

KEVIN BEAVERS

THROUGH SEVEN SPHERES

for SATB choir a cappella

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for SATB choir a cappella

Duration: ca. 13 minutes

Through Seven Spheres sets four poems that share an inner world shaped by sleep, night, and veiled forces. Each is restless, charged with volatility and movement, and drawn toward states beyond ordinary experience. Together they unfold through states of invocation, shelter, unrest, and ascent.

The cycle is shaped above all by the visionary poems of William Sharp, writing under the pseudonym Fiona Macleod, whose work continually returns to hidden fire, dream, and inward hearing. Set among them, George William Russell's "Rest," retitled here "My Bird, My Bird!," brings a different energy: joy, buoyancy, and tenderness, before settling into sheltering peace. Through Seven Spheres ultimately imagines inner life in motion, drawn toward light.

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The Mystic's Prayer

from "The Mystic's Prayer" by William Sharp (Fiona Macleod)
*from **From the Hills of Dream** (1896)*

Lay me to sleep in sheltering flame,
O Master of the Hidden Fire!
Wash pure my heart, and cleanse for me
My soul's desire.

In flame of sunrise bathe my mind,
O Master of the Hidden Fire,
That, when I wake, clear-eyed may be
My soul's desire.

My Bird, My Bird!

from "Rest" by George William Russell (A.E.)
*from **The Divine Vision, and Other Poems** (1904)*

ON me to rest, my bird, my bird :
The swaying branches of my heart
Are blown by every wind toward
The home whereto their wings depart.

Build not your nest, my bird, on me ;
I know no peace but ever sway :
O lovely bird, be free, be free,
On the wild music of the day.

But sometimes when your wings would rest,
And winds are laid on quiet eves :
Come, I will bear you breast to breast,
And lap you close with loving leaves.

The Undersong

from "The Undersong" by William Sharp (Fiona Macleod)
*from **From the Hills of Dream** (1896)*

I hear the sea-song of blood in my heart,
I hear the sea-song of blood in my ears:
And I am far apart,
And lost in the years.

But when I lie and dream of that which was
Before the first man's shadow flitted on the grass,
I am stricken dumb
With sense of that to come.

Is then this wildering sea-song but a part
Of the old song of the mystery of the years—
Or only the echo of the tired heart
And of tears?

A Star Shaken with Light

from "A Song of Dreams" by William Sharp (Fiona Macleod)
*from **From the Hills of Dream** (1896)*

One came to me in the night
And said Arise!
I rose, phantom-white;
Far was my flight
To a star shaken with light
In the heart of the skies.

Through seven spheres I fled,
Opal and rose and white,
Emerald, violet, red,
Through azure was I led,
And the coronal on my head
With seven moons was bright.

What wonder that the day
Swings slowly through slow hours!
My heart leaps when the grey
Husht feet of Night are astray,
And I hear her wild bells play
On her starry towers.

