

THE TWILIGHT PEOPLE



a Rhapsody for Mixed Choir (SSAATTBB)

Phillip A. Cooke

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(2017)

PERFORMANCE NOTES

The 'liberamente' sections feature whispering from the choir. The word 'whisper' should be whispered, with an exaggeration on the 's' sound in the middle of the word.

All singers are to perform independently to create necessary texture. Each voice group will be cued by the conductor.

When moving from 'whisper' to 'it is a whisper' singers should stagger their change and not move together.

The marked durations of the 'liberamente' sections are suggestions only, but apply to the general proportions of these sections in the piece as a whole.

In bars 55-56, the second basses should sing the lower notes if possible (those in brackets), if not then should sing the notes an octave higher.

In the final system, singers should gradually drop out to leave only solo voices by the end of the piece.

All breath marks are suggestions only.

In memory of Thea Jones (1924 – 2017)

First performed by the BBC Singers at St Machar's Cathedral, Aberdeen on the 23 November 2017

Duration: 9 minutes
Cover photograph: www.wallpapersafari.com
For more information: www.phillipcooke.com

PROGRAMME NOTE

The Twilight People is an atmospheric setting of Seamus O'Sullivan's poem from his 1905 collection of the same name. The poem was beloved of English composers of the early twentieth century and was set by the likes of Ralph Vaughan Williams and Herbert Howells. My setting is more expansive than those of my earlier counterparts, but keeping the rhapsodic nature of both the poem and the zeitgeist of the English musical renaissance. I was struck by the opening line of the poem and I wanted the 'whisper among the hazel bushes' to be present throughout my work, and this acts as a sonic backdrop over which the rest of the narrative takes place. This work is in no way trying to replicate the music and mood of the first part of the twentieth century, but is rather a heartfelt homage to a vivid and fecund period of national artistic life.

PAC

TEXT

IT is a whisper among the hazel bushes;
It is a long, low, whispering voice that fills
With a sad music the bending and swaying rushes;
It is a heart beat deep in the quiet hills.

Twilight people, why will you still be crying,
Crying and calling to me out of the trees?
For under the quiet grass the wise are lying,
And all the strong ones are gone over the seas.

And I am old, and in my heart at your calling
Only the old dead dreams a-fluttering go;
As the wind, the forest wind, in its falling
Sets the withered leaves fluttering to and fro.

Seamus O'Sullivan (1879 - 1958)

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SEAMUS O'SULLIVAN (1879-1958)

PHILLIP A. COOKE (2017)

Molto liberamente (senza misura)

c.20"

Musical score for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass parts. The score is marked **Molto liberamente (senza misura)** and **c.20"**. The Soprano part begins with a fermata and a **ppp** dynamic marking, followed by the instruction ***Whisper...**. The Alto part also begins with a fermata and **ppp**, with ***Whisper...** and the lyrics **It is a whis - per..**. The Tenor part begins with a fermata and **ppp**, with ***Whisper...**. The Bass part begins with a fermata and **ppp**, with ***Whisper...**. The music is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#).

*Whispered, with an exaggeration on the 's' sound in middle of the word. All singers to perform independently to create necessary texture (see preface for more details)



Lento sostenuto (♩ = c.50)

Musical score for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Piano parts. The score is marked **Lento sostenuto** (♩ = c.50). The Soprano part begins with a fermata and a **ppp** dynamic marking, followed by the instruction ***Whisper...** and the lyrics **It is a whis - per...**. The Alto part begins with a fermata and **ppp**, with ***Whisper...** and the lyrics **It is a whis - per...**. The Tenor part begins with a fermata and **ppp**, with ***Whisper...** and the lyrics **It is a whis - per...**. The Bass part begins with a fermata and **ppp**, with ***Whisper...** and the lyrics **It is a whis - per...**. The Piano part begins with a fermata and **ppp**, with ***Whisper...** and the lyrics **It is a whis - per...**. The music is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#).

6 *ppp* *pp esitante*

It is a whis - per... It is a whis - per

pp esitante *pp sim.*

It is a whis - per... It

is a whis - per... Whisper...

ppp

It is a whis - per...



poco rit. A tempo

10 *ppp*

am - ong the ha - zel bush - es;

ppp

is a whis - per am - ong the ha - zel bush - es;

pp sim. *ppp*

(*z*) It is a whis - per am - ong the ha - zel bush - es;

pp

It is a whis - per...

14

pp ————— *p* ————— *pp* ————— *p* ————— *pp*

It is a long, low... It is a long, low... It

pp ————— *p* ————— *pp* ————— *p* ————— *pp*

It is a long, low... It is a long, low... It is a

pp ————— *p* ————— *pp* ————— *p* ————— *pp*

It is a long, low... It is a long, low... It is a long, low...

mp espress.

It is a long, low, whi - per-ing voice

gliss. 3



18

p ————— *mf*

is a long, low... that fills... With a sad mus - ic

p ————— *mp*

long, low... that fills... that fills...

mp

that fills... that fills...

p ————— *mp*

that fills... that fills...

