

A Farewell

Ken Johnston

for unaccompanied SATB voices

Text based on a poem by the New Zealand poet, A. R. D. Fairburn
and used with the kind permission of his daughters, Dinah Holman and Janis Fairburn

Composed 1994 and revised 2001

First performance by the Aberdeen Youth Choir, directed by Christopher Bell, August 1994

Duration of piece: 3' 30"

This piece can be performed on its own or as part of a suite of three songs to words by A.R.D. Fairburn,
composed by Ken Johnston.

The other two pieces are:

Night Song: for unaccompanied SATB, duration 1' 45".

Poem: for unaccompanied SATB (with divisions), duration 6'.

The order of pieces in this suite is: *Night Song* – *Poem* – *A Farewell* (total duration approx 12').

Each of these pieces can be performed effectively on its own, with one other, or as part of the whole suite.

A version of *A Farewell* is also available for unaccompanied female voices (SSSAA).

A Farewell

Poem - A.R.D. Fairburn

for unaccompanied SATB voices

Music - Ken Johnston

With feeling ♩ = 72

S
A
T
B

p

oo oo oo

7 *mp*

What is there left to be said? There is nothing we can say, —
oo There is nothing we can say, —
oo nothing we can say,
oo nothing we can say, —

11 *mp*

nothing at all to be done to un - do the time of day; — no
oo to un - do the time of day;
oo the time of day; — no
oo the time of day; —

Duration: 3' 30"

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15 **very slow** **Tempo 2** ♩ = 60

pp *p*

words to make the sun roll east, or raise the dead. ah

mp *pp* *p*

ah or raise the dead. ah

8 *pp* *mp*

words to make the sun roll east, or raise the dead. I loved you as I

mp *pp* *p*

ah or raise the dead. ah I

19

I loved you as I love life: stretched out to you like

I loved you as I love life: stretched out to you like

8 love life: the hand I stretched out to you re-turn-ing like

loved you as I love life: stretched out to you like

22 **poco accel.**

cresc.

No-ah's dove a new earth to view, till I was quick with

cresc.

No-ah's dove brought a new earth to view, till I was quick with love;

cresc.

No-ah's dove a new earth, till I was quick with love;

cresc.

No-ah's dove brought a new earth to view, till I, till I was quick with

25 **rit.** **very slow** **Tempo 2** ♩ = 60

love; but Time sharp - ens his knife, —
 — but Ti - me (mm)
 but Ti - me (mm) Time smiles and
 love; but Ti - me (mm)

28

Time smiles and whets his knife, — come out quick - ly, and be
 — Time smiles and whets his knife, — come out quick - ly, and be
 whets his knife, and some - thing has got to come out quick - ly, — and be
 Time smiles and whets his knife, — come out quick - ly and be

31 **poco accel.** **molto cresc.**

bur-ied deep, not spok-en or thought a-bout or re-mem-bered ev-en in
 bur-ied deep, not spok-en or thought a-bout or re-mem-bered ev-en in sleep.
 bur-ied deep, not spok-en or re-mem-bered ev-en in sleep.
 bur-ied deep, not spok-en or thought a-bout or re-mem-bered ev-en in

34 **rit.** **slower** **rit.**

f *molto*

sleep. You must live, get on with your life. —

— You must live, get on with your life. —

8 You must live, get on with your life. —

sleep. You must live, get on with your life. —

37 **Tempo 1**

mp *p* *p* *p*

What is there left to be said? — There is noth- ing we can say, —

oo — There is noth- ing we can say, —

8 oo — noth- ing we can say, —

oo — noth- ing we can say, —

41

noth- ing at all to be done — to un - do the time of day; — no

oo — to un - do the time of day; —

8 oo — the time of day; — *mp* no

oo — the time of day; —

45 **very slow**
pp

words to make the sun roll east, or raise the dead.

mp *pp*

ah or raise the dead.

8 *pp*

words to make the sun roll east, or raise the dead.

mp *pp*

ah or raise the dead.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 45-47. It is a SATB setting. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The tempo is marked 'very slow'. The dynamics range from *pp* (pianissimo) to *mp* (mezzo-piano). The lyrics are 'words to make the sun roll east, or raise the dead.' The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) have their own lines with lyrics. The Soprano and Alto parts have a long 'ah' in measure 45. The Tenor and Bass parts have a long 'ah' in measure 46. The music ends with a fermata in measure 47.

48 **Tempo 1**

oo oo oo

oo oo oo

oo oo oo

oo oo oo

rit.
dim.

dim.

dim.

dim.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 48-50. The tempo is marked 'Tempo 1'. The music is in G major and 4/4 time. The dynamics range from *dim.* (diminuendo) to *rit.* (ritardando). The lyrics are 'oo oo oo'. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) have their own lines with lyrics. The music ends with a fermata in measure 50.