FAR AWAY MUSIC



Three Songs from *The Wind in the Willows* for Children's Choir (SA) & Piano

Phillip A. Cooke

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(2012)

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Each piece can be performed separately. If they are performed as a set they must be in the order they are set out in the score

The additional children's choir material in 'Mr Toad' should be taken by the altos when required

The actions in 'Mr Toad' can be taken by the main choir if there isn't an additional choir More information on the actions in 'Mr Toad' can be found on the next page

For Helena Thomas and the Chester Music Society Youth Choir

Far Away Music was commissioned by the Chester Music Society and first performed on 07 July 2012 by the Chester Music Society Youth Choir, conducted by Helena Thomas at All Saints Church, Chester

Duration: 9 minutes

Cover photograph: The Wind in the Willows (David Peterson)

For more information: www.phillipcooke.com

PROGRAMME NOTE

Far Away Music is my second piece written for the Chester Music Society Youth Choir and their adventurous conductor Helena Thomas. The work is similar in construction and thought to my first (Jabberwocky, 2010) with two up-tempo songs being separated by a more introspective, slower one. The first song, 'Ducks' Ditty' is quick and jovial aiming to capture some of the essence of frolicking ducks. The second 'You Shall Forget' is pensive and melancholic with a questioning ending. The final song 'Mr Toad' is a bit of a departure for me as it treads more humorous ground then my work usually does. Helena wanted the youngest choir, the Preludes, to have a part in the piece so I built the song around their participation. Alongside the verse they sing, they have actions and other noises to add to the mixture. For this final song I wanted to tap into the Edwardiana that characterises Wind in the Willows and came across this simple music-hall piano figure (which sounds remarkably like Knees Up Mother Brown) which is repeated over and over again to a hypnotic and rousing finale.

PAC

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A GUIDE TO THE ACTIONS IN 'MR TOAD'

Action 1: Muscle Flexing of Right Arm

- As if in a strong man competition, bring forearm towards shoulder to reveal imaginary muscle a la Arnold Schwarzenegger.
- Can be repeated over and over in allotted time or just as a singular motion.

Action 2: Opening and Closing of Hands to Represent a Book

- Put hands together as in prayer then move tops of hands apart leaving lower part touching.
- Can be repeated over and over in allotted time or just as a singular motion.

Action 3: Wagging of Finger on Right Hand

- Wag index finger on right hand as if scolding a naughty child
- Should be repeated over and over in allotted time.

Action 4: Pretend Driving of Car

- Move hands as if on an imaginary steering wheel, moving left than right etc.
- Should be repeated over and over in allotted time.

Action 5: Saluting

- Move right hand to forehead as in an army salute.
- Should be done just the once and held until the next action.

Action 6: Marching on the Spot

- Pretend marching on the spot, lifting right leg than left etc.
- Should be repeated over and over in allotted time.

Action 7: Regal Wave of the Right Hand

- Wave right hand in an aloof fashion away from body a la The Queen.
- Can be repeated over and over in allotted time or just as a singular motion.

Action 8: Pretend Sewing

- Hold left hand towards body and move right hand across in a leisurely fashion as if sewing.
- Can be repeated over and over in allotted time or just as a singular motion.

Action 9: Left Hand to Forehead as if Swooning

- Bring left hand to the forehead in an elaborate fashion as if a Jane Austen heroine presented with a handsome suitor.
- Should be done just the once and held until the next action.

TEXTS

Ducks' Ditty

All along the backwater, Through the rushes tall, Ducks are a-dabbling, Up tails all!

Ducks' tails, drakes' tails, Yellow feet a-quiver, Yellow bills all out of sight Busy in the river!

Slushy green undergrowth Where the roach swim--Here we keep our larder, Cool and full and dim.

Everyone for what he likes! WE like to be Heads down, tails up, Dabbling free!

High in the blue above Swifts whirl and call--WE are down a-dabbling Up tails all!

You Shall Forget

Lest the awe should dwell, And turn your frolic to fret, You shall look on my power at the helping hour, But then you shall forget!

Lest limbs be reddened and rent, I spring the trap that is set,

[As] I loose the snare you may glimpse me there, For surely you shall forget!

