

# “A VOICE OF MUSIC”

Three songs for Tenor and Pianoforte



Kerry Milan



## “A VOICE OF MUSIC”

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- (1) “I know a green grass path” (*words Alfred Douglas*)
- (2) “Oft on a plat of rising ground” (*from Il Penseroso - Milton*)
- (3) “Even in a little thing” (*translated from a Gilbert and Ellice Isles song by Arthur Grimble*)

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

## 1: I know a green grass path ....

Kerry Milan

Andante cantabile ( $\text{♩} = 76$ )

4

4

7

I know a green grass path that leaves the field, and like a running ri - ver winds a -

Andante cantabile con rubato

*suivez*

10

long in - to a lea - fy wood where is no throng of birds at \_\_ noon - day \_\_

*suivez*

13

— And no soft throats yield their mu - sic to the moon. — The

13

16

place is sealed. An un - claimed sove-reign-ty of voice - less song. And

16

19

All the un - ra-vished si - len - ces Be - long to some sweet sin - ger

19

22

Lost, or un - re - vealed.

22

*poco rall.*

25                   *a tempo*

So is my soul be - come a si - lent place; O may I wake from this un-ea - sy

25                   *a tempo*

*suivez*

3

28

night, to find a voice, a voice of mu-sic ma - ni - fold.

28                   *suivez*

31

Let it be shape of sor - row — with wan face, or Love that swoons on sleep, or else de-

31

34                   *poco rall.*

light               That is as wide — eyed — as a ma - ri - gold.

34                   *poco rall.*

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2: Oft on a plat of rising ground ..

Sempre andante cantabile

Sempre andante cantabile

*mf*

Oft on a plat of ri - sing ground, \_\_\_\_\_ I hear the far-off cur - - few

*mp*

sound, O - ver some wide wa - - ter'd shore \_\_\_\_\_

Swin-ging low with sul-len roar. Or, if the air will not per - mit, Some

15

still re - mo - ved place will fit, Where — glo - wing em - bers through the

15

18

room Teach light to coun - ter - feit a gloom. Far from all re - sort of

18

22

mirth, Save the cric - ket on the hearth, Or the bell-man's drow - - sy

22

26

poco rall.

charm, To bless — the doors poco rall. from — night - ly harm.

26

## 3: Even in a little thing ....

*mf*

E - ven in — a lit - tle thing, (A

*mp*

leaf, a child's hand, — a star's flic-ker) — I shall find a song worth sin-ging, If my

*poco più p*

eyes are wide, and sleep not. E - ven in a laugh-ab-le thing, (Oh hark! The child - ren are

*8va* -----

laugh - ing!) — There is that which fills the heart to o-ver flow-ing, And makes dreams

*(8va)* -----



## BACKGROUND

As can be seen from the programme opposite, these three songs were part of a concert of student compositions performed on 21st June 1963 in the Stevenson Hall of the then Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, now the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

They were performed by the tenor Roger Crook accompanied by pianist Anne Strachan.



I have always been so grateful to them 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:

He studied with Ena Mitchell at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, now known as the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and graduated with degrees from there and the Royal Academy of Music in London.

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.

Mr Crook is survived by wife Nancy, children Ross and Lynne, and two grandchildren

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. But the words too deserve another hearing. What a shame that no recording exists of Roger and Anne's first 1963 performance.

Kerry Milan, Stafford, 2020

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 Grimble

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

6. VARIATIONS for PIANOFORTE, "EBD"  
Jane Milne (Yr.III)  
Lana Barclay ~ Pianoforte
7. THREE POEMS of MONTESINOS  
(trans. J. Cairncross)  
(i) "Perverse song in June"  
(ii) "Song of forgetfulness"  
(iii) "Perverse Madrigal"  
Wilma Paterson (Yr.II)  
Alexander Oliver ~ Tenor  
Jack Keaney ~ Pianoforte
8. SONATA for FLUTE and PIANOFORTE  
Ronald Walker (Yr.I)  
I Allegro  
II Lento serioso  
III Allegro  
Alexander Young ~ Flute  
Harry Stevenson ~ Pianoforte
9. SONATA for PIANOFORTE  
John Purser (Yr.III)  
I Allegro  
II Molto adagio  
III Allegro non troppo  
Jack Keaney ~ Pianoforte

There will be a short break at the end of the concert followed by an informal discussion about the works which have been performed.



