

A Dirge for Two Veterans

For Chorus of Low Altos, Tenors, and Basses (or TTBB)

with Brass & Percussion or Piano



Music by

GUSTAV HOLST

1874 - 1934

Words by

WALT WHITMAN

1819 - 1892

ARRANGED BY JONATHAN HOLMES BARNHART

Thorpe Music Publishing Company

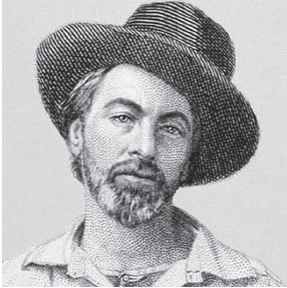
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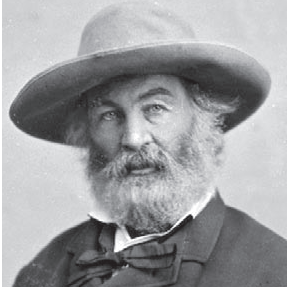
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About This Edition

Holst's original version of "A Dirge for Two Veterans" is scored for four-part men's chorus, trumpets, bass trombones (bombardons), and drums. Recognizing that mixed-voice choirs typically have more low altos than high tenors, organist and conductor Jonathan Holmes Barnhart, director of the Dedham Choral Society, created this arrangement by redistributing the tenor parts between the tenors and altos. This edition is faithful to Holst's original version, and can be used for performance by men's voices by assigning the topmost vocal line to tenors (or male altos).



See note
about this poem
on last page.



Cover: Gustav Holst, ca. 1921

Left: Steel engraving of Walt Whitman, age 37,
from the first edition of *Leaves of Grass*, 1855

Right: Walt Whitman at about the time he
published "Dirge for Two Veterans" in 1865

Dirge for Two Veterans

The last sunbeam
Lightly falls from the finished Sabbath,
On the pavement here, and there beyond it is looking,
Down a new-made double grave.

Lo, the moon ascending,
Up from the east the silvery round moon,
Beautiful over the house-tops, ghastly, phantom moon,
Immense and silent moon.

I see a sad procession,
And I hear the sound of coming full-key'd bugles,
All the channels of the city streets they're flooding,
As with voices and with tears.

I hear the great drums pounding,
And the small drums steady whirring,
And every blow of the great convulsive drums,
Strikes me through and through.

For the son is brought with the father,
(In the foremost ranks of the fierce assault they fell,
Two veterans son and father dropt together,
And the double grave awaits them.)

Now nearer blow the bugles,
And the drums strike more convulsive,
And the daylight o'er the pavement quite has faded,
And the strong dead-march enwraps me.

[Whitman stanza omitted by Holst:
In the eastern sky up-buoying,
The sorrowful vast phantom moves illumin'd,
(Tis some mother's large transparent face,
In heaven brighter growing.)]

O strong dead-march you please me!
O moon immense with your silvery face you soothe me!
O my soldiers twain! O my veterans passing to burial!
What I have I also give you.

The moon gives you light,
And the bugles and the drums give you music,
And my heart, O my soldiers, my veterans,
My heart gives you love.

for the Dedham Choral Society

A Dirge for Two Veterans

1914

For Chorus of Low Altos, Tenors & Basses (or TTBB)

with Brass & Percussion* or Piano

Walt Whitman

Walter "Walt" Whitman
(1819-1892)

From *Drum-Taps*, published in 1865

Gustav Holst

Gustav Theodore Holst
(1874-1934)

Arranged by Jonathan Holmes Barnhart

Andante mesto

ALTO
(or Tenor)

TENOR

BASS

Piano

p

The last sun- beam_ Light- ly falls from the fin-ished Sab - bath, On the

p

The last sun- beam_ Light- ly falls from the fin-ished Sab - bath, On the

Andante mesto

4

pp

pave-ment here, and there be- yond_ it is look- ing Down a new- made

pp

pave-ment here, and there be- yond_ it is look- ing Down a new- made

*Score and instrumental parts for 3 trumpets in B-flat, 2 bass trombones (or trombone & tuba), side drum (snare drum), and bass drum are available for purchase (No. 392-03110A). The original 1914 published edition states that cellos and basses may be substituted for trombones if necessary.

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No. 392-03110

p Lo, the moon as - cend - ing, Up from the east the

p dou-ble grave. Lo, the moon as - cend - ing, Up from the east the

p dou-ble grave. Lo, the moon as - cend - ing, Up from the east the

10 *f* sil-ver-y round moon Beau - ti-ful o-ver the house-tops, ghash-ly, phan-tom moon,

f sil-ver-y round moon Beau - ti-ful o-ver the house-tops, ghash-ly, phan-tom moon,

f sil-ver-y round moon Beau - ti-ful o-ver the house-tops, ghash-ly, phan-tom moon,

13 *dim.* Im-mense and si - lent moon.

dim. Im-mense and si - lent moon.

dim. Im-mense and si - lent moon.

[Trumpets] *p*

[Trombones] *p*

p

divisi p

I

22

p

And I hear the sound of com-ing full - keyed

p

And I hear the sound of com-ing full - keyed

see a sad pro - ces-sion And I hear the sound of com-ing full - keyed

26

bu - gles, All the chan - nels of the ci - ty streets they're flood-ing, As with

bu - gles, All the chan - nels of the ci - ty streets they're flood-ing, As with

bu - gles, All the chan - nels of the ci - ty streets they're flood-ing, As with

30

cresc. poco à poco

voic - es and with tears. I hear the great drums

cresc. poco à poco

voic - es and with tears. I hear the great drums

unis. cresc. poco à poco

voic - es and with tears. I hear the great drums

cresc. poco à poco

34

pound-ing And the small drums stead-y whirl-ring And ev'ry blow of the great con -

pound-ing And the small drums stead-y whirl-ring And ev'-ry blow of the

divisi [B2] [B1]

pound-ing, And the small drums stead-y whirl-ring And ev'-ry blow of the great con -

38

f

vul - sive drums Strikes me through and through.

f

great con - vul-sive drums Strikes me through and through.

great con - vul-sive drums Strikes me through and through.

f unis.

vul - sive drums Strikes me through and through.

f