

Alone

for S.S.A.T.B Choir
(unaccompanied)

2007

COMPOSED FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF
COLORADO AT BOULDER UNDERGRADUATE
COMPOSITION COMMISSION

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Notes:

This piece was written to fulfill the commission for the University of Colorado at Boulder Undergraduate Composition Prize. It is based on and set to Edgar Allan Poe's poem of the same title. In choosing the text for the poem, I was looking for something of the right length and language (I wanted to set English text), and I began browsing my favorite poets, Poe being among the highest on the list. I found Alone and resonated personally with the content of the poem, and also enjoy its moody and somewhat cryptic tone, something which I attempted to exemplify in the music. The poem's text follows:

From childhood's hour I have not been
As other were—I have not seen
As others saw—I could not bring
My passions from a common spring.
From the same source I have not taken
My sorrow; I could not awaken
My heart to joy at the same tone;
And all I lov'd, I lov'd alone.
Then—in my childhood—in the dawn
Of a most stormy life—was drawn
From ev'ry depth of good and ill
The mystery which binds me still:
From the torrent, or the fountain,
From the red cliff of the mountain,
From the sun that 'round me roll'd
In its autumn tint of gold—
From the lightning in the sky
As it pass'd me flying by—
From the thunder and the storm,
And the cloud that took the form
(When the rest of Heaven was blue)
Of a demon in my view.

N.B. –

- All tied eighth notes are releases, to occur on the beat in which they're written
- Hemiolas occur several times, and are only a metric function, never accented
- Mm. 23-24's "ah---m" means for tutti choir (except soloist) to close from "ah" syllable slowly to a hum, arriving on the downbeat of m. 24

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(unaccompanied)

Ryan Spencer

ASCAP

$\text{♩} = 52$; Weightless

Musical score for Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Piano (for rehearsal only) for measures 1-7. The score is in 2/2 time with a tempo of 52 beats per minute. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The lyrics are: Soprano 1: From not been; Soprano 2: From I have; Alto: From From From child-hood's ho - ur I have not; Tenor: (rest); Bass: (rest); Piano: (for rehearsal only).

Musical score for Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Piano for measures 8-14. The score is in 2/2 time with a tempo of 66 beats per minute, marked *Piu mosso*. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The lyrics are: S1: as oth-ers were were I have not seen; S2: as oth-ers were I have not seen as oth-ers saw I have not seen; A: been were I have not seen; T: (rest); B: (rest); Pno. (Piano). The Soprano 1 part includes a *Solo* marking at measure 14.

15 *saw* 16 *a2* 17 *mf* 18

S1 *saw* I my

S2 *saw* I I could not bring

A *saw* I I could not bring

T I could not as oth - ers saw I could not bring I could not bring

B I could not bring bring

Pno.

19 20 21 *rit.* 22 *a* com - mon 23 *mf* *pp* 24 *pp*

S1 pas - sions from a com - mon spring ah - - - - - m

S2 com - mon spring ah - - - - - m

A com - mon spring ah - - - - - m

T com - mon spring ah - - - - - m

B com - mon spring ah - - - - - m

Pno.

Solo (same)

a tempo (♩ = 66); Gently

25 *mp* 26 27 28 29 *mf* 30 31

S1 From the same source I have not ta - ken my O sor - row

S2 From source I have not ta - ken my O sor - row

A not ta - ken my sor - row

T

B

Pno.

32 33 *cresc.* 34 35 *no dim.* 36 37 *p*

S1 sor - row sor-row sor - row sor - row sor - row

S2 sor - row sor-row sor-row sor - row sor - row

A sor - row sor-row sor-row sor - row sor - row

T I could could

B I could could

Pno.

38 39 *mp* 40 41

S1
sor - row

S2
mp sor - row *f* heart

A
mp sor - row *f* heart

T
not a - wa - ken my heart *f*

B
not heart *f*

Pno.

f *ff* *mp* *pp*

42 43 44 45 46 47

S1
heart joy! O

S2
my heart to joy! O at the same

A
my heart to joy! O

T
joy! O

B
joy! O

Pno.

≈ 108; Timeless, Without Pulse

♩ = ♩; Purposefully

48 *mf* 49 50 51 52 53

S1
And all I lov'd And all I

S2
mf
tone; the same tone; the same tone; the same tone; the same tone; the same tone; the same

A
mf
And all I lov'd, And all I

T
mf
8 And all I lov'd And all I

B
mf
And all I lov'd And all I

Pno.

54 55 56 57 58

S1
lov'd

S2
tone; the same tone; the same tone; the same tone; the same tone; the same

A
lov'd a - - - lone a - - - lone

T
poco (no accent)
8 lov'd I lov'd a - - - tone same tone same tone same

B
poco
lov'd I lov'd a - lone

Pno.

59 60 61 62 63

S1

S2
tone; the same tone; the same tone; the same tone;

A
a - - - lone a - - - tone; the same tone; the same

T
8 tone same tone same tone same tone same

B

Pno.

