

HOW CLEAR, HOW LOVELY



A Partsong for Mixed Choir (SATB)

Phillip A. Cooke

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(2010)

PERFORMANCE NOTES

The *mmm* sound is a resonant humming sound, perhaps with a slightly open mouth if necessary to create a fuller sound.

The dotted arrow at bb 57-58 indicates a gradual shift from the word to a humming.

Duration:	5 minutes
Cover photograph:	Shropshire Hills (Cooke)
For more information:	www.phillipcooke.com

First performed by the Arcadian Singers conducted by John Forster in Keble College Chapel, Oxford, on 03 March 2012

London premiere by the Chapel Choir of Selwyn College Cambridge, conducted by Nicholas Cleobury in St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London, on 21 March 2013

A recording of this piece is available on *Phillip Cooke: Choral Music* released on Regent Records, REGCD411

PROGRAMME NOTE

How Clear, How Lovely is a simple setting of Alfred Housman's famous poem for SATB unaccompanied choir. The work is one of a protracted set of 'partsongs' taking their influence from the Romantic idea of the partsong as a simple, homophonic, melody dominated piece often taking its inspiration from nature and other Romantic notions.

PAC

TEXT

How clear, how lovely bright,
How beautiful to sight
 Those beams of morning play;
How heaven laughs out with glee
Where, like a bird set free,
Up from the eastern sea
 Soars the delightful day.

To-day I shall be strong,
No more shall yield to wrong,
 Shall squander life no more;
Days lost, I know not how,
I shall retrieve them now;
Now I shall keep the vow
 I never kept before.

Ensanguining the skies
How heavily it dies
 Into the west away;
Past touch and sight and sound
Not further to be found,
How hopeless under ground
 Falls the remorseful day.

Alfred E. Housman (1859 – 1936)

HOW CLEAR, HOW LOVELY

ALFRED E. HOUSMAN (1859 - 1936)

a Partsong for Mixed Choir (SATB)

PHILLIP A. COOKE (2010)

Adagio tranquillo (♩ = c.52)

Soprano
pp espress. *mp non troppo* *pp*
How clear, how love - ly bright, How beau - ti - ful to sight Those

Alto
pp espress. *mp non troppo* *pp*
How clear, how love - ly bright, How beau - ti - ful to sight Those

Tenor
pp espress. *mp non troppo* *pp*
How clear, how love - ly bright, How beau - ti - ful to sight Those

Bass
pp espress. *mp non troppo* *pp*
How clear, how love - ly bright, How beau - ti - ful to sight Those

Piano (rehearsal only)
pp espress. *mp non troppo* *pp*

Soprano
mp sim. *pp* *mf* *mp*
beams of morn - ing play; How hea - ven laughs out with glee Where, like a

Alto
mp sim. *pp* *mp*
beams of morn - ing play; How hea - ven laughs out with glee a

Tenor
mp sim. *pp* *mp*
beams of morn - ing play; How hea - ven laughs out with glee a

Bass
mp sim. *pp* *mp*
beams of morn - ing play; How hea - ven laughs out with glee a

Piano (rehearsal only)
mp sim. *pp* *mf* *mp*

11

mf *p* *sub. f* *appass.* *p* *sub. mf*

bird set free, Up from the eas - tern sea Soars the del - ight - ful day, Soars

mf *p* *sub. mp* *pp*

bird set free, Up from the eas - tern sea Soars

mf *p* *sub. mp* *pp*

8 bird set free, Up from the eas - tern sea Soars

mf *p* *sub. mp* *pp*

bird set free, Up from the eas - tern sea Soars

mf *p* *sub. f* *sub. mp* *p* *mf*

rit. - - - - -

16

p *sub. mp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *espress.*

the del - ight - ful day, Soars the del - ight - ful day. To -

p *pp* *pp* *pp* *espress.*

Soars **mmm* To -

p *pp* *pp* *pp* *espress.*

Soars **mmm* To -

p *pp* *pp* *pp* *espress.*

Soars **mmm* To -

p *mp* *pp* *pp* *espress.*

p *pp* *pp* *espress.*

** See preface for details.*

Primo tempo (♩ = c.52)

3

20

day I shall be strong, No more shall yield to wrong, Shall squander life no

day I shall be strong, No more shall yield to wrong, Shall squander life no

8 day I shall be strong, No more shall yield to wrong, Shall squander life no

day I shall be strong, No more shall yield to wrong, Shall squander life no

25

more; Days lost, I know not how, retrieve them now; I

more; Days lost, I know not how, retrieve them now; I

8 more; Days lost, I know not how, retrieve them now; I

more; Days lost, I know not how, I shall retrieve them now; I

4 30

ff *appass.* *dim.*

shall re - trieve them now; Now I shall keep the vow I ne - ver kept be -

ff *appass.* *dim.*

shall re - trieve them now; Now I shall keep the vow I ne - ver kept be -

ff *appass.* *dim.*

shall re - trieve them now; Now I shall keep the vow I ne - ver kept be -

ff *appass.* *dim.*

shall re - trieve them now; Now I shall keep the vow I ne - ver kept be -

rit. - - - - - Primo tempo (♩ = c.52)

35

mf *p* *pp* *espress.* *mp*

fore, I ne - ver kept be - fore. En - san - guin - ing the skies How

mf *p* *pp* *espress.* *mp*

fore, I ne - ver kept be - fore. En - san - guin - ing the skies How

mf *p* *pp* *espress.* *mp*

fore, I ne - ver kept be - fore. En - san - guin - ing the skies How

mf *p* *pp* *espress.* *mp*

fore, I ne - ver kept be - fore. En - san - guin - ing the skies How

mf *p* *pp* *espress.* *mp*

fore, I ne - ver kept be - fore. En - san - guin - ing the skies How

40 *pp* *mp*

heav - i - ly it dies In - to the west a - way; Past touch and sight and

heav - i - ly it dies In - to the west a - way; Past touch and sight and

heav - i - ly it dies In - to the west a - way; Past touch and sight and

heav - i - ly it dies In - to the west a - way; Past touch and sight and

rit. - - - - -

45 *pp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p*

sound Not fur - ther to be found, How hope - less un - der - ground

sound to be found How hope - less un - der - ground

sound to be found How hope - less un - der - ground

sound to be found How hope - less un - der - ground

50 *p* molto espress. *pp* ✓ *p* *sim.* *pp* ✓ *p*

Falls the re - morse - ful day, Falls the re - morse - ful day, Falls the re - morse

Falls Falls Falls

Falls Falls Falls

Falls Falls Falls

p molto espress. *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

55 *pp* *ppp* *poss.* *mmm*

- ful day, Falls ----- *mmm*

Falls ----- *mmm*

Falls ----- *mmm*

Falls ----- *mmm*

pp *ppp* *poss.*