

TWO DE LA MARE SONGS



for Mezzo-Soprano & Piano

Phillip A. Cooke

TWO DE LA MARE SONGS

for Mezzo-Soprano & Piano

(2012)

PERFORMANCE NOTES

All breath marks are suggestions only
All grace-notes to be taken before the beat

For Donald Lane

First performed at Deddington Church, Deddington, Oxfordshire by Clare McCaldin, and Paul Turner on 05 May 2012

Duration: 6'

Cover photograph: Autumn (Cooke)

For more information: www.phillipcooke.com

PROGRAMME NOTE

Two de la Mare Songs were written for the mezzo-soprano Clare McCaldin (who had premiered my song-cycle *Lakesongs* the year earlier) and are settings of two poems by the eponymous poet. Over the past years I had been struck by the songs of Franz Schubert, the economy of means, certainly in terms of the piano accompaniment and texture and how he manipulates this, subtly, to enhance the mood and the narrative of the song. I wanted to replicate something of this in my songs - each has one key idea that is varied and manipulated to provide the backbone to the song. The songs are dedicated to fellow composer and Oxfordshire resident Donald Lane, without whom they would never have come into being.

PAC

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TWO DE LA MARE SONGS

Winter

Clouded with snow
The cold winds blow,
And shrill on leafless bough
The robin with its burning breast
Alone sings now.

The rayless sun,
Day's journey done,
Sheds its last ebbing light
On fields in leagues of beauty spread
Unearthly white.

Thick draws the dark,
And spark by spark,
The frost-fires kindle, and soon
Over that sea of frozen foam
Floats the white moon.

Autumn

There is a wind where the rose was;
Cold rain where sweet grass was;
And clouds like sheep
Stream o'er the steep
Grey skies where the lark was.

Nought gold where your hair was;
Nought warm where your hand was;
But phantom, forlorn,
Beneath the thorn,
Your ghost where your face was.

Sad winds where your voice was;
Tears, tears where my heart was;
And ever with me,
Child, ever with me,
Silence where hope was.

Walter de la Mare (1873 – 1956)

for Donald Lane

TWO DE LA MARE SONGS

for Mezzo-Soprano and Piano

WALTER DE LA MARE (1873 - 1956)

PHILLIP A. COOKE (2012)

I. Winter

Andante espressivo (♩=c.69)

p *dolcemente*

Clou - ded with

ppp *lontano* *pp* *sempre, molto legato*

Detailed description: This system contains the first three measures of the piece. The vocal line begins with a whole rest in 5/4 time, followed by a 4/4 time signature change. The lyrics 'Clou - ded with' are under the notes. The piano accompaniment starts with a *ppp* *lontano* texture in 5/4 time, then changes to 4/4 time with a *pp* *sempre, molto legato* texture. The piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes.

Ped. (ad lib; molto sost.)

snow the cold winds blow,

mp (2 + 3)

Detailed description: This system contains measures 4 through 6. The vocal line has lyrics 'snow the cold winds blow,' with a triplet of eighth notes and a (2+3) eighth-note group. The piano accompaniment continues with a *mp* dynamic and features a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The piano part includes a triplet of eighth notes and a (2+3) eighth-note group.

And shrill on leaf-less bough The ro-bin with it's burn-ing breast a -

p *sim.* *cresc.* *pp* *sim.* *cresc.*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 7 through 9. The vocal line has lyrics 'And shrill on leaf-less bough The ro-bin with it's burn-ing breast a -'. The piano accompaniment continues with a *p* *sim.* dynamic, then *cresc.* The piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes.

10

... *mf marc.*

lone sings now, a lone sings

... *mp*

poco rit. - - - - -

13

now.

pp *sub. mf* *p*

- - - A tempo

16

p dolcemente

The ray-less sun, Day's jour

ppp lontano *pp*

20 *mp* *p* 3

ney done, Sheds its last eb - bing

23 *mp* *molto espress.*

light On fields in leagues of beau - ty spread Un - earth - ly

poco rit. - - - - -

26 *mf* *marc.* 3

white, Un - earth - ly white.

... *mp* *pp*

29

sub. *mf* *p*

A tempo

33

p *espress.*

cresc.

Thick draws the dark, And spark_____ by

p *sost.*

37

mf *appass.*

spark,_____ The frost - fires kin - dle,_____ and soon O - ver that

cresc. *mp*

41 *dim.*

sea of fro - zen foam Floats the white moon, the white

A tempo rit. al fine. - - - - -

45 *p*

moon.

dim. al fine.

49

ppp lontano

II. Autumn

Andante con malincolico (♩=c.60)

mp poco espress.

There is a wind where the rose was; — Cold

p dolce, legato

Ped. (ad lib; molto sost.)

5 *p* *mf*

rain where the sweet grass was; And clouds like sheep Stream o'er the

9 *p* *rit.* ————— *molto accel.*

steep Grey skies where the lark was.

Poco piu mosso; espressivo

13

mp *pp*

Nought gold where your hair was;—

16

mp *pp*

Nought warm where your hand was;— But

rit.

19

mf

phan- tom, for - lorn, Be - neath the thorn, Your ghost where your

22 *pp* *p* *esitante* *pp*

face was, — Your ghost where your face was, —

Primo tempo

26 *mp* *poco espress.*

Sad winds where your voice was; — Tears, —

p *dolce, legato*

30 *p* *mf* *molto espress.*

tears where my heart was; — And ev - er — with me, Child, ev - er — with me,

mf

rit. - - - - - A tempo rit. al fine. - - - - -

34

Si - lence_ where hope was, _____ where hope _____ was. _____

f

dim. al fine.

- - - - -

38

pp

(l.v. a niente)