

Christopher Healey

St Tagore's
Cathedral

Fireflies

FOR

Soprano & Piano



2013

St Tagore's Cathedral

In Faith

Music: Christopher Healey

Text: Rabindranath Thakur

*Let me not grope in vain in the dark
but keep my mind still in the faith
that the day will break
and truth will appear
in its simplicity.*

Moderato (♩ = c. 108)

The musical score is written for Soprano and Piano. It is in 4/4 time and the key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo is Moderato, with a quarter note equal to approximately 108 beats per minute. The score is divided into three systems, each with four measures.

System 1 (Measures 1-4):
Soprano: Rests in measures 1 and 2, then begins the phrase "Let me not" in measure 3.
Piano: Accompaniment with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *mp* and *p*. Pedal markings are *ped.*, ** ped.*, ** ped.*, and ** sim.*

System 2 (Measures 5-8):
Soprano: Continues the phrase "grope in vain in the dark".
Piano: Continues the accompaniment.

System 3 (Measures 9-12):
Soprano: Continues the phrase "but keep my".
Piano: Continues the accompaniment, with a *pp* dynamic marking in measure 10.

St Tagore's Cathedral

10

mind still in the faith

13

p

17

p That the day

21

will brea - - - (a)k and truth - - - will a -

mf

f

25

- pear in - - its - - sim - - pli - - ci - ty

p

29

Let - - - me - - - but - - - keep my

p

33 *rit.*

— mind — still — in faith —

37

pp

Ped. * Ped. *

St Tagore's Cathedral

The Sea

Music: Christopher Healey

Text: Rabindranath Thakur

*The shore whispers to the sea:
"Write to me what thy waves struggle to say."
The sea writes in foam again and again
and wipes off the lines in a boisterous despair:*

Moderato

Soprano

mf The shore

Piano

mp

p whis-pers to the sea

"Write to me what thy waves

St Tagore's Cathedral

5

stru - ggle to say." The *mf*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 5 and 6. The vocal line (top staff) features a melody with accents (>) over the notes for 'stru' and 'ggle'. The lyrics 'stru - ggle to say.'" are written below the notes. The word 'The' is written above the final note of measure 6, with a dynamic marking of *mf* below it. The piano accompaniment (bottom staves) consists of a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and a bass line with eighth notes and rests in the left hand.

7

sea writes in foam a - gain and a - gain

Detailed description: This system contains measures 7 and 8. The vocal line (top staff) has a long melisma over the word 'a - gain' in measure 8. The lyrics 'sea writes in foam a - gain and a - gain' are written below the notes. The piano accompaniment (bottom staves) continues with the rhythmic pattern from the previous system.

9

and wipes off the lines in a

Detailed description: This system contains measures 9 and 10. The vocal line (top staff) has a long melisma over the word 'off' in measure 9. The lyrics 'and wipes off the lines in a' are written below the notes. The piano accompaniment (bottom staves) continues with the rhythmic pattern from the previous system.

11

boi-ster - ous dis - pair _____

13

The _____ sigh _____

15

of the shore foll - ows _____ in vain the _____ breeze

17 *(Un po)*

that hast - ens the ship *p* The

19

sea writes in foam a - gain *p*

21

and a - gain wipes off

23

the lines in a boi-ster - ous dis - pair

mf

25

27

dim.

29

29

pp

St Tagore's Cathedral

Primal Darkness

Music: Christopher Healey

Text: Rabindranath Thakur

*My life's empty flute
waits for its final music
like the primal darkness
before the stars came out.*

Allegro (M.M. ♩ = c. 120)

The musical score is written for Soprano and Piano. It begins with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a 6/8 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Allegro' with a metronome marking of approximately 120 beats per minute. The score consists of six measures. The Soprano part has a rest for the first two measures, followed by a long note in the third measure with the lyrics 'My'. The Piano part features a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure, marked with a 'Ped.' (pedal) symbol. The second measure has a 'Sim.' (sforzando) marking. The lyrics 'life' appear in the second measure of the Soprano part, and 'life's empty flute' are spread across measures 3, 4, and 5. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more complex rhythmic pattern in the left hand.

St Tagore's Cathedral

10

Waits

14

For its final music

19

mf Like the prim - al dark-ness

mp

24

Be-fore the stars came out.

29

Like the pri-mal dark -

33

ness *mf* Be - fore the stars came

37
out

37

40
mp Be - fore

40

43
rit. the stars came out *Lunga*

43
Lunga

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a piece titled "St Tagore's Cathedral". The score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The first system (measures 37-39) features a vocal line with a long note on "out" and a piano accompaniment with a steady eighth-note pattern. The second system (measures 40-42) includes the lyrics "Be - fore" with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic marking. The piano accompaniment continues with eighth notes. The third system (measures 43-45) includes the lyrics "the stars came out" and a fermata over the word "out". A *rit.* (ritardando) marking is placed above the vocal line. The piano accompaniment features a fermata over the final chord, with the word "Lunga" written above and below the staff. The score concludes with a double bar line.

