

Nigel Keay

The Voice
for mixed chorus a cappella

A setting of the poem by Dunstan Ward

The Voice

A distant cry stopped me as I followed,
in the island's afternoon heat, the goat track
twisting between the thorn bushes and rocks
around the cliffs above the glittering bay.

Below me, a lone fisherman was singing,
a high, harsh song, careless yet impassioned,
that he kept up even while he heaved the bow
of his turquoise-painted boat against the swell.

I stood there listening, envious and chastened,
as though this were the sound I had longed to hear
through tide on tide of silence and self-doubt,
the voice of one attuned to himself, to life.

Patmos

The Voice

Lyricist: Dunstan Ward

for mixed chorus a cappella

Nigel Keay

Maestoso ♩ = 58

mf

Soprano
A dis - tant cry stopped me as I fol - lowed,

Alto
cry stopped me as I fol - lowed

Tenor
cry stopped me as I fol - lowed,

Bass
mf A dis - tant cry fol - lowed,

Piano*
mf

5

S.
in the is - - - land's af - - - ter - noon heat, -

A.
in the is - - - land's af - ter - noon heat, the goat track

T.
in the is - - - land's af - ter - noon heat, the goat track

B.
is - land's af - ter - noon heat, the goat

Pn

* Piano for rehearsal purposes only.

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The Voice

9

S. *mp* *mf* *mp*
twis - ting twis - ting be - tween the thorn

A. *mp* *f* *mp*
twis - ting be - tween the thorn thorn

T. *mp* *mf* *mp*
twis - ting twis - ting be - tween be - tween the thorn

B. *mp* *mf*
track twis - ting be - tween the thorn

Pn *mp* *f* *mp*

12

S. *f* *mp*
bush - es and rocks a - round the

A. *f* *mp*
bush - es and rocks a - round a - round the

T. *f* *mp*
bush - es and rocks a - round the

B. *f* *mp*
bush - es and rocks a - round the cliffs a -

Pn *f* *mp*

The Voice

16

S. *f*
cliffs a - bove the glit - ter - ing bay.

A. *f*
cliffs a - bove the bay the glit - ter - ing

T. *f*
cliffs a - bove a - bove the glit - ter ing bay the

B. *f*
- bove the bay the

Pn *f*

19

S. *p* *mf* *mp*
Be - low me, a lone

A. *p* *mf* *mp*
bay. Be Be - low a lone

T. *p* *mf* *mf* *mp*
glit - ter - ing bay. Be - low me, a lone

B. *p* *mf* *mp*
bay Be - low me, a lone

Pn *p* *mf* *mp*

The Voice

24 *mf* *p* *mf* *f* *mp*

S. fish - er - man was sing - ing, a high, harsh song, care - less

A. fish - er - man was sing - ing, a high, harsh song, care - less

T. fish - er - man was sing - ing, a harsh song,

B. fish - er - man sing - ing care - less

Pn

29 *mf* *f*

S. yet im - pas - sioned, that he kept up kept up kept

A. yet im - pas - sioned, that he kept up kept up

T. yet im - pas - sioned, that he kept up up

B. im - pas - sioned, that he kept up kept up

Pn

32

S. *f*
up he heaved the bow_____

A. *mf* *f*
while he heaved the bow_____

T. *mf*
e - ven_____ while e - ven while he heaved

B. *mf*
e - - ven while_____ he heaved the bow

Pn *dim.* *mf*

35

S. *mf* *f*
of his tur - quoise - paint - ed boat_____ a - - gainst the

A. *mf* *f*
the bow_ of his tur - quoise boat_____ a - - gainst the

T. *mf* *f*
heaved his_____ boat_____ a - gainst a - gainst the

B. *mf* *f*
of his tur - quoise - paint - ed_____ boat_____ a - gainst a - gainst the

Pn *mf* *f*

39 *p* *f*

S. swell. I stood there list - en - ing,

A. swell. I stood there I stood there

T. swell. I stood there list - en -

B. swell. I stood there list - en - ing,

Pn *p* *f*

43 *p* *rfz* *pp*

S. *poco rall.* en - vi - ous and chas - tened, *a tempo* chas - tened - as though

A. *p* *rfz* *pp* en - vi - ous and chas - tened, chas - tened as though

T. *p* *pp* - ing, en - vi - ous and chas - tened, as though

B. *p* *rfz* *pp* as though this were

Pn *p*

The Voice

45 *mp* 3 *mf* *rall.* *a tempo*
p

S. this were the sound I longed longed to

A. this were the sound the sound the sound I longed to

T. this were the sound the sound I longed to

B. the sound I longed to

Pn *mp* *mf*

49 *f* *f*

S. hear through tide on tide of

A. hear through tide on tide of

T. hear through tide on tide of

B. hear through tide on tide of

Pn *f*

52 *mp* *f* *f*

S. si - - lence self - doubt, the voice of one

A. *mp* *f* *f* *f* si - - lence and self - doubt,

T. *mp* *f* si - - lence

B. *mp* *f* *f* *f* si - - lence and self - doubt, voice of one

Pn *mp* *f* *f*

56 *mp* *p* *p*

S. at - tuned to him - self, to life

A. *mp* *p* at - tuned to him - self, to life

T. *mp* *p* at - tuned to him - self, to life

B. *mp* *p* at - tuned to him - self, to life

Pn *mp* *p*