

“A VOICE OF MUSIC”

for French horn and Pianoforte



Kerry Milan

For Emily and James

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A Voice of Music is an arrangement of a piece originally composed
for tenor voice and pianoforte in 1963.

Further information about this can be found in the background notes included on page 12

1: I know a green grass path ...

Andante cantabile ($\text{♩} = 76$)

Kerry Milan

4 Andante cantabile ($\text{♩} = 76$)

7 Andante cantabile con rubato
mf

7 suivez

10 suivez

3

13

13

16

16

19

19

22

22

poco rall.

6

25 *a tempo*

25 *a tempo* suivez 3

28

28

suivez

31

31

34

poco rall.

34

poco rall.

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2: Oft on a plat of rising ground ...

Sempre andante cantabile

Sempre andante cantabile

5

mf

5

mp

8

8

11

11

15

15

18

18

22

22

26

poco rall.

26

poco rall.

3: Even in a little thing

Musical score for piano, page 4, measures 4-5. The score consists of three staves. The top staff uses a treble clef, the middle staff a bass clef, and the bottom staff a bass clef. Measure 4 begins with a 4/4 time signature. The melody on the treble staff consists of eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Measure 5 begins with a 5/4 time signature. The bass staff features sustained notes and chords. The right hand of the piano part is shown in the middle staff.

Musical score for piano, page 7, measures 7-8. The score consists of two staves. The top staff uses treble clef and has a key signature of one sharp. Measure 7 starts with a sixteenth-note pattern (two groups of four notes with a dotted half note). Measure 8 begins with a forte dynamic (**p**). The bottom staff uses bass clef and has a key signature of two sharps. Measures 7 and 8 feature sustained notes with grace notes and slurs.

A musical score page featuring two staves. The top staff uses a treble clef and has a key signature of one sharp. It contains a melodic line with various note values and rests, some grouped by a brace. The bottom staff uses a treble clef and has a key signature of two sharps. It features a basso continuo line with sustained notes and bass notes. Measure numbers 10 and 11 are indicated above the staves.

13 *poco meno mosso*

13 *poco meno mosso*

15 *mf*

15

17 *poco più f*

17 *poco più f*

19 *poco rall.*

19 *poco rall.*

Much of my early work, looking back nearly sixty years, has long been lost; but happily a copy of the manuscript for *A Voice of Music* does still survive, and also a programme (see right), from June 1963 when I was a twenty-year-old student at the Scottish Academy, of a performance there in the Stevenson Hall, by fellow students Roger Crook, tenor, and Anne Strachan piano.

The texts for these three short songs come from widely differing sources: the first, *The Green River*, I found in the college library, the second (*from Il Penseroso*) from my Highers study, the third from a book *Return to the Islands* by the author of *A Pattern of Islands*, who was resident Commissioner in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, just about as far away from Glasgow as one could imagine, both geographically and culturally.

Now two generations later, with a granddaughter herself twenty and in her third year at Oxford, it seemed a good time to give the music another hearing, this time with Emily accompanying her brother James on French horn. The only slight change is that the first section (which would have pushed the horn up to C sharp major) has been moved up a semitone. Here are the words:

- (1) "I know a green grass path" (*Alfred Douglas*)
- (2) "Oft on a plat of rising ground" (*Milton*)
- (3) "Even in a little thing" (*translated by Arthur Grimble*)

I know a green grass path that leaves the field,
And, like a running river, winds along
Into a leafy wood, where is no throng
Of birds at noon-day; and no soft throats yield
Their music to the moon. The place is sealed,
An unclaimed sovereignty of voiceless song,
And all the unravished silences belong
to some sweet singer lost, or unrevealed.

Oft on a plat of rising ground,
I hear the far-off curfew sound,
Over some wide water'd shore,
Swinging low with sullen roar;
Or if the air will not permit,
Some still removed place will fit,
Where glowing embers through the room
Teach light to counterfeit a gloom,
Far from all resort of mirth,
Save the cricket on the hearth,
Or the bellman's drowsy charm,
To bless the doors from nightly harm.

So is my soul become a silent place.
Oh, may I wake from this uneasy night
To find some voice of music manifold.
Let it be shape of sorrow with wan face
Or love that swoons on sleep, or else delight
That is as wide-eyed as a marigold.