Helper and healer, I cheer, Small waifs in [the] woodland wet, Strays I find in it, wounds I bind in it, Bidding them all forget!

Mr Toad

The world has held great Heroes,
As history-books have showed;
But never a name to go down to fame
Compared with that of Toad!

The clever men at Oxford Know all there is to know. But none of them know one half as much Compared with Mr Toad!

The animals sat in the Ark and cried, Their tears in torrents flowed. Who was it said, "There's land ahead"? Encouraging Mr Toad!

The army all saluted
As they marched on the road.
Was it the Queen? Was it Cameron?
No. It was Mr Toad.

The Queen and all her Ladies Sat on the floor and sewed. "Look" she said, "Who's that handsome man?" They answered, "Mr Toad."

Kenneth Grahame (1859 – 1932)

All poems are taken from *The Wind in the Willows* (1908). 'Mr Toad' adapted by Phillip Cooke.

'It's like music – far-away music', said the Mole nodding drowsily...

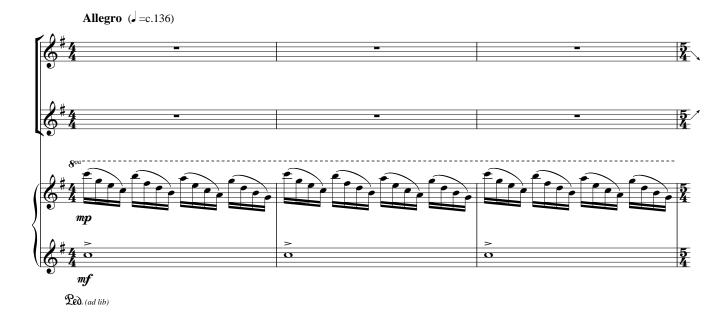
FAR AWAY MUSIC

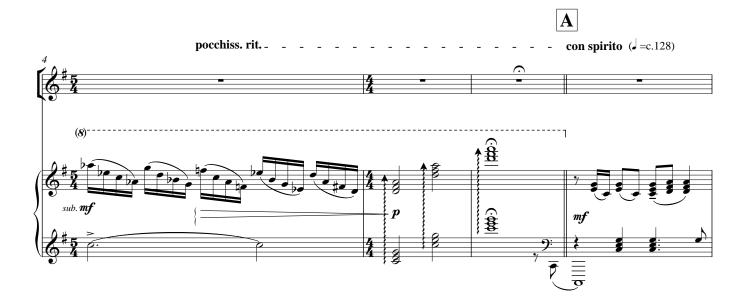
Three Songs from The Wind in the Willows for Children's Choir (SA) & Piano

KENNETH GRAHAME (1859 - 1932)

PHILLIP A. COOKE (2012)