64 65 66 67 68 *molto rit. e dim.*

S1
All I lov'd a - - - lone. *molto rit. e dim.*

S2
f dim. poco a poco
All I lov'd a - - - lone. *molto rit. e dim.*

A
f dim. poco a poco
tone; the same tone; the same tone; the same tone; the same tone; the same *molto rit. e dim.*

T
f dim. poco a poco
8 tone same tone same tone same tone same tone same

B
f dim. poco a poco
All I lov'd a - - - lone. *molto rit. e dim.*

Pno.

p $\text{♩} = 90$; Slower

S1

S2

A

T
8 tone. *mp* *n.b.*
Then in my child - hood in the dawn of a most storm-y life was

B
8 tone. *mp* *n.b.*
Then in my child - hood in the dawn of a most storm-y life was

Pno.

S1

S2

A

T
8 drawn from ev - er - y depth of good and

B
8 drawn from ev' - ry depth of good and

Pno.

poco

79 80 81 82 83

S1 the mys - ter - y which binds me still

S2 the mys - ter - y which binds me still

A the mys - ter - y which binds me still

T ill still

B ill still

Pno.

84 85 86 87 88

S1 still From the tor - rent tor - rent tor - rent tor - rent tor - rent tor - rent

S2 still tor - rent tor - rent tor - rent tor - rent tor - rent tor - rent

A still tor - rent tor - rent tor - rent tor - rent tor - rent

T still tor - rent tor - rent tor - rent tor - rent tor - rent

B still tor - rent tor - rent tor - rent tor - rent tor - rent or the

Pno.

89 90 91 92 93

f *pp* *f* *pp* *mf*

S1
foun-tain foun-tain foun-tain foun-tain foun-tain

S2
foun-tain foun-tain foun-tain foun-tain foun-tain

A
foun-tain foun-tain foun-tain foun-tain foun-tain From the red cliff of the

T
foun-tain foun-tain foun-tain foun-tain foun-tain

B
foun-tain foun-tain foun-tain foun-tain foun-tain

Pno.

94 95 96 97 98 99 100

f *mp* *cresc. (no accent)* *f*

S1
moun - tain moun - tain me roll'd

S2
moun - tain moun - tain round me roll'd in its

A
moun - tain moun - tain From the sun that round me roll'd

T
moun - tain moun - tain round me roll'd in its

B
moun - tain moun - tain sun that round me roll'd

Pno.

101 102 103 *cresc.* 104 *f+*

S1 From the light-ning light-ning light-ning in the sky

S2 aut - tumn tint of gold From the light - ning in the sky

A light - ning in the sky

T aut - tumn tint of gold From the light - ning in the sky

B light - ning in the sky

Pno.

105 *sub. p* 106 *mf* 107

S1 as it pass'd me pass'd me pass'd me pass'd me pass'd me pass'd me pass'd me

S2 as it pass'd me fly - ing by fly - ing by

A as it pass'd me

T as it pass'd me

B as it pass'd me pass'd me pass'd me pass'd me pass'd me pass'd me pass'd me

Pno.

108 109 110

S1 pass'd me pass'd me pass'd me pass'd me pass'd me pass'd me fly - ing by From the

S2 fly - ing by fly - ing by fly - ing by fly - ing by From the

A fly - ing by fly - ing by fly - ing by From the

T fly - ing by fly - ing by fly - ing by From the

B pass'd me pass'd me pass'd me pass'd me pass'd me pass'd me fly - ing by From the

Pno.

111 112 113

S1 thun - der and the storm and the cloud that took the form *ff* lunga

S2 thun - der and the storm and the cloud that took the form *ff* lunga

A thun - der and the storm and the cloud that took the form *ff* lunga

T thun - der and the storm and the cloud that took the form *ff* lunga

B thun - der and the storm and the cloud that took the form *ff* lunga

Pno.

a tempo (♩ = 90); Shimmering

114 *p* 115 116 117 118 *mf* 119 120 *poco*

S1 When the rest When the rest of hea - - - ven was

S2 *pp* *mf* (no accent) *poco*

A *pp* *mf* *poco*

T *pp* *mf* (no accent) *poco*

B *p* *mf* *poco*

When the rest When the rest of hea - - - ven was

Pno.

121 122 123 124 *mp* 125 126 127

S1 blue Of a de - mon Of a de - mon

S2 *mp* blue Of a de - mon Of a de - mon

A *mp* blue Of a de - mon Of a de - mon

T *mp* blue Of a de - mon Of a de - mon

B *mp* blue Of a de - mon Of a de - mon

Pno.

128 129 130 131 *mf dim. poco a poco*

S1 Of a de - mon Of a de - mon in my

S2 Of a de - mon Of a de - mon in my

A Of a de - mon Of a de - mon in my

T Of a de - mon Of a de - mon in my

B Of a de - mon Of a de - mon in my

Pno.

132 133 *ppp*

S1 view view view view

S2 view view

A view view view view view

T view

B view

Pno.