THROUGH SEVEN SPHERES

for SATB choir a cappella

2026

Solemn $\text{♩} = 76$ *p dolce*

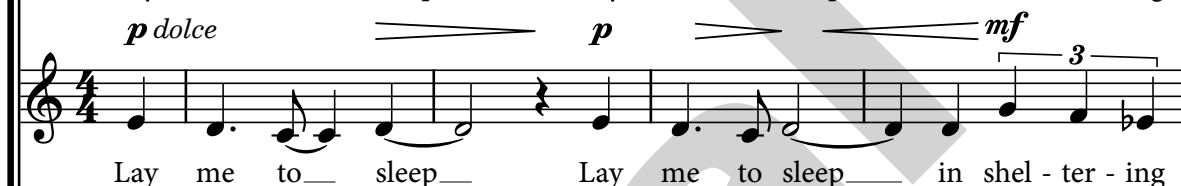
The Mystic's Prayer

*p**mf*

Soprano



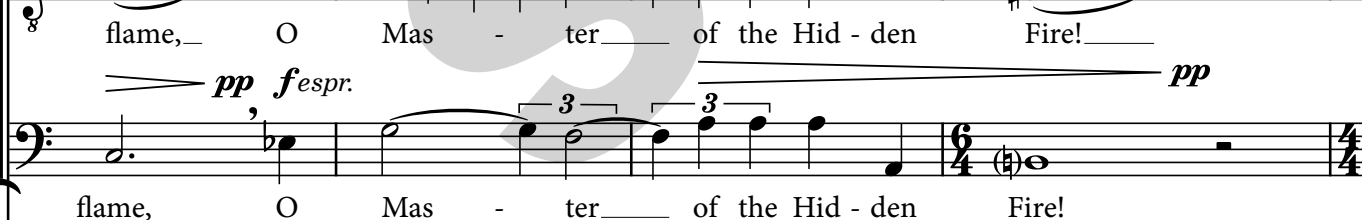
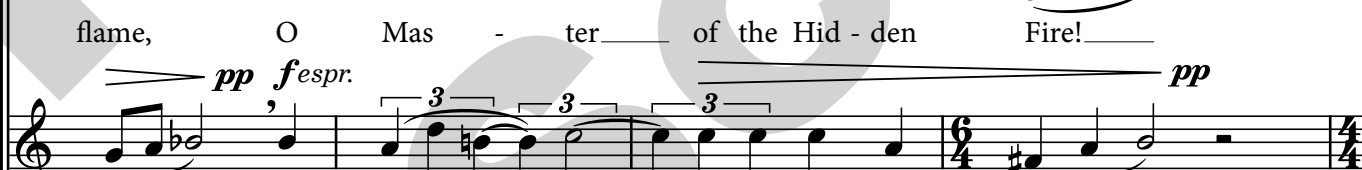
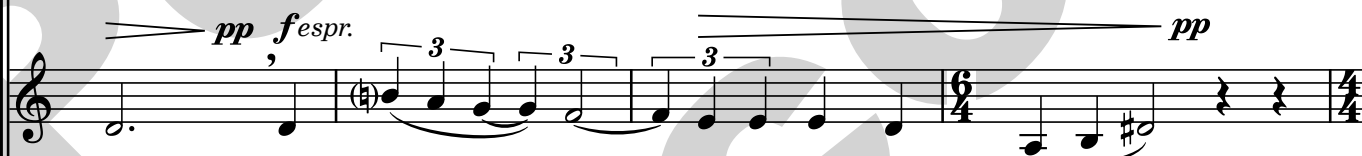
Alto



Tenor



Bass

Piano
(for rehearsal only)

9 **rit.** **a tempo**

pure my heart, (t) Wash pure my heart, and
pp teneramente

Wash pure my heart, (t) Wash pure my heart, and
pp teneramente

my heart, (t) Wash pure my heart, and
pp teneramente

Wash pure my heart, and

13 *mp* *pp* *mf animato*

cleans for me My soul's de - sire. In flame of sun - rise

mp *pp* *mf animato*

cleans for me My soul's de - sire. In flame of sun - rise

mp *pp* *mf*

cleans for me My soul's de - sire. In

mp *pp* *mf*

cleans for me My soul's de - sire. In

17 *f(animato)*

bathe my mind, O Mas - ter

f(animato)

bathe my mind, O Mas - ter

animato *f(animato)*

flame of sun - rise bathe my mind, O Mas - ter

animato *f(animato)*

flame of sun - rise bathe my mind, O Mas - ter

f

21 *rit.* *pp* *a tempo* *teneramente*

of the Hid - den Fire, That, when I wake,

pp *teneramente*

of the Hid - den Fire, *mm*

pp

of the Hid - den Fire,

pp

of the Hid - den Fire,

pp

Meno mosso (♩ = ca. 60)

p (teneramente)

25

ah That, when I wake, clear -

p (teneramente)

That, when I wake, clear -

p teneramente

That, when I wake, clear -

p teneramente

That, when I wake, clear -

p

29

dim. poco a poco alla fine

- eyed may be My soul's de - sire.

dim. poco a poco alla fine

- eyed may be My soul's de - sire.

dim. poco a poco alla fine

- eyed may be My soul's de - sire.

dim. poco a poco alla fine

- eyed may be My soul's de - sire.

