

Libby Larsen

MUSIC; A FIDDLER; THE MOON

*Three poems of Walter de la Mare*

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SATB Chorus and Piano

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*Written for Galen Darrough  
on commission by the University of Northern Colorado*

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## Libby Larsen

### MUSIC; A FIDDLER; THE MOON

#### I. Music

When music sounds, gone is the earth I know,  
And all her lovely things even lovelier grow;  
Her flowers in vision flame, her forest trees  
Life burdened branches, stilled with ecstasies.

When music sounds, out of the water rise  
Naiads whose beauty dims my waking eyes,  
Rapt in strange dreams burns each enchanted face,  
With solemn echoing stirs their dwelling place.

When music sounds, all that I was I am  
Ere to this haunt of brooking dust I came;  
And from Time's woods break into distant song  
The swift-winged hours, as I hasten along.

#### II. A Fiddler

Once was a fiddler. Play could he  
Sweet as a bird in an almond tree;  
Fingers and strings – they seemed to be  
Matched, in a secret conspiracy.  
Up slip his bow, paused lingeringly;  
Music's self was its witchery.  
In his stopping face it was plain to see  
How close to dream is a soul set free –  
A half-found world;  
And company.  
His fiddle is broke  
Mute is he.  
But a bird sings on in the almond tree.

#### III. The Moon

Slowly, silently, now the moon  
Walks the night in her silver shoon;  
This way, and that, she peers, and sees  
Silver fruit upon silver trees;  
One by one the casements catch  
Her beams beneath the silvery thatch;  
Couched in his kennel, like a log,  
With paws of silver sleeps the dog;  
From their shadowy cote the white breasts peep  
Of doves in silver feathered sleep  
A harvest mouse goes scampering by,  
With silver claws, and silver eye;  
And moveless fish in the water gleam,  
By silver reeds in a silver stream.

## Performance Notes for *A Fiddler*

The chorus should approach all articulation marks as if it actually is 'the fiddle'.

- 1) One Z - short, attacked z sound moving directly to the vowel. Hold the vowel for the duration of the note value, keeping the dynamic steady unless otherwise indicated.
- 2) Three ZZZ's - Voice and hold the 'z' sound then move to the vowel.
- 3) ZZZoon - Voice and hold the 'z' sound, moving smoothly to "oo" and then quickly move to "n". Close to "n" quickly and hold it for duration the of note value.
- 4) Glissandi - all glissandi should be dramatic - gooey, but not heavy, like drawing a knife through wet concrete.
- 5) Note! If there is no glissando between two notes, *do not glissando!*

# I. MUSIC

WALTER DE LA MARE

LIBBY LARSEN, 2019

♩ = c. 68, very freely and flexibly throughout

*mf*

S  
A  
T  
B

When mu-sic sounds, gone is the world I  
When mu-sic sounds, gone is the world I  
When mu-sic sounds, gone is the world I  
When mu-sic sounds, gone is the world I

♩ = c. 68, very freely and flexibly throughout

Piano

*p* *mf*

5

S  
A  
T  
B

know, And all her love-ly things e-ven lov-li-er grow;  
know, And all her love-ly things e-ven lov-li-er grow;  
know, And all her love-ly things e-ven lov-li-er grow;  
know, And all her love-ly things e-ven lov-li-er grow;

5 *fall forward*

6

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9 *mp* *f* *p*

S Her flow'rs— with vi-sion flame, her for - est trees

A Her flow'rs— with vi-sion flame, her for - est trees

T Her flow'rs— with vi-sion flame, her for - est trees

B Her flow'rs— with vi-sion flame, her for - est trees

9 *mp* *f* *tr* *sub.p*

(a sudden rhapsody)

12 *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

S branch-es filled with ec - sta - sies. — When mu - sic sounds,

A branch-es filled with ec - sta - sies. — When mu - sic sounds,

T branch-es filled with ec - sta - sies. — When mu - sic sounds,

B branch-es filled with ec - sta - sies. — When mu - sic sounds,

12 *fall forward* *mf*

15

S out of the wat - er rise Nai - ads whose beau - ty dims my wak - ing eyes,

A out of the wat - er rise Nai - ads whose beau - ty dims my wak - ing eyes,

T out of the wat - er rise *unis.* Nai - ads whose beau - ty dims my wak - ing eyes,

B out of the wat - er rise Nai - ads whose beau - ty dims my wak - ing eyes,

15

18

S *p* Rapt in strange dreams burns each en - chant - ed face, \_\_\_\_\_ with *sub.p*

A *p* Rapt in strange dreams burns each en - chant - ed face, \_\_\_\_\_ with *sub.p*

