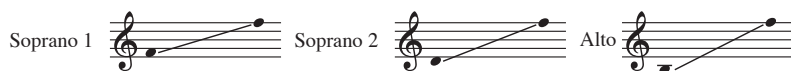


CM9718
A Lament / Meredith Tompkins
SSA Voices with Piano
Duration: 2:23

A Lament

Meredith Tompkins



CARL FISCHER
Celebrating 150 Years

Notes

Manmohan Ghose was a professor, poet, and brilliant scholar from Eastern India in the late 19th century. He was educated in London, and was one of the first poets originally from India to publish poetry in English. “A Lament” is one of his earliest published poems; it progresses with vivid, scenic language from lullaby to permanent goodbye. Much later in life, Manmohan experienced a series of family tragedies that gave him a unique perspective on grief. After returning to India to mourn his father’s death and eventually the passing of his wife, he never again made it back to England as he had wished to before his own death.

The text of this piece has been paired with a mixolydian modal structure and a blend of musical elements designed to invoke a nostalgic, dream-like atmosphere. In the words of the composer: “I like to think of this piece as a metaphorical hall of mirrors. The original ‘image’ of the melody becomes the source for multiple echoes and imitations that blossom into layers of polyphonic movement.” As a nod to the poet’s birth place, notes reminiscent of the *kan-swar* grace note technique of Hindustani classical music add ornamental interest to the piano and voices.

This piece functions as an excellent educational introduction or further study into the concept of modes. When presenting this piece to a choir, directors may find it helpful to identify G as the tonal center and follow up with an explanation that G mixolydian has the same key signature as the key of C, because it naturally has no sharps or flats.

About the Composer

Meredith Tompkins is a composer, teacher, and professional choral singer in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Dallas Baptist University in Music Theory/Composition and a Master of Arts in Vocal Pedagogy from Texas Woman’s University. She is the founder of Verdigris Ensemble’s annual ION Young Composer Competition and has served on the ensemble’s board of directors as a committee leader and collaborative composer for school outreaches in south Dallas. Meredith’s works have been featured at events such as the Dallas Symphony Orchestra’s SOLUNA Festival and the Cambiata Institute of America for Early Adolescent Vocal Music’s MS/JH National Conference and in conference sessions for various music education and choral organizations. Meredith enjoys engaging with the choral community through teaching, webinars, articles and outreach initiatives. As a professional choral singer, she has performed regularly with ensembles such as Orpheus Chamber Singers, Verdigris Ensemble, Highland Park Chorale, Incarnatus, Dallas Chamber Choir, and many others.

mu - sic in their wings.

f
And from the blue, rough sea, the fish - es flash and leap;

There is a life of love - li - est things, O'er thee, so fast a -

sleep.

17 **Soprano 1, 2***mp*

In the deep West _____ the heav'ns grow heav'n - li - er

Alto *mp*

In the deep West _____ the heav'ns grow heav'n - li - er

19

Eve af-ter-ve, and still, _____ The glo - rious stars _____ re-

Eve _____ af-ter-ve, and still, _____ The glo - rious stars _____

22 **Soprano 1**

mem - ber to ap-pear, _____

re - mem - ber to ap - pear, _____

The _____

Soprano 2

mem - ber to ap-pear, _____

re - mem - ber to ap - pear. _____

The _____

Alto

_____ re-mem - ber to ap-pear, re - mem - ber to ap - pear. _____

25

ro - - ses are fra - grant as be - fore

f ro - ses on the hill are fra - grant as be - fore:

f The ro - ses on the hill are fra - grant as be - fore:

27

On - ly thy face, of all that's dear, I shall see ne - ver -

On - ly thy face, of all that's dear, I shall see

29

I shall see ne - ver - more.

more, see ne - ver - more.

ne - ver - more, shall see ne - ver - more.

31

p
Ne - ver - more,

p
Ne - ver -

34 *mp* keep tone spinning

ne - - ver - - more!

mp keep tone spinning

more, ne - - ver - -

p

Ne - - ver - - more,

36 *rit.*

dim. al niente

dim. al niente

mp keep tone spinning

rit.

8va-----1

dim. to the end

more!

ne - ver - more.

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