

THE SHADOW CALLS



for Two Tenor Soloists and Male Voice
Choir (TTBB)

Phillip A. Cooke

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(2022)

PERFORMANCE NOTES

- All breath marks have been left to the discretion of the conductor.
- The 'Liberamente' sections feature solo singers, placed away from the main choir, they should perform the boxed material independent of the main choir, repeated until instructed. Their material should be interrupted by the main choir as if the soloists were an echo or resonance.
- If possible (and desired), the two soloists could move closer to the front of the performance space with each appearance – i.e. beginning off-stage, or in the wings, gradually moving to centre stage.
- The duration of the 'Liberamente' section is left to the discretion of the conductor and can be modified to suit the performance and the venue – what is provided is merely a blueprint for performance.
- However, the *battuta* sections should be performed as written.

Commissioned by the Svanholm Singers

The Shadow Calls was first performed by the Svanholm Singers, conducted by Sofia Söderberg at Allhelgonakyrkan, Lund, Sweden on the 20 October 2022.

Duration: c.6-7 minutes

Cover photograph: www.unsplash.com, K Mitch Hodge

For more information: www.phillipcooke.com

PROGRAMME NOTE

The Shadow Calls sets a bleak, but ultimately hopeful poem by American composer-poet Thomas LaVoy which was inspired by Spanish painter Francisco Goya's *The Dog*, which the artist painted directly onto the walls of his house during a period of mental and physical distress. LaVoy's poem vividly describes a drowning sequence (the eponymous dog in Goya's painting is largely thought to be drowning) as the protagonist wrestles with whether to give themselves to the water ('the shadow calls') or to fight for survival. Ultimately, the coming of the morning heralds a defiant change of mood and the beginning of a struggle to reach light and hope. My work uses the inherent structure and characterisation of the poem for its own form and direction – two tenor soloists intone repeated incantations, urging the protagonist to submit to the water. Against this, the main choir provides the more dramatic, colourful, narrative material, often overlapping and immersing the solo voices in their music. The work ends with all the voices taking on the soloists' chants in a free and euphoric swell on the final words of 'and climb to sky.'

PAC

TEXT

The Dog

Your life is mine –

the shadow calls.

Wet panic of the flight through foam.

The swell will be your soundless home;
a trough to offer death and calm.

Come down and sleep –

beneath the wave,

membrane of the wailing deep.

Let drop your failing limbs and breathe,
to rest in dust and silent cave.

Lie now and dream –

among these bones,

of all that you have left above;

the voices that your heart has loved,
that cry your name through time unknown.

Defy the end, embrace the cry,
black wonder of the yellow morn.

Cast your eyes into the storm,
and climb to light –

and climb to sky.

Thomas LaVoy (1990 -)

THE SHADOW CALLS

THOMAS LAVOY (2022)

for Two Tenor Soloists and Male Voice Choir (TTBB)

PHILLIP A. COOKE (2022)

Liberamente (♩ = c.52)

Tenor Solo I

p *lontano*

Your life is mine,

Tenor Solo II

* *p* *lontano*

Your life is mine,

* Solo voices should sound distant, almost like an echo and in their own tempo, repeating the boxed material for the duration allotted by the conductor (see preface for details)



4/4 poco più mosso (♩ = c.60)

T. S. 1

T. S. 2

T. 1

T. 2

B. 1

B. 2

pp *espress.* *pp* *pp*

The sha - dow calls, The sha - dow calls, The sha - dow

The sha - dow calls, The sha - dow calls, The sha - dow

The sha - dow calls, The sha - dow calls, The sha - dow

The sha - dow calls, The sha - dow calls, The sha - dow

accel. ancora poco più mosso (♩ = c.66)

7 *p poco agitato*

T.1 calls, The pan-ic of the flight through foam, the swell will be your sound-less home, a

T.2 calls, The pan-ic of the flight through foam, the swell will be your sound-less home, a

B.1 calls, The pan-ic of the flight through foam, the swell will be your sound-less home, a

B.2 calls, The pan-ic of the flight through foam, the swell will be your sound-less home, a

12 *mf* *rit.*

T.1 trough to of-fer death and calm, a trough to of-fer death and

T.2 trough to of-fer death and calm, a trough to of-fer death and

B.1 trough to of-fer death and calm, a trough to of-fer death and

B.2 trough to of-fer death and calm, a trough to of-fer death and

Liberamente (♩ = c.52)

16 *p* *lontano*

T. S. 1
Your life is mine,
Come down and sleep,

T. S. 2
Your life is mine,
Come down and sleep,

T. 1
pp
calm.

T. 2
pp
calm.

B. 1
pp
calm.

B. 2
pp
calm.

3 *più mosso* (♩ = c.66)

T. S. 1

T. S. 2

T. 1
mf marc. *p* *mf*
Be - neath the wave, Be - neath the

T. 2
mf marc. *p* *mf*
Be - neath the wave, Be - neath the

B. 1
mf marc. *p* *mf*
Be - neath the wave, Be - neath the

B. 2
mf marc. *p* *mf*
Be - neath the wave, Be - neath the

Piano accompaniment

4 4

poco accel.

