

Hymsee mee speyr

I gathered sky

for mixed choir (SATBar.B)

Matthew Warren

Words by Annie Kissack

Text

Smeir

Hymsee mee speyr as mish goll thie,
hymsee mee geay as grian.
Hymsee mee smooïnaght ren gaase dy seyr,
hymsee mee mian.

Hymsee mee cruinnagyn gyn cron,
hymsee mee my haie.
Ta smeir fo Cronk ny Irree Laa
as tashtey vie.

Translation

Blackberries

*I gathered sky as I went home,
I gathered wind and sun.
I gathered a thought that freely grew,
and led me on.*

*I gathered worlds without stain,
I gathered all my fill.
Blackberries lie below the Cronk*
and treasure still.*

Manx and English by Annie Kissack

**hill*

Programme note

Annie Kissack is one of the chief proponents of Manx language poetry and here evokes sheer wonder at the solitary experience of the natural world. The enchantment of gathering so much that can't be gathered first drew me to this poem, with its repeated 'Hymsee mee' returning again and again like a *Kyrie eleison*. When I imagine the speaker in the poem, it is with the engrossed aimlessness of Casper David's *Wanderer Above the Sea Fog*, only to remember the simple aim amongst all of the awe—to gather blackberries.

In this setting of the text, the range of the imagery, from expansive skies to tangled thickets of the poem's titular blackberries are explored in the dense choral textures. The voices flit between dense chordal harmony and skittish echoes of one another that all hang on the strong melodic identity attached to the word 'Hymsee'.

Duration

c. two and a half minutes

Hymsee mee speyr

I gathered sky

Annie Kissack, 5th Manx Bard

Matthew Warren

mp $\text{♩} = 92$

Soprano
Hym-see mee speyr as mish goll thie,

Alto
p *p*
Hym-see mee speyr as mish, as mish goll thie, mee

Tenor
p *p*
Hym-see mee speyr as mish, as mish goll thie,

Baritone
p *p*
Hym-see mee speyr as mish, as mish goll thie,

Bass
p
Hym-see

5

S.
Hym - see mee geay 2 as

A.
p *mp* *p*
speyr as mishgoll thie Hym-see mee geay

T.
p *p* *p*
asmish goll thie. Hym - see mee geay

Bar.
p *p*
asmishgoll thie. Hym - see mee geay

B.
p *p*
Hym - see mee geay

9

S. *p* *mf* *p* *mf*
gri-an gri-an geay as

A. *mf* *p* *mp*
as gri-an, geay as gri-an, geay as

T. *mf* *p*
as gri-an, geay as gri-an, geay as

Bar. *mf* *p*
as gri-an, geay as

B. *mf* *p*
as gri-an, geay as

12

S. *mf* *f* *dim.*
gri-an. Hym-see mee smooi-naght ren gaase dy seyr, Hym-see mee

A. *mf* *f* *dim.*
gri-an. Hym-see mee smoo-i - naght ren gaasse dy seyr, Hym-see mee

T. *p* *cresc. poco a poco* *f*
gri-an. Hym-see___ meesmooi - naght ren gaasse dyseyr, Hym-see

Bar. *p* *cresc. poco a poco* *f*
gri-an. Hym-see___ meesmooi - naght ren gaasse dyseyr, Hym-see

B. *mp*
gri-an Hym-

15 *p cresc.* *mf* *rit.* **3**

S. mi-an, mi-an, Hym - see mee

A. mi-an, mi-an, Hym - see mee mi-an mi -

T. mee mi-an, mee mi-an Hym - see mee

Bar. mee mi-an, mee mi-an, Hym - see

B. see mee mi-an Hym - see

A tempo (♩ = 92)

18 *p* *mp* *p* *cresc.*

S. mi-an. Hym - see mee cruin na gyn gyn cron,

A. an Hym-see mee cruin - na - gyn gyn

T. mi - an Hym-see mee cruin - na - gyn gyn cron, mee

Bar. mee mi - an Hym-see mee cruin - na - gyn gyncron, mee

B. mee mi - an Hym-see mee cruin - na - gyn gyncron, mee

22

S. *mp*
Hym - see mee

A. *mf* *mp*
cron, crui - na-gyn gyn cron, Hym-see

T. *mf* *p*
8 cruin - na-gyn, crui - na-gyn gyn cron, Hym - see

Bar. *mf* *p*
cruin - na-gyn, crui - na-gyn gyn cron, Hym - see

B. *mf* *p*
cruin - na-gyn, crui - na-gyn gyn cron Hym - see

26

S. *f* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*
my haie, haie, Hym-see mee my

A. *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*
mee my haie, mee my haie, Hym - see my

T. *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*
8 mee my haie, my haie, Hym - see my

Bar. *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p*
Hym - see mee my haie, Hym - see mee my

B. *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p*
Hym - see mee my haie, Hym - see mee my

30

S. *p* haie. Ta *f* smeir fo Cronk ny

A. *p* haie. Ta *f* smeir fo cronk ny Ir-ree Laa

T. *p* *cresc.* haie. Ta smeir, ta smeir, Ta smeir, ta smeir fo

Bar. *cresc.* haie. Ta smeir, ta smeir, ta smeir fo

B. *f* haie. fo Cronk ny Ir-ree

32

S. *ff* *p* *morendo* Ir-reeLaa as tash - tey vie. *p* *mf* *pp*

A. *ff* *pp* *p* *mf* *pp* Ir-ree Laa as tash tey vie.

T. *ff* *pp* *p* *mf* *pp* Cronk ny Ir-reeLaa as tash - tey vie.

Bar. *ff* *pp* *p* *mf* *pp* cronk ny Ir-reeLaa as tash - tey vie.

B. *pp* *p* *mf* *pp* Laa as tash tey vie.