T *p* Rapt in strange dreams burns each en - chant - ed face, \_\_\_\_\_ *sub.p*

B *p* Rapt in strange dreams burns each en - chant - ed face, \_\_\_\_\_ *sub.p*

18

22

S sol - emn ech - o - ing stirs their dwell - ing place. —

A sol - emn ech - o - ing stirs their dwell - ing place. —

T *p* sol - emn ech - o - ing stirs their dwell - ing place. —

B *p* sol - emn ech - o - ing stirs their swell - ing place. —

22

*mf*

freely

26

S *mf* When mu - sic sounds, all that I was I am

A *mf* When mu - sic sounds, all that I was I am

T *mf* When mu - sic sounds, all that I was I am

B *mf* When mu - sic sounds, all that I was I am

When mu - sic sounds, — all that I was I am —

freely

26

*mf*

31 *mf*

S  
ere to this haunt of brook - ing dust I came; and from Time's woods

A  
*mf*  
ere to this haunt of brook - ing dust I came; and from Time's woods

T  
*mf*  
ere to this haunt of brook - ing dust I came; and from Time's woods  
and from Time's woods

B  
*mf*  
ere to this haunt of brook - ing dust I came; and from Time's woods

(*mf*) *mp*

35 *f*

S  
break in - to dis - tant song the swift - winged hours, as I has - ten a -

A  
*f*  
break in - to dis - tant song the swift - winged hours, as I has - ten a -

T  
*f*  
break in - to dis - tant song the swift - winged hours, as I has - ten a -

B  
*f*  
break in - to dis - tant song the swift - winged hours, as I has - ten a -

*f*



# II. A Fiddler

WALTER DE LA MARE

$\text{♩} = 120$

S *fp* zah — *p* zah —

A *fp* zah — *p* zah —

T *mf* zah — zah zzzoo - wah — *fp* zzzoo-wah zah — zah — zzzoo-wah — zah zzzoo-

B *mf* zah — zah zzzoo - wah — *fp* zzzoo-wah zah — zah — zzzoo-wah — zah zzzoo-

*for rehearsal only*

$\text{♩} = 120$

7

S *f* zzzoo-wah *p* zzzoo-wah zzzoo-wah

A *f* zzzoo-wah *p* zzzoo-wah zzzoo-wah

T wah — zah zzzoo-wah — zzzoo-wah — zah zzzoo-wah — zah

B wah — zah zzzoo-wah — zzzoo-wah — zah zzzoo-wah — zah

7

12

S  
zzzoo-wah— zzzoo-wah zzzoo-wah— zzzoo-wah— zzzoo-wah— zzzoo-wah— zzzoo-wah

A  
zzzoo-wah— zzzoo-wah zzzoo-wah— zzzoo-wah— zzzoo-wah— zzzoo-wah

T  
zzzoo-wah— zzzoo-wah— zzzoo-wah— zah zzzoo-wah— zzzoo-wah zzzoo-wah— zzzoo-wah—

B  
zzzoo-wah— zzzoo-wah— zzzoo-wah— zah zzzoo-wah— zzzoo-wah— zzzoo-wah— zzzoo-wah—

16

S  
*mf* zah — *f* zzzah — zoo-wah *mf* zah —

A  
*mf* zah — *f* zzzah — zoo-wah *mf* zah —

T  
*mf* (optional solo) *f* Once was a fid-dler. Play— could he — *mf* (non decresc.)

B  
*fp* zah zzzoo - wah *f* zzzoo - wah

23

S *mf* sweet as a bird in an al-mond tree; *f* zzzoo-wah

A *mf* sweet as a bird in an al-mond tree; *mp* zzzoo-wah *f* zzzoo-wah

T (*mf*) sweet as a bird in an al - mond tree; *mp* zzzoo-wah

B *p* zzzoo-wah *mf* zzzoo-wah *f* zzzoo-

29

S *mf* fin-gers and strings—they used to be matched, in a se-cret con-spi-ra-cy.— *p*

A *mf* fin-gers and strings—they used to be matched, in a se-cret con-spi-ra-cy.— *p*

T *mf* fin-gers and strings—they used to be matched, in a se-cret con-spi-ra-cy.— *p*

B *sub.mp* wah *f* zzzoo -

35 *f* *mf*

S zzzoo - wah Up slips his bow, Mu - sic's self was its witch-er - y.

A zzzoo - wah Up slips his bow, Mu - sic's self was its witch-er - y.

T *sub.p* *sub.mf* zzzoo - wah paused ling - 'ring - ly; was its witch-er - y.

B wah zzzoo - wah paused ling - 'ring - ly; zzzoo - *mf*

35 *f* *mf*

(Devil's Hoe Down)

41 *mf* *f* *p* *cresc.*

S zzzoo-wah zzzoo - wah zzzoo - wah zzzoo - wah

A *mf* *f* *p* *cresc.* zzzoo-wah zzzoo-wah zzzoo - wah zzzoo - wah

T *mf* *f* *p* *cresc.* zzzoo-wah zzzoo-wah zzzoo-wah zah zzzoo-wah zah

B wah zzzoo - wah *f* *p* *cresc.* \*zzzoon zzzoon

(Devil's Hoe Down)

41 *f* *p* *cresc.*

\* close to "n" quickly

47 ritard.

