

Nigel Keay

Voices of the Air

A setting of the poem by Katherine Mansfield

Voices of the Air

But then there comes that moment rare
When for no cause that I can find
The little voices of the air
Sound above all the sea and wind.

The sea and wind do then obey
And sighing, sighing double notes
Of double basses, content to play
A droning chord for the little throats—

The little throats that sing and rise
Up into the light with lovely ease
And a kind of magical, sweet surprise
To hear and know themselves for these—

For these little voices: the bee, the fly,
The leaf that taps, the pod that breaks,
The breeze on the grass-tops bending by,
The shrill quick sound that the insect makes.

The insect hanging upon a stem
And the beads of water dropping along
The mosses, the big rocks and diadem
And its infinite silent song.

The silent song so faint so rare
That the heart must not beat
Nor the quick blood run
To hear the inspired voices of the air.

to Sherry Grant & Tessa Romano

Voices of the Air

Lyricist: Katherine Mansfield

Nigel Keay

Largo $\text{♩} = 48$

Mezzo-soprano

Mezzo-soprano: *mf*
But then there comes — that mo - ment rare

Piano: *mf*

Detailed description: This block contains the first four measures of the piece. The Mezzo-soprano part begins with a whole rest in measure 1, followed by a melodic line in measures 2-4. The Piano accompaniment starts with a whole rest in measure 1, then provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in the right and left hands. Dynamics are marked *mf* for both parts.

5

Mezzo-soprano: *f* *mp*
When, for — no — cause — That I can find — The

Piano: *f* *mp*

Detailed description: This block contains measures 5 through 8. The Mezzo-soprano part has a dynamic of *f* in measures 5-7 and *mp* in measure 8. The Piano accompaniment features a dynamic of *f* in measures 5-7 and *mp* in measure 8. The piano part includes a complex chordal texture with some chromatic movement.

9

Mezzo-soprano: *mf* *mp*
lit - tle voi - ces of the air Sound a - bove all the — sea — and

Piano: *p* *mf* *mp*

Detailed description: This block contains measures 9 through 12. The Mezzo-soprano part has a dynamic of *mf* in measures 9-10 and *mp* in measures 11-12. The Piano accompaniment has dynamics of *p* in measure 9, *mf* in measure 10, and *mp* in measures 11-12. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand and chordal accompaniment in the right hand.

13

wind.

mf

mp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 13 through 18. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a rest and then has a single note. The piano accompaniment is more active, with various chords and melodic lines. Dynamics include *mf* and *mp*. There are also hairpins and accents in the piano part.

19

rallentando...

Red. *

Detailed description: This system contains measures 19 through 24. The tempo is marked *rallentando*. The piano accompaniment features a prominent bass line with eighth notes and chords. The vocal line has a few notes. Dynamics include *mp*. There are hairpins and accents throughout.

25

a tempo

mp *tranquillo*

The sea and wind do then o - bey And sigh - ing.

tranquillo

mp *pp* *mp*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 25 through 30. The tempo is marked *a tempo*. The music is in 3/4 time. The vocal line has lyrics: "The sea and wind do then o - bey And sigh - ing." The piano accompaniment is marked *mp* and *pp*. There are hairpins and accents throughout.

30 *p* *mf* *f* *mf* *mp*

sigh - ing dou - ble notes of dou - ble bas - ses con - tent to play a dro - ning

34 *p*

chord for the lit - tle throats—

39 rit.....a tempo rit.....a tempo *mp*

The

42 rit. a tempo *mf*

lit - tle throats that sing and rise up in - to_ the light with love - ly ease And a

tranquillo

47

kind of mag - i - cal sweet sur - prise to hear and know them - selves for_ these -

51 rit.....a tempo *f*

For these lit - tle voi - ces

55 *mp* *f*

the bee the fly, The leaf that taps, the pod that breaks

mf *f*

58 *mf* *f*

The breeze on the grass - tops ben - ding by The quick shri - ll

mf *f*

61 *mf* *f*

sound that the in - sect makes _____

mf *f*

64

rit.....

Musical score for measures 64-66. The score is in G major and 3/4 time. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes several triplet figures and dynamic markings such as *mp* and *mf*. The tempo is marked *rit.* (ritardando).

67 a tempo

mp

mf

The in - sect hang - ing up - on a stem, and the beads of

Musical score for measures 67-70. The score is in G major and 3/4 time. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes several triplet figures and dynamic markings such as *mp* and *mf*. The tempo is marked *a tempo*.

71

mf

3

wat - er drop - ping a - long The mos - ses, the big rocks and

Musical score for measures 71-74. The score is in G major and 3/4 time. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes several triplet figures and dynamic markings such as *mf*. The tempo is marked *mf*.

74

di - a - dem _____ and its in - fi - nite si - lent _____ song

77

a tempo *mp*

The

81

mf rall.....

si - lent song so faint _____ so rare That the heart must not

84 *f* **a tempo** *mf*

beat Nor the quick blood run To hear

87 *f* *mf* **rall.**

The in - spired voi - ces

90 **Meno mosso** **rall...**

of the air

mf *mp*

Red. *