I. Ducks' Ditty







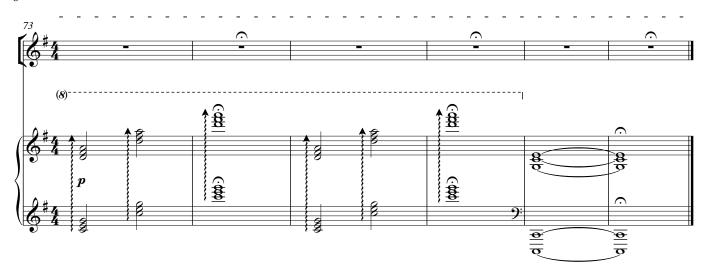




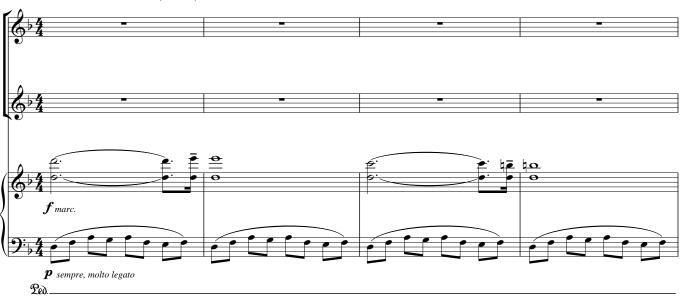


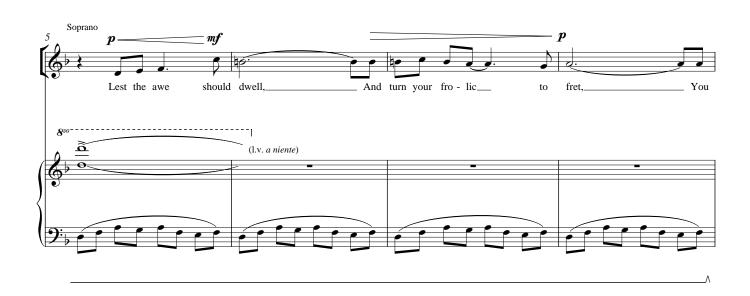


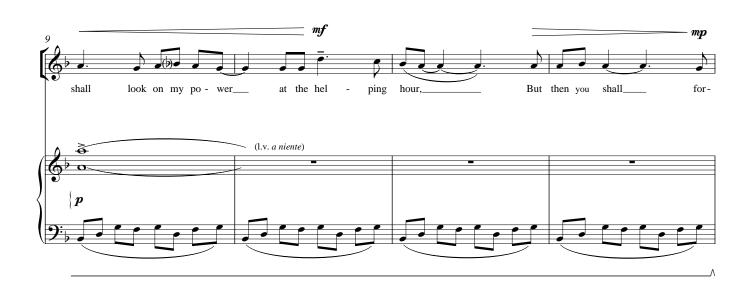




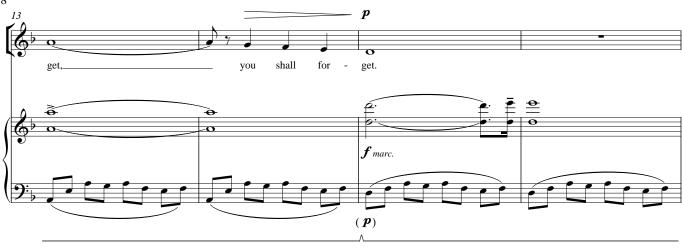
Andante malincolico (=c.96)