St Tagore's Cathedral

The Wind

Music: Christopher Healey

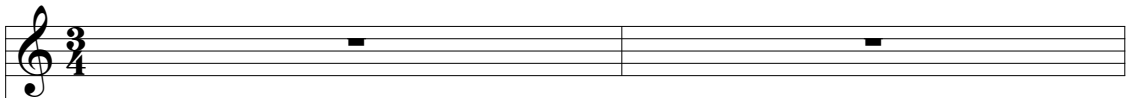
Text: Rabindranath Thakur

*The wind of heaven blows,
The anchor desperately clutches the mud,
and my boat is beating its breast against the chain.*

*The breeze whispers to the lotus,
"What is thy secret?"
"It is myself," says the lotus,
"Steal it and I disappear!"*

♩ = c. 88

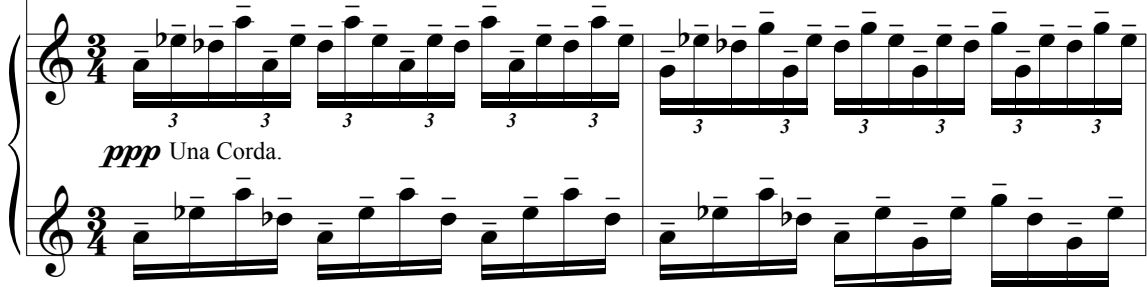
Soprano



Legato, Very serene

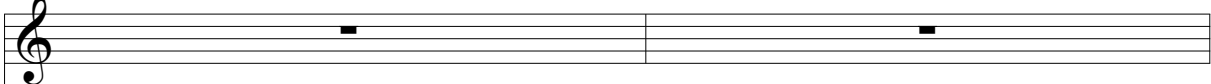
8^{va}

Piano



ppp Una Corda.

3



3



11 *Loud whisper*

The

13

wind of hea-ven blows

(*Softto voce*)³

15

Blows

ppp

17

17

19

Sung; softly but intensely and marcato

mp The an - chor _____

19

19

21

— des - pera - tely clu - tches the

21

23 *cantabile*

mud, and my

23 *loco*

26 *cantabile*

boat is

26 *loco*

mf

28 *cantabile*

bea - ting

28 *loco*

30 *Pitched speech* -----

mf > >
It's breast

32 -----

> > > >
a gainst the chain.

34 -----

A - - - gainst

36

the chain *mf* bea - ting a - gainst

38

the chain

40

cantabile, rubato, molto espress.

The breeze *p*

42

whis - pers to

mf

44

the lo -

46

tus

48

What is _____ lo - tus what

p

50

mf is, what is _____ thy se - cret

52

Pitched speech -----

thy _____ se - cret

mp

54

54

mp

loco

56

56

58

f What is thy damn se - cret(?)

58

mf

60

p

63

65

mf

67

mf It is my - self! It's my - self

70

My self *p* de de de de da da doh doh doh doh doo doo

mp

72

It - t - t - t - t - t - t Is - s - s - s - s - s - s - my my my my my my my my

74

self - f - f - f - My my my - self *f* It It is, My — self

77

says says the lo - tus says Steal it and I dis - ap -

80

- pear! *mf* The wind of hea - ven blows the an - chor *pva*

83

The an - chor des - pera - tely clu - tches the mud

♩ = c. 66
cantabile, rubato, molto espress.

86

mf Thy se - cret *p* My

88

p my

90

boat is

92

bea - ting its

94

breast

96

mp a - gainst the

98

chain

100

Hea - ven's wind blows The an - chor

ppp

102

clutch - es mud

104

Lo - tus

106

tell me thy se - cret The wind

108

of hea - ven blows

110

gva

gva

111

112

Musical score for measures 112-113. The system includes a vocal line (top) and a piano accompaniment (bottom). The piano part features a right-hand melody of eighth-note triplets and a left-hand accompaniment of eighth notes. The word *morendo* is written above the right-hand staff in the second measure.

114

Musical score for measures 114-115. The system includes a vocal line (top) and a piano accompaniment (bottom). The piano part continues with eighth-note triplets in the right hand and eighth notes in the left hand.

116

Musical score for measures 116-117. The system includes a vocal line (top) and a piano accompaniment (bottom). The piano part concludes with a final triplet in the right hand and a final chord in the left hand. The dynamic marking *pppp* is written above the right-hand staff in the second measure.

St Tagore's Cathedral

Spirit

Music: Christopher Healey

Text: Rabindranath Thakur

*The spirit of death is one,
the spirit of life is many,
When God is dead religion becomes one.*

Allegro

The musical score is written for Soprano and Piano. It begins with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked **Allegro**. The Soprano part consists of three measures of whole rests. The Piano part starts with a *legato* marking and a dynamic of *p*. The right hand features a melodic line with a *8va* (octave) marking, while the left hand plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth-note chords. Performance directions include *Leg.*, ** Leg. * Leg.*, and *Sim.* (Sforzando). Measure numbers 4, 6, and 6 are indicated at the start of their respective systems.

St Tagore's Cathedral

9

9

12

mf The spi - rit of death

8va-

12

15

is one

(8va)-

15

18

The spi - rit — of life

21

is ma - - - 3 - - -

24

ny

26

When — god — is dead —

sf *sf* *sf*

29

mf Re - lig - ion — be comes —

32

one — *f*

8va —

35 *rit.*

p One

35 *8va*

35 *8va*

37

37 *8va*

pp