Even in a little thing
(A leaf, a child's hand, a star's flicker)
I shall find a song worth singing
If my eyes are wide, and sleep not.
Even in a laughable thing
(Oh hark! The children are laughing!)
There is that which fills the heart to overflowing,
And makes dreams wistful.
Small is the life of a man
(Not too sad, not too happy):
I shall find my songs in a man's small life.
Behold them soaring!
Very low on earth are the frigate-birds hatched,
Yet they soar as high as the sun.

I have always been so grateful to Roger and Anne for giving what was one of my earliest premières. Like me Roger was born in 1942, sadly dying aged seventy in July 2013. His obituary was covered in the Dundee Courier of 31 July:

Mr Crook broadcast on TV and radio, singing recitals of songs by classical composers as well as programmes of light entertainment and Scottish songs.

He also appeared as a soloist with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and Scottish Radio Orchestra, the Northern Sinfonia and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra.

On the operatic stage he sang the roles of Manrico, Don Jose, Enzo, Tamino, Canio, and Nanki Poo. In oratorio he sang the tenor repertoire with choral societies all over Scotland and the north of England. As the tenor in the Quatrain for 20 years, he arranged many of the songs they performed and recorded.

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY OF MUSIC
Session 1962-63

CONCERT OF STUDENTS' COMPOSITIONS

STEVENSON HALL

Friday, 21st June 1963 at 2.p.m.

P R O G R A M M E

1. DIVERTIMENTO (for Strings) Ronald Walker (Yr.I)
- I Allegro
 II Adagio
 III Waltz, Allegro
 IV Finale - Allegro con brio
2. THREE SONGS for Tenor and Pianoforte Kerry Milan (Yr.III)
- (i) "I know a green grass path"
 (words Lord Alfred Douglas)
 (ii) "Oft on a plat of rising ground"
 (from "L'allegro" - Milton)
 (iii) "Even in a little thing"
 (translated from Gilbert and Ellis)
 Isles Song by Arthur Grindle
- Roger Crook - Tenor
 Anne Strachan - Pianoforte
3. PRELUDE and GROTESQUE DANCE Sandra McRae (Yr.II)
- for Pianoforte
- Jack Keaney - Pianoforte
4. THREE RELIGIOUS SONGS Ralph Gordon (Yr.II)
- (Poems by Margot Ruddock)
- (i) "I take thee, life"
 (ii) "O Holy water"
 (iii) "Take away"
- Lana Barclay - Soprano
 Jack Keaney Pianoforte
5. TWO NOCTURNES, for voice and pianoforte Brian Hirst (Yr.I)
- (i) "Lay your sleeping head"
 (words W.H. Auden)
 (ii) "I saw the marsh"
 (words Helen Waddell)
- Russell Cowieson - Tenor
 Brian Hirst - Pianoforte

SHORT INTERVAL

HORN IN F

1: I know a green grass path ...

Andante cantabile (♩ = 76) 5

Andante cantabile con rubato

Kerry Milan

9 3

13

18

22 2 a tempo 3

28

33 poco rall.

2: Oft on a plat of rising ground ...

Sempre andante cantabile

The musical score consists of five staves of music for piano, arranged vertically. The first staff begins with a dynamic of *mf*. The second staff starts with a dynamic of *mf*. The third staff starts with a dynamic of *mp*. The fourth staff starts with a dynamic of *mf*. The fifth staff ends with the instruction *poco rall.*

4

mf

9

14

mp

18

mf

24

poco rall.

3: Even in a little thing

Musical score for piano, page 3, featuring six staves of music. The score includes dynamics like *mf*, *poco più p*, *poco meno mosso*, *poco rall.*, and *poco più f*. Measure 2 starts in 5/4 time. Measures 5 and 8 show changes in time signature between 5/4 and 4/4. Measure 11 transitions to 15/8 time. Measure 14 is marked *poco meno mosso*. Measure 16 is marked *poco più f* and *poco rall.*. Measure 19 concludes the page.

2

5

8

11

14 *poco meno mosso*

16

19

mf

poco più p

poco rall.

poco più f