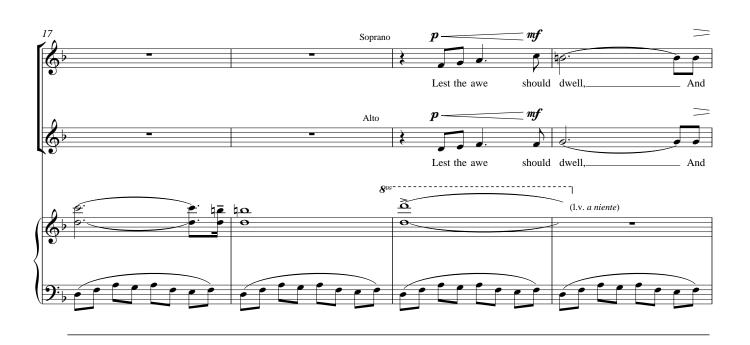






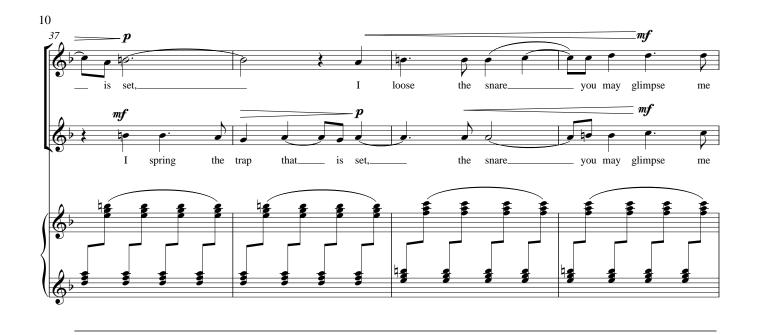


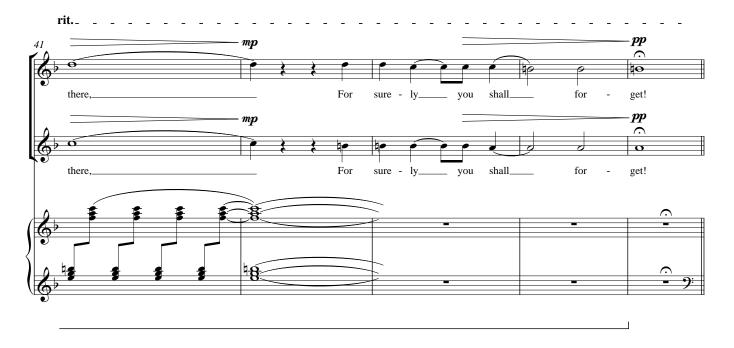


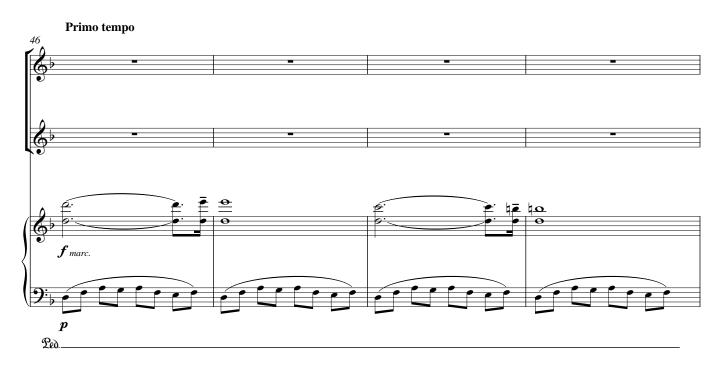








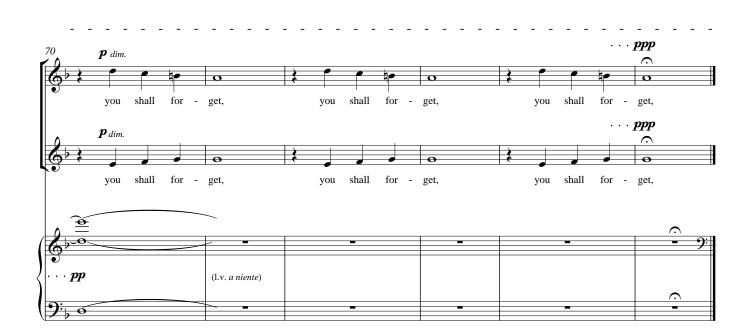


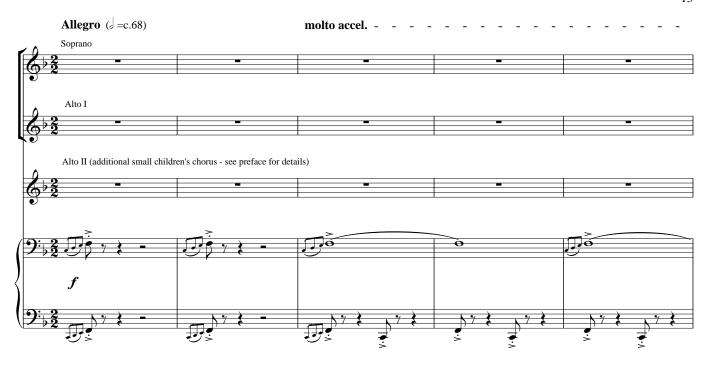


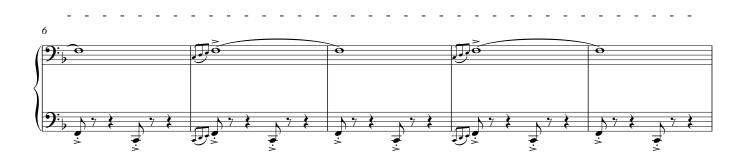






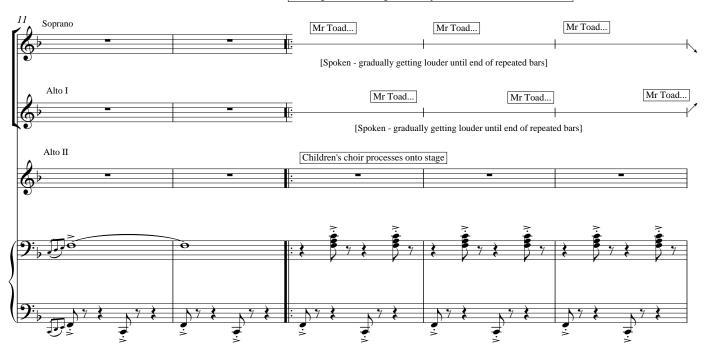




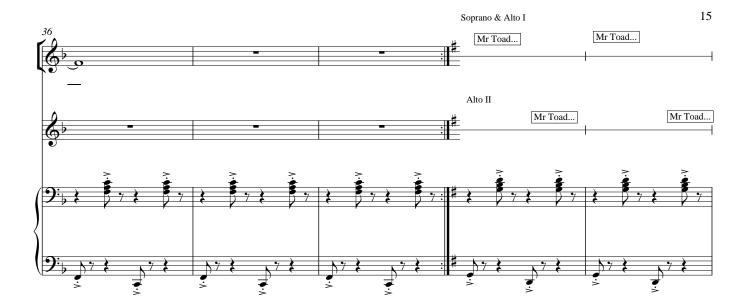


