftly out from the lilt of the band,
The crowd's good laugh-ter, the

Bass

Swiftly out from the lilt of the band,
The crowd's good laugh-ter, the

Piano

(for rehearsal only)

loved eyes of men, I am drawn night-ward,

loved eyes of men, I am drawn night-ward,

loved eyes of men, I am drawn night-ward,

loved eyes of men, I am drawn night-ward,

loved eyes of men, I am drawn night-ward,

loved eyes of men, I am drawn night-ward,

loved eyes of men, I am drawn night-ward,

loved eyes of men, I am drawn night-ward,

loved eyes of men, I am drawn night-ward,

loved eyes of men, I am drawn night-ward,

loved eyes of men, I am drawn night-ward,

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I am drawn night-ward, I am drawn night-ward;
I must, Where, down beyond low untrod-den strand,
again bey-ond, bey-ond the low untrod-den strand,

Poco rit. a tempo
There curves, and curves, and glimmers, and glimmers outward,

There curves, and curves, and glimmers outward,

There curves, and curves, and glimmers outward,

There curves, and curves, and glimmers outward,

Outward to the unknown...
The shade is

Outward to the unknown...
The shade

Outward to the unknown...
The shade

Outward to the unknown...
The shade
\[ Poco rit. \quad a \ tempo \quad Poco rit. \]

\[ \text{rife with magic (old unquiet) magic and movement, magic and movement,} \]

\[ \text{old magic and movement, magic and movement,} \]

\[ \text{rife with magic (old unquiet) movement.} \]

\[ \text{div.} \]

\[ \text{old} \]

\[ \text{movement.} \]

\[ 30 \]

\[ 30 \]

\[ \text{Meno mosso} \quad \text{Rit.} \quad \text{Molto rit.} \]

\[ \text{I stray alone} \]

\[ \text{Here on the edge of silence, half afraid, half a-} \]

\[ \text{a-} \]

\[ \text{a-} \]

\[ \text{a-} \]

\[ \text{alone afraid, afraid, a-} \]

\[ \text{a-} \]

\[ \text{a-} \]

\[ \text{alone afraid, a-} \]
In the deep heart of me sul-len wa-
ters fraid...

swell towards the moon, And all my tides, And all my tides
sea-ward, sea-ward.
From in-land Leaps a gay fragment,

From in-land Leaps a gay fragment,

From in-land Leaps a gay fragment,
That fades a - long the sand, And dies be - tween the sea, wall and the sea.

That fades a - long the sand, And dies be - tween the sea, wall and the sea.

That fades a - long the sand, And dies be - tween the sea, wall and the sea.

That fades a - long the sand, And dies be - tween the sea, wall and the sea.
II: Beauty and Beauty

Swaying; with strength \( \frac{\text{\( \frac{3}{4} \) \text{= ca. 58}}}{\text{Poco rit.}} \text{\textit{a tempo}}

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

Piano

(for rehearsal only)

When Beauty and Beauty meet
All na-ked, fair...

Swaying; with strength

Music: Justin Henry Rubin (2011)
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The earth is crying, crying

The earth is crying sweet, is crying

fair, earth is sweet, is crying

fair to fair, naked fair, The earth is sweet crying

sweet, And scattering bright

sweet, Ed-dying, diz-zying, Ed-dying, diz-zying,

sweet, Ed-dying, diz-zying, Ed-dying, diz-zying,

sweet, bright air,
Molto rit.  

A  

Clos- ing, clos- ing round,  
With soft and drun- ken,  

A  

Clos- ing, clos- ing round,  
With soft and drun- ken laugh- ter, laugh- ter,  

T  

Clos- ing, clos- ing round, with  
soft  

B  

Clos- ing, clos- ing round,  

S  

Drun- ken laugh- ter; Veil- ing, Veil- ing all that, all that may be- fall,  

A  

Laugh- ter; Veil- ing, Veil- ing  

T  

Laugh- ter; Veil- ing  

B  

Veil- ing

Veil- ing
Earth's still a-tremble there, And winds are after...

Beauty met, Earth's still a-tremble there, winds are after...

scen
ted, scented yet, And soft the

scen
ted, scented yet, And soft the

scen
ted, scented yet, memory soft the

scen
ted, scented yet, And memory soft the
31 a tempo

S

T

B

Rit.

Meno mosso

37

1.

S

A

T

B

glints of light, And shreds of shadowy laughter; Earth's

glints of light, shreds of shadowy laughter;

glints of light, shreds of shadowy laughter;

glints of light, shreds of shadowy laughter; Earth's
laugh - ter; Not...
laugh - ter; Not...
laugh - ter; Not...
laugh - ter; Not...
laugh - ter; Not...
laugh - ter; Not...
laugh - ter; Not...

After,
After,
After,
After,
After,
After,
After,

After,
After,
After,
After,
After,
After,
After,

the tears that fill the years
the tears that fill the years

a tempo (II)

Meno mosso

Poco rit.

Poco rit.

Poco rit.