

Jessica Rudman

Two Poems

for SSA Choir and Harp

Text by Percy Bysshe Shelley and John Keats

2005
ca. 5:00

Two Poems

Program Notes

The texts for *Two Poems*, by Percy Bysshe Shelley and John Keats respectively, both use celestial imagery to convey two very different views on love. For me, the juxtaposition of the two poems adds to their expressiveness and brings out undercurrents that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Composer Contact Information

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Text

I. Adapted from “To the Moon” by Percy Bysshe Shelley

Art thou pale for weariness

Of climbing heaven and gazing on the earth,

Wandering companionless among the stars

Ever changing, like a joyless eye

That finds no object worth its constancy?

II. Adapted from “Bright Star” by John Keats

Bright star, would I were steadfast as thou art—

Not in lone splendor hung aloft the night

And watching, with eternal lids apart,

The moving waters, the new soft-fallen snow.

No—yet still steadfast, still unchangeable,

Pillow'd upon my fair love's ripening breast,

To feel forever its soft fall and swell,

Awake forever in a sweet unrest,

Still, still to hear her tender-taken breath,

And so live ever—or else swoon to death.

Two Poems

I. To The Moon

Text by Percy Bysshe Shelley

Jessica Rudman (b. 1982)

Contemplatively
♩ = 72-76

rit. **a tempo** **rit.**

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Alto

Harp (alt: piano)
mp legato

5 **a tempo** **rit.** **a tempo** **rit.**

S 1

S 2

A

Hp.
5 **a tempo** **rit.** **a tempo** **rit.**

9 **a tempo** **10**

S 1

S 2

A *p*

Art thou pale for _____ wear - i -

a tempo **10**

Hp.

13 **14** *p*

S 1

S 2 *p*

A

ness, _____ Wear - i - ness of climb - ing

Wear - i - ness of climb - ing

ness, _____ Wear - i - ness of climb - ing

14

Hp.

17 **rit.** **mp** **a tempo**

S 1 *mp* hea - - - - ven

S 2 *mp* hea - - - - ven

A *mp* hea - - - - ven *p* and ga - zing on the

Hp. **rit.** **mf** **a tempo** *p subito*

19 **20**

S 1

S 2 *p* 3 Wan - der - ing com - pan - ion -

A earth, Wan - - - - - der -

Hp. **20** *mp*

22

S 1 *mp* and

S 2 *mp* less a - mong the stars

A *mp* ing a - mong the stars

Hp. *mf*

24

S 1 *mf* e - - - ver chan - ging

S 2 *mf*

A *mf* *p* chan - ging like a

Hp. *p subito*

26

S 1

S 2 *mp*
that finds _____ no ob - ject

A
joy - less eye that finds no ob - ject

Hp.

26

28 *f*
S 1
worth its con - stan - cy?

S 2 *f*
worth its con - stan - cy?

A *f*
worth its con - stan - cy?

Hp. *ff*

II. Bright Star

Text by John Keats

Jessica Rudman (b. 1982)

Passionately ♩=96

ff *f*

S 1
Bright Star! Bright Star!

S 2
ff *f* *p*
Bright Star! Bright Star! Would I were

A
ff *f*
Bright Star! Bright Star!

Passionately ♩=96

Hp.
f
3 3

4

S 1
p
not in lone

S 2
stead - - fast as thou art; not in lone

A
p
not in lone

6

Hp.
p *f*
3

7 *mp*

S 1 splen - dor hung a loft the night and

S 2 splen - - dor hung a - loft the night

A splen - dor hung a - loft the night

Hp.

mp

10 **12** *mp*

S 1 watch-ing with e - ter - nal lids a - part, the

S 2 *mp* the mov - ing

A *mp* the mov - ing wat - ers,

Hp. **12** *mf*

16

S 1

snow.

No!

S 2

No!

A

No!

18

ff

mf

Hp.

19 *p*

S 1 No, yet still stead - fast, still un -

S 2 *p* No, yet still stead -

A *p* No, yet

Hp. *ppp* *p*

22 *mf*

S 1 change - a - ble, still un - change - a - ble,

S 2 *mf* - fast, un - change - a - ble, stead - - fast,

A *mf* still stead - fast, still un - change - a - ble,

Hp.

25

26

S 1

S 2

A

Hp.

mp

mp

f

mp

Pil - low'd u - pon my fair love's ri - pen-ing breast, To

To

28

30

S 1

S 2

A

Hp.

mp

mf

p

mp

mf

p

mp

A - wake__

feel for - e - ver its soft fall and swell,

feel for - e - ver its soft fall_____ and swell,

30

mf

mp

31

S 1

for - e - ver in a sweet un - - rest,

p *mp* *p* *mp*

S 2

Still, _____ Still, _____

p *mp* *p* *mp*

A

Still, _____ Still, _____

Hp.

p

34

S 1

Still, still, _____ to hear her ten - der tak - en

p *pp* *mp*

S 2

Still, still, _____ to hear her

p *pp* *mp*

A

Still, still, _____ to

p *pp* *mp*

Hp.

mp

37

S 1 breath, And so live_____

S 2 ten - der tak - en breath, And so live_____

A hear her ten - der tak - en breath, And so live_____

39

Hp.

3

poco rit. al fine

40

S 1 e - - - ver, or else swoon to death

S 2 e - - - ver, or else swoon to death.

A e - - - ver, or else swoon to death.

poco rit. al fine

Hp.

3

f *p* *pp* *f* *p* *pp* *ff*