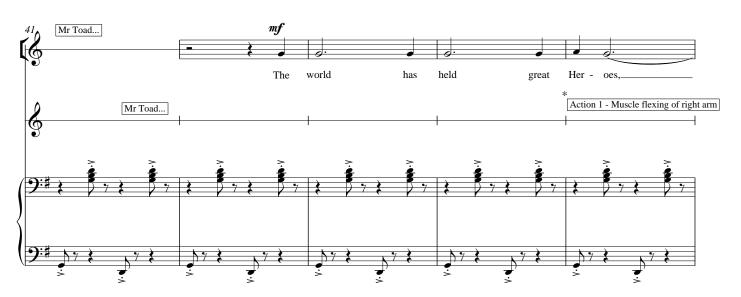
- - - - - - - - - - - - - **Presto giocoso** (=c.178)

Conductor: Repeat these four bars until children's choir have processed onto stage, or until enough time has passed for comedic value...

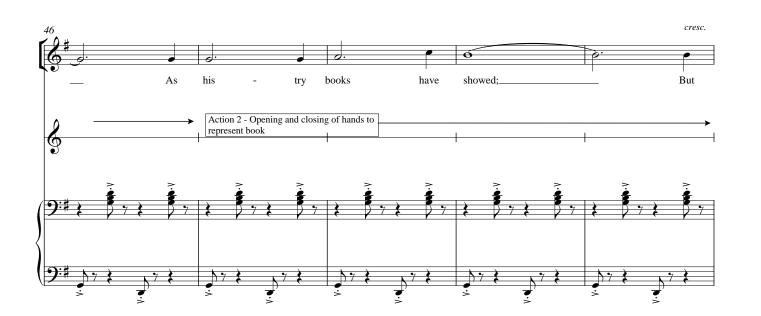


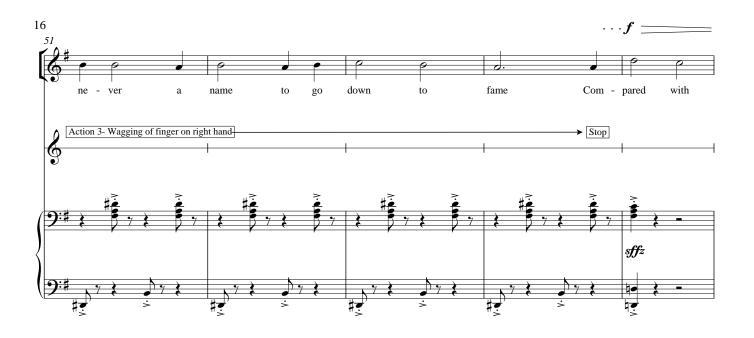






 $\ensuremath{^{*}}$ More information on actions can be found in the preface.