20 *p* *mf* *p*

T.1 *gliss.*
wave, mem-brane of the wail - ing deep. Let drop your fail - ling

T.2 *gliss.*
wave, mem-brane of the wail - ing deep. Let drop your fail - - -

B.1 *gliss.*
wave, mem-brane of the wail - ing deep. Let drop your fail - - ing

B.2 *gliss.*
wave, mem-brane of the wail - ing deep. Let drop your fail - - ing



A tempo

rit.

25 *f espress.*

T.1
limbs and breathe, to rest in dust, in dust and si - lent

T.2 *f espress.*
ing limbs and breathe, to rest in dust, in dust, and si - lent

B.1 *f espress.*
limbs and breathe, to rest in dust, in dust and si - lent

B.2 *f espress.*
limbs and breathe, to rest in dust, in dust and si - lent

Liberamente (♩ = c.52)

30 *P* *lontano*

T. S.1 *Your life is mine,* *Lie now _____ and dream, _____*

T. S.2 *Your life is mine,* *Lie now _____ and dream, _____*

T.1 *pp* cave.

T.2 *pp* cave.

B.1 *pp* cave.

B.2 *pp* cave.

4/4 poco più mosso (♩ = c.60)

T. S.1

T. S.2

T.1 *pp espress.*
Am - ong these bones, _____ of all you have

T.2 *pp espress.*
Am - ong these bones, _____ of all you have

B.1 *pp espress.*
Am - ong these bones, _____ of all you have

B.2 *pp espress.*
Am - ong these bones, _____ of all you have

Piano accompaniment

34

T.1 left ab - ove, _____ voi - ces that your heart has loved, that cry your name through

T.2 left ab - ove, _____ voi - ces that your heart has loved, that cry your name through

B.1 left ab - ove, _____ voi - ces that your heart has loved, that cry your name through

B.2 left ab - ove, _____ voi - ces that your heart has loved, that cry your name through



..... **ancora poco più mosso** (♩ = c.66)

38 *f* *pass.*

T.1 time un-known. De - fy the end, _____ em - brace _____ the cry, _____ black

T.2 *f* *pass.*
time un-known. De - fy the end, un- em - brace the cry, black

B.1 *f* *pass.*
time un-known. De - fy the end, em - brace the cry, black

B.2 *f* *pass.*
time un-known. De - fy the end, em - brace the cry, black

43 *ff* 9

T.1
won - der of the yel - low morn, cast your eyes in - to the storm, and

T.2
won - der of the yel - low morn, cast your eyes in - to the storm, and

B.1
won - der of the yel - low morn, cast your eyes in - to the storm, and

B.2
won - der of the yel - low morn, cast your eyes in - to the storm, and



poco accel.

47 *mp cresc.*

T.1
climb, climb, climb, climb, to

T.2
mp cresc.
climb, climb, climb, climb, to

B.1
mp cresc.
climb, climb, climb, climb, to

B.2
mp cresc.
climb, and climb, and climb, and climb, to

10 **A tempo** **rit.**

51 **ff** *maestoso*

T.1 light, to light, to light, to light. to light.

T.2 light, to light, to light, to light. to light.

B.1 light, to light, to light, to light. to light.

B.2 light, to light, to light, to light. to light.

Liberamente (♩ = c.52)

56 **P** *lontano*

T. S.1 *And climb to sky.*

T. S.2 *And climb to sky.*

T.1

T.2

B.1 * **P** *lontano*
And climb to sky.

B.2 * **P** *lontano*
And climb to sky.

*All individual voices to repeat boxed material at their own tempo, staggered if possible, to create the necessary texture (see preface for details).

T. S.1

T. S.2

T.1

T.2

B.1

B.2

* *p* *lontano*
And climb to sky.

* *p* *lontano*
And climb to sky.

==

accel.

molto cresc. *fff*

T. S.1

molto cresc. *fff*

T. S.2

molto cresc. *fff*

T.1

molto cresc. *fff*

T.2

molto cresc. *fff*

B.1

molto cresc. *fff*

B.2