

Andrew Smith

AMID A CROWD OF STARS

for semi-chorus or four solo voices,
and mixed choir

Text: William Butler Yeats (1865-1939):
"When You are Old»



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AMID A CROWD OF STARS

This piece was commissioned for New York Polyphony and Trinity University Chamber Choir, San Antonio, Texas, in honour of Frances Swinny, who taught in the University's speech and drama department for over 40 years. The piece was first performed in November 2014 by New York Polyphony and the Trinity University Chamber Singers under the direction of Gary Seighman.

The original scoring of the solo voice parts is for countertenor, tenor, baritone and bass and if sung by those voices, the alto part will need to be transposed down an octave in places in order to fit a tenor voice.

Durata approx. 6 min.

In honor of Frances Swinny

AMID A CROWD OF STARS

for semi-chorus or four solo voices, and mixed choir

William Butler Yeats (1865-1939):
When You are Old

Andrew Smith

Softly; lulling ♩ = 42

S (solo) *pp* *m* *m* *m* *m* *simile*

A (solo) *pp* *m* *m* *m* *simile*

T (solo)

B (solo) *pp* *m*

S (c') *pp* *m*

B (choir)

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Mixed choir: Only a few singers from each group enter from the beginning. Add more singers every two bars until measure 15 when all singers should be singing. The idea is to create a gradual thickening of texture rather than an increase in volume.

6

m *ah* *ah* *ah*

m *ah* *ah* *ah*

8 you are old and grey and full of sleep, And nod-ding by the fire, take down this book,

m *ah* *ah*

6

m *simile*

pp *ah*

ah *ah* *ah* *simile*

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10

mp *pp*
mp *pp*
mf *p*
mp

ah ah ah m
 ah ah ah m
 And slow - ly read, and dream of the soft look Your eyes had once, and
 ah ah ah

10

mp *mf* *p* *simile*
mp

ah
 ah
 ah m
 ah m

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poco rit.

14

of their sha-dows deep;

14

and of their sha-dows deep; When

When

When

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18 a tempo

Four empty musical staves for piano accompaniment, consisting of three treble clefs and one bass clef.

18 a tempo

Vocal line with lyrics and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "you are old and grey and full of sleep, you are this book, And of sleep, And nod-ding by the fire, take down this book, are old take down this book, And".

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22

22

f
And slow - ly read, and dream

mf
read, _____ and

p
_____ *m* _____

p
_____ *m* _____

mp
dream _____ of the soft look your eyes had once, and

p
and dream _____ *m* _____ *m* _____ *m* _____

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26

and of their sha-dows deep;

and of

26

of their sha-dows deep,

their

their

and of their sha-dows deep, their

pp
m m m and

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rit.

Con moto ♩ = 54

30

How ma - ny loved your mo-ments of glad ___

How ma - ny loved your mo-ments of glad ___

How ma - ny loved your mo-ments of glad ___

How ma - ny loved your

30

rit.

Con moto

sha - dows deep;

sha - dows

sha - dows deep;

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34

grace, And loved your beau-ty with love— false or true, But one man loved the

grace, And loved your beau-ty with love— false or true, But one man loved the

grace, And loved your beau-ty with love— false or true, But one man loved the

grace, And loved your beau-ty with love false or true, **f**

34

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ritardando

Meno ♩ = 48

39 *mp*
 pil - grim soul in you, And loved the sor - rows of your chang - ing face; _____
mp
 pil - grim soul in you, And loved the sor - rows of your chang - ing face; _____
mp
 8 pil - grim soul in you, And loved the sor - rows of your chang - ing face; _____
mp
 pil - grim soul in you, And loved the sor - rows of your chang - ing

ritardando

39 S1
 S2
p
m
p
m
p
m

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43

mp the sor-rows

mp

43

m

m *m* *m* *m*

mp

mp the sor-rows of your chang-ing face;

m *m* *m* *m*

mp

m *m* *m* *m*

47 *mp* And bend-ing down be-side the

mp And bend-ing down be-side the

8 *mf* *mp* of your chang-ing face; your chang-ing face; And bend-ing down be-side the

mf *mp* of your chang-ing face; your chang-ing face; And be-

47 *mf* the sor - rows

ing down be-side the

ur face; And bend-ing down be-side the

mp g face; And bend-ing down be-side the

mp And bend-ing down be-side the

mf *mp* the sor - rows of your face; And bend-ing down be-side the

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Poco più mosso

(51)

bars, how Love fled, Love

bars, how Love fled, Love

bars, how Love fled, Love

bars, how Love

(51)

glow-ing bars, Mur - - - mur,

glow-ing bars, Mur

how

sad - ly, how

Mur - - - mur, sad - ly,

bars, Mur - - - mur, sad - ly,

56 *mf*
 fled, how Love fled
 fled, how Love fled
 fled, how Love fled And paced up - on the moun-tains o - ver - head
 fled, how Love fled

56 *mf* *p*
 how Love fled
 how Lov
 how Love fled

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m
 Love fled *m* the *mf*
 how Love fled *mp* *mf*
m the

61

61

mur - - - mur,

- ly, how Love fled, mur - - - mur,

Mur - mur, sad - ly, how Love fled, mur - - - mur,

ver - head; Mur - mur, sad - ly, how Love fled, mur - - - mur,

moun - tains o - ver - head; Mur - mur, sad - ly, how Love fled, mur - - - mur,

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Poco meno mosso

67

67 *f* *mf*
 sad - ly, how Love fled And paced

f *mf*
 sad - ly, how Love fled And hid his

f
 And hid his

mp
 And hid his

mp
 paced up - on the moun-tains o - ver - head And hid his

mp
 fled And hid his

mp
 sad - ly, how Love fled And hid his

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poco a poco rit.

a tempo primo ♩ = 42

72

And hid his face, and hid his face,

And hid his face, and hid

72

poco a poco rit.

face a - mid a crowd of stars.

face a - mid a crowd of

And

And

And

And

And

And

face a - mid a crowd of stars.

And

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78

mf
And hid his face a - mid stars,

mp *mf*
And hid a - mid ah

mf
And hid his face a - mid stars,

hid his face, and hid

78

simile
hid his face and

simile
hid his

mf
ah

mf
a - mid ah

mf
and hid a - mid ah

face, and hid

mf
hid his face, and hid a -

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poco a poco ritardando e crescendo

molto rit.

82

and hid his face a - mid a crowd of stars, and hid his face a - mid a crowd

ah a crowd

and hid his face a - mid a crowd of stars, and hid his face a - mid a crowd

mid a crowd

poco a poco ritardando e crescendo

82

and hid his face a - mid a crowd of stars

crowd of

a crowd of

ah a crowd of

face a - mid a crowd of stars, and hid his face a - mid a crowd of

mid a crowd of

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86

mp stars, _____ *mf* stars. _____

mp stars, _____ *mf* stars. _____

mp stars, _____ *mf* stars. _____

p ————— *mp* stars, _____ *mf* stars. _____

of stars, _____ stars. _____

86

ff stars,

ff stars,

ff stars.

mp ah _____ *mf* stars.

mp ah _____ *mf* stars.

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