21 *pp* *sub. p espress.* *ppp*

the bend- ing and sway- ing rush - es;

ppp

It is a whis- per..

ppp *pp*

Whisper... (-) It is a heart - beat deep in the

ppp *pp*

Whisper... (-) It is a heart - beat deep in the

A tempo

25 *pp sempre, lontano*

Twi- light peop - le... Twi- light peop - le... Twi- light peop - le...

pp sempre, lontano

Twi- light peop - le... Twi- light peop - le... Twi- light peop - le...

Tenor I *ppp* solo *p espress.* *mp*

quiet hills. Twi- light peop - le, why will you

Tenor II *ppp* *ppp*

quiet hills. Whisper...

ppp *ppp*

quiet hills. Whisper...

Twi-light peop - le... Twi-light peop - le... Twi-light peop - le... Twi-light peop - le...

Twi-light peop - le... Twi-light peop - le... Twi-light peop - le... Twi-light peop - le...

still be cry - ing, Cry - ing and call - ing to me out of the trees?

(-) (z)

poco rit. A tempo

33 Soprano I *p espress.* *mp*
Twi-light peop - le... Twi-light peop - le, why will you still be cry ing,

Soprano II (*pp*) *p espress.* *mp*
Twi-light peop - le... Twi-light peop - le, why will you still be cry -

p espress. *mp*
Twi-light peop - le... Twi-light peop - le, why will you still be

pp sempre, lontano
tutti Twi-light peop - le... Twi-light peop - le... Twi-light peop - le...

pp sempre, lontano
Twi-light peop - le... Twi-light peop - le... Twi-light peop - le...

8 37 *p* *mf*

Cry - ing and call - ing to me out of the trees?

p *mf*

ing, Cry - ing and call - ing to me out of the trees?

p *mf*

cry - ing, Cry - ing and call - ing to me out of the trees?

mp

Twilight peop - le... Twilight peop - le... Twilight peop - le... Twilight peop - le...

mp

Twilight peop - le... Twilight peop - le... Twilight peop - le... Twilight peop - le...

41 *tutti* *p* *pp*

For un - der the quiet grass the wise are

p *pp*

For un - der the quiet grass the wise are

pp

Twilight peop - le...

pp

Twilight peop - le...

rit.

45 *ppp* *ppp*

ly - ing, It is a whis - per...

ly - ing, Whisper...

pp *ppp*

And all the strong ones_ are gone ov - er the seas.

pp *ppp*

And all the strong ones_ are gone ov - er the seas.



Molto liberamente (senza misura)

Lento sostenuto (♩ = c.50)

c.10''

49

Whisper...

And I am

ppp *ppp* *ppp* *ppp*

It is a whis - per.. And I am old.

pp esitante
and in my heart

pp esitante And I am old *pp sim.* and in my heart

old *pp sim.* and in my heart

ppp
Whisper...



55 *ppp* at your call - ing *P lontano* Twi-light

ppp at your call - ing *p* dead_ dreams *mf* a flut - ter - ing go;

ppp at your call - ing *p* dead_ dreams *mf* a flut - ter - ing go;

p On - ly the *fp* old

59

ppp *p*

peop - le... As the wind, the for - est

pp *p* *mf* *p*

dead_ dreams a flut-ter-ing go;_ As the wind,

pp *p* *mf* *p*

dead_ dreams a flut-ter-ing go;_ As the wind, the for - est

fp *p*

On - ly the old As the wind, the

63

f *mf* *f* *ff*

wind, As the wind, the for - est wind, in its fall - ing Sets the with-ered

f *mf* *f* *ff*

wind, As the wind, wind, in its fall - ing

f *mf* *f* *ff*

wind, As the wind, the for - est wind, in its fall - ing Sets the with-ered

f *mf* *f* *ff*

wind, As the wind, the wind, in its fall - - -

* Second basses should sing lower notes if possible, if not then sing notes an octave higher

67 *f* *pp*

leaves _____ flut - ter - ing to and fro. _____

f *pp*

sets the with-ered leaves _____ flut - ter - ing to and fro. _____

f *pp*

leaves _____ flut - ter - ing to and fro. _____ ...the with-ered

f *pp*

ing... _____ flut - ter - ing to and fro. _____ ...the with-ered



71 *ppp* *ppp*

It is a whis - per..

ppp

Whisper...

ppp

leaves _____ flut - ter - ing to and fro. _____

ppp

leaves _____ flut - ter - ing to and fro. _____

c.15"

Musical score for the first system. It consists of four staves: two vocal staves (Soprano and Alto) and two piano staves (Right and Left). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 8/8. The vocal parts have lyrics: "It is a whis - per.." and "Whisper...". The piano accompaniment includes a *ppp* dynamic marking and a fermata over the final note. A bracket above the system is labeled "c.15\"".



c.15"

Musical score for the second system. It consists of four staves: two vocal staves (Soprano and Alto) and two piano staves (Right and Left). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 8/8. The vocal parts have lyrics: "Whisper..." and "Whisper...". The piano accompaniment includes a *ppp* dynamic marking and a fermata over the final note. A bracket above the system is labeled "c.15\"". The word "rit." is written above the first staff. There are asterisks (*) above the vocal staves, indicating where singers should drop out.

* Singers should gradually drop out to leave only solo voices by the end of the piece.