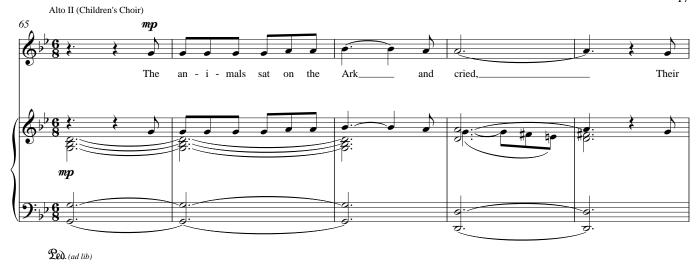


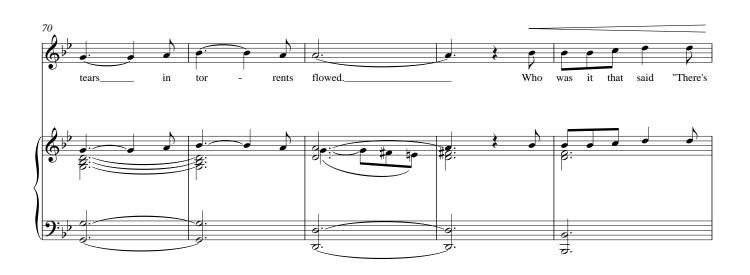


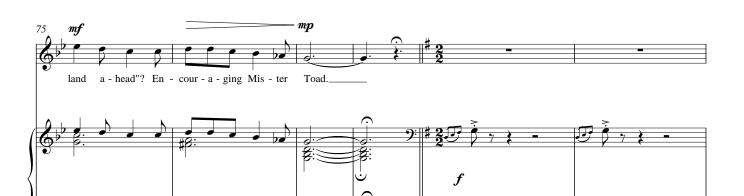




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Allegro (= c.68)

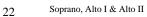


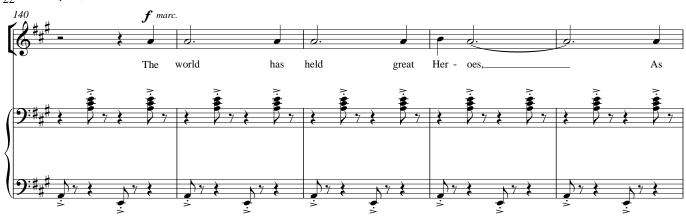


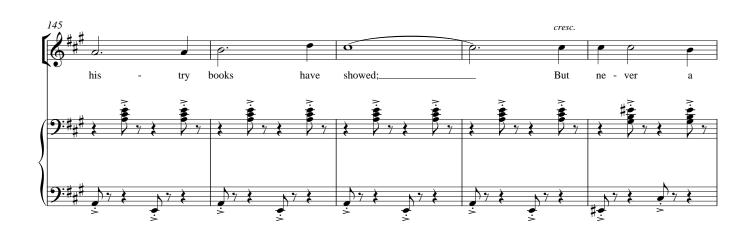


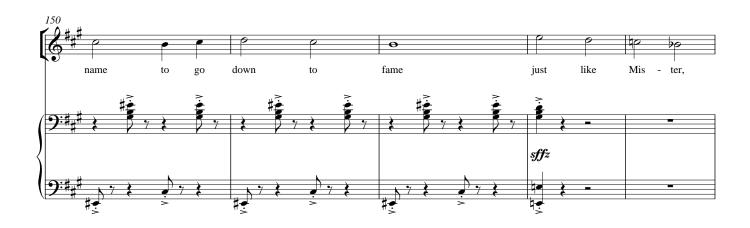


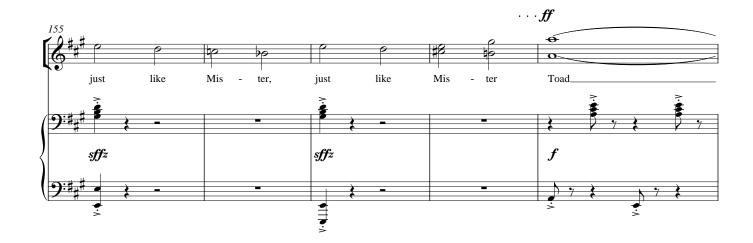


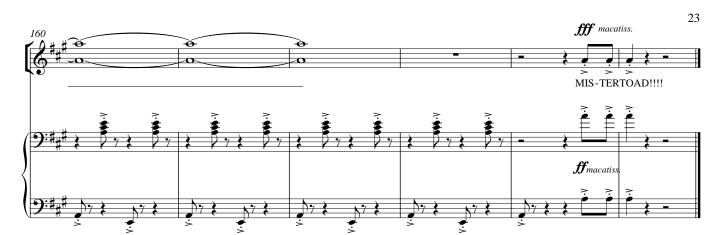












Little Bourton April 2012