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Gonçalo Gato

To the Muses

for soprano and piano

Programme Notes:

The word 'music' has its origins in Greek mythology denoting the (art) of the Muses. *To the Muses* is based on William Blake's (1757–1827) poem, which appealed to me because of its musical allusions. Expressions such as "From ancient melody have ceas'd", "melodious winds", "The languid strings do scarcely move! / The sound is forc'd, the notes are few!" allude directly to music, but also metaphorically to inspirational issues. This is further emphasized by expressions such as "Fair Nine [muses], forsaking Poetry!" and "How have you left the ancient love".

London, March 2012

Execution notes:

- Accidentals last one bar and hold for the octave on which they appear;
- Last section Largo is intended to be performed as a poetry recitation with a piano accompaniment. Some drama is welcome.

To the Muses

Words from the poem by William Blake (1757-1827)

Gonçalo Gato
(March 2012, rev. Jun. 2015)

$\text{♩} = 80$

Soprano

Piano

mp *pp*

non legato

Pno.

p *tr*

Pno.

mp *p*

11 **Poco meno mosso**

S. *mp* *3*
 Whe-ther_ on I - da's_ sha - dy brow_

Pno. *pp* *5* *p* *5* *3* *pp*

Red.

S. *mf* *3* *mp* *f*
 Or in the cham-bers of the East, The cham-bers_ of the Sun,___

Pno. *mp* *pp* *mp* *ff* *p* *f* *3* *3* *p*

Red.

S. *mp* *decresc.* *ord.* *almost whispering* *pp*
 that now From an-cient me-lo - dy_ have ceased;

Pno. *p* *3* *3* *p* *mp* *p* *pp* *3*

S. 25

Pno. *mf* *pp* *3*

Poco meno mosso

29 *mp* *f* 3

S. Whe-ther in hea - ven ye wan -

Pno. *p* *p* *f*

32 *mf*

S. - der fair, Or the green

Pno. *p* *mf* 3 3 3 5

34

S. cor - ners of the earth, Or the blue

Pno. *f* *mp* 3 5 *f* *mf*

36

S. re - gions of the air

Pno. *f* *mf* 3 3 *f* *ff*

38

S.

Pno.

ff *mf* *ff* *pp*

8^{va}

40

S.

Pno.

mp *p* *mf* *f* *ppp* *pp* *f* *f*

Where the me - lo - di - ous

42

S.

Pno.

f *p* *pp* *mp* *pp*

winds have birth;

44

S.

Pno.

accel.

mind the clef changes until the end

ff *p*

3 6 5

Detailed description: The image shows a page of a musical score, page 4, containing measures 38 through 44. It is written for Soprano (S.) and Piano (Pno.).
 - Measure 38: The Soprano part has a melodic line with triplets. The Piano accompaniment features a complex texture with chords and moving lines in both hands, marked with *ff*, *mf*, and *ff*. An 8va bracket is shown above the right hand.
 - Measure 40: The Soprano part has lyrics: "Where the me - lo - di - ous". Dynamics include *mp*, *p*, *mf*, and *f*. The Piano accompaniment has a driving rhythm with triplets, marked with *f*, *ppp*, *pp*, and *f*.
 - Measure 42: The Soprano part has lyrics: "winds have birth;". Dynamics include *f*, *p*, *pp*, *mp*, and *pp*. The Piano accompaniment continues with triplets and complex chords, marked with *p*, *ff*, *pp*, and *mp*.
 - Measure 44: The Soprano part is marked *accel.* and has the instruction "mind the clef changes until the end". The Piano accompaniment features a triplet in the right hand and rests in the left, marked with *ff* and *p*.
 - The score includes various musical notations such as triplets, 8va brackets, and dynamic markings (*ff*, *mf*, *pp*, *ppp*, *mp*, *f*, *p*).

48

S.

Pno.

p 5 6 *ff* *pp* *f* 3

8^{vb}

51

S.

Pno.

f 5 3

Red.

$\text{♩} = 112$

54

S.

Pno.

mf 3 *(f)* 3 *mf* 3 3 3 3

We - ther on crys-tal

Red.

57

S.

Pno.

3 *ff* *mf* 3 *mf*

rocks ye rove, Be - neath

59 *mp* *p*

S. *the bo - som of the sea*

Pno. *p* *pp*

Red.

62 *mf*

S. *Wan-de - ring in ma - ny a co - ral*

Pno. *mf*

Red.

66 *f* *ff* *p* *f*

S. *grove; Fair nine for - sa - king*

Pno. *f* *ff*

69 *f* *fff* *fff*

S. *Po - e - try;*

Pno. *fff*

Red. al fine

8vb

71 **rit.**

S.

Pno.

73

S.

Pno.

Largo
(speak, don't sing)
with despair
Fair Nine, forsaking Poetry;

with indignation
How have you left the ancient love
That bards of old enjoy'd in you!

S. Solo

Pno.

mp *f*

p *ff*

Immediately after
soprano text box

lost, demented
The languid strings do scarcely move,

The sound is forced,

whispering
the notes are few.

S. Solo

Pno.

p *rit.* *ppp* *mp* *ppp*