S *f* *ff*  
 zzzoo - wah — zzzoo - wah zah zah — zah zah — zah — \*zzzoon

A *f* *ff*  
 zzzoo - wah zzzoo - wah zah zah — zah zah — zah — zah —

T *f* *ff*  
 zzzoo-wah zah zzzoo-wah zah zah zah zah — zah — zah —

B *ff*  
 zzzoon zzzoon zah zah —

53 rit. ———

S *p* *sub. mf* *unis.*  
 zzzoon zzzoon\* — zah zzzoon\* how close to a dream is a soul set free - a

A *p* *sub. mf*  
 zah — zzzoon\* — zah zzzoon\* how close to a dream is a soul set free - a

T *p* *mf*  
 zah — zzzoon\* — how close to a dream is a soul set free - a

B *mf*  
 zah — In his stop-ping face it was plain to see how close to a dream is a soul set free - a

53 rit. ———

*slower* *fp* *mf*

\* close to "n" quickly

# III. THE MOON

WALTER DE LA MARE

LIBBY LARSEN, 2019

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 66$

S  
A  
T  
B

Piano

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 66$  *softly, moonlight and perhaps a few stars*

*p*

**poco rit.**  $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$  **a tempo**  $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$  *mp*

9

S  
A  
T  
B

Slow - ly, si - lent - ly, now the moon \_\_\_\_\_

Slow - ly, si - lent - ly, now the moon \_\_\_\_\_

*mp*

**poco rit.**  $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$  **a tempo**  $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

9 *slowly* *mp*

5

dappled moonlight

16 *mf*

S now the moon the moon, the moon, *pp*

A now the moon the moon, the moon, the

T the moon, the moon, the moon,

B the moon, the moon,

16 *shimmer* *p* *mf* *decresc.*

*rit.*

21 *pp* *mf* *a tempo*

S the moon

A moon Slow - ly, si - lent - ly, now the

T the moon,

B the moon Slow - ly, si - lent - ly, now the

21 *pp* *mp* *mf*

brightly

27 *mp* ... the moon, the moon — the moon This way, — and

A moon walks the night — in her sil - ver shoon; This way, — and

T *mp* ... the moon, — the moon, — ... in her sil - ver shoon; This way, — and

B moon walks the night — in her sil - ver shoon; This way, — and

brightly

27 *p*

rall.

*mp*

33 that, she peers, and sees — sil - ver fruit,

A that, she peers, and sees sil - ver fruit,

T that, she peers, and sees — sil - ver fruit, sil - ver

B that, she peers, and sees — sil - ver fruit, sil - ver fruit,

rall.

*p*

33 *p*



warmly

38

S sil - ver fruit, up-on sil - ver trees; one by

A sil - ver fruit, up-on sil - ver trees; one by

T fruit, up-on sil - ver trees; one by

B sil - ver, sil - ver fruit up-on sil - ver trees; one by

warmly

38

*mf*

43

S one the case-ments catch her beams be-neath a sil - v'ry thatch;  
*sub.p*

A one, one by one, one by one, one by one, one by one, one by

T one the case-ments catch her beams be-neath a sil - v'ry thatch;—

B one, one by one, one by one, one by one, one by one, one by

*tutti*

43

*sub.p*

48

*p* *mf* *tutti*

S the moon the moon, sil - ver sleeps the dog;

A one the moon, ... paws of sil - ver sleeps the dog;

T couched in his ken-nel, like a log, with paws of sil - ver sleeps the dog;  
couched in his ken-nel, like

B one the moon sil - ver, the moon, moon, the

*mf*

54

*mp* *poco*

S from their sha - dow-y cote the white breasts peep of

A from their sha - dow-y cote the white breasts peep of

T sleeps the dog; the moon, the moon, the moon, the moon, the moon, the

B moon, the moon, the moon, the moon, the moon, the moon, the

*sub.p* *sub.p* *mp* *poco*

54

*sub.mp* *sub.p* *mp*

83

S  
sil - ver reeds in a sil - ver stream. \_\_\_\_\_ the moon, \_\_\_\_\_ the

A  
the moon, \_\_\_\_\_ the moon, the moon, the moon, the moon,

T  
the moon, \_\_\_\_\_ the moon the moon the moon the moon

B  
moon, \_\_\_\_\_ the moon, \_\_\_\_\_ the moon, \_\_\_\_\_ the moon, \_\_\_\_\_ the moon, \_\_\_\_\_ the

83  
*p* (*sempre*)

*Repeat, fading to niente in darkness. Lower house lights to house dark.*

89

S  
moon, \_\_\_\_\_ the moon, \_\_\_\_\_ the moon, \_\_\_\_\_ the moon, \_\_\_\_\_ the moon, \_\_\_\_\_ the moon, \_\_\_\_\_ the

A  
the moon, the moon, the moon, the moon, the moon, the moon,

T  
the moon the moon the moon the moon the moon the moon

B  
moon, \_\_\_\_\_ the moon, \_\_\_\_\_ the moon, \_\_\_\_\_ the moon, \_\_\_\_\_ the moon, \_\_\_\_\_ the moon, \_\_\_\_\_ the

89