My Bird, My Bird!

from "Rest" by George William Russell

Lively and Joyous ♩ = 108

mp *f* *mp*

Soprano
ON me to rest, my bird, my bird: ON me to

mp *f* *mp*

Alto
ON me to rest, my bird, my bird: ON me to

mp *f* *mp*

Tenor
ON me to rest, my bird, my bird: ON me to

mp *f* *mp*

Bass
ON me to rest, my bird, my bird: ON me to

Piano
(for rehearsal only)
mp *f* *mp*

4 *f*

rest, my bird, my bird: The sway - ing branch - es of my

f

rest, my bird, my bird: The sway - ing branch - es of my

f

rest, my bird, my bird: The sway - ing branch - es of my

f

rest, my bird, my bird: The sway - ing branch - es of my

f

9

heart blown by ev - ery wind to - ward The home

heart blown by ev - ery wind to - ward The home

heart blown by ev - ery wind to - ward The home

heart blown by ev - ery wind to - ward The home

14

where - to their wings de - part.

where - to their wings de - part.

where - to their wings de - part.

where - to their wings de - part.

Build not your

Build not your

18 *mp*

bird, bird, bird, _____

mp

bird, bird, bird, _____

nest, my bird, on me; _____ Build not your nest, my bird, on

nest, my bird, on me; _____ Build not your nest, my bird, on

mp

22 *f*

my bird, my bird, _____ no peace but ev - er

f

my bird, my bird, _____ no peace but ev - er

f

me; _____ I know no peace but ev - er

f

me; _____ I know no peace but ev - er

28 *p* *f* *pp* *poco*

sway: O

sub. *p* *f* *pp* *poco*

sway: O

sub. *p* *f* *pp* *poco*

sway: O

sub. *p* *f* *pp* *poco*

sway: O

p *f* *pp*

33 *p* *ff*

love - ly bird, be free, be

p *ff*

love - ly bird, be free, be

p *ff*

love - ly bird, be free, be

p *ff*

love - ly bird, be free, be

p *ff*

38 *rit.* *f* *p*

free, On the wild mu - sic

f *p*

free, On the wild mu - sic

pp

free,

pp

free,

f *p*

44 **Floating** ♩. = 60 *(p)* *pp* **Tempo I**

of the day. ON me to rest, my bird, my

(p) *pp* **SOLO** *mf* *teasing*

of the day. ON me to rest, my bird, my

p *pp* **SOLO** *mf* *teasing*

of the day. ON me to rest, my bird, my

p *pp* **SOLO** *mf* *teasing*

of the day. ON me to rest, my bird, my

mf

49

bird: ON me to rest, my bird, my bird:

bird: ON me to rest, my bird, my bird:

bird: ON me to rest, my bird, my bird:

bird: ON me to rest, my bird, my bird:

53

f

The sway - ing branch - es of my heart blown by

f

The sway - ing branch - es of my heart blown by

f

The sway - ing branch - es of my heart blown by

f

The sway - ing branch - es of my heart blown by

58

ev - ery wind to - ward The home where - to their

ev - ery wind to - ward The home where - to their

ev - ery wind to - ward The home where - to their

ev - ery wind to - ward The home where - to their

$\text{♩} = 52$ **molto accel.**

62

wings de - part. But some - times when your wings would

wings de - part. But some - times when your wings would

wings de - part. But some - times when your wings would

wings de - part. But some - times when your wings would

Poignantly ♩. = 72

71

Poignantly $\text{♩.} = 72$ *rit.* *mf* *pp*

And winds are laid on quiet eves:

mf *pp*

And winds are laid on quiet eves:

mf *pp*

And winds are laid on quiet eves:

mf *pp*

And winds are laid on quiet eves:

mf *(p)*

a tempo (♩. = 72)

77 *p* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*

Come, I will bear you breast to breast, —

p *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*

Come, I will bear you breast to breast, —

p *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*

Come, I will bear you breast to breast, —

p *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*

Come, I will bear you breast to breast, —

81 *p* *mf* *poco* *molto rit.* *pp* *morendo*

And lap you close with lov - ing leaves. —

p *mf* *poco* *p* *pp* *morendo*

And lap you close with lov - ing leaves. —

p *mf* *poco* *p* *pp* *morendo*

And lap you close with lov - ing leaves. —

p *mf* *poco* *p* *pp* *morendo*

And lap you close with lov - ing leaves. —

The Undersong

text: William Sharp

Tranquillo, cantabile ♩ = 72

pp > *ppp* stagger breathe

Soprano

I hear, Ee

Alto

I hear, Ee

Tenor

I hear, I hear, I

Bass

I hear, I hear,

Piano (for rehearsal only)

pp *ppp* *pp* *p*

6

Oo Ah Ee

Oo Ah Ee

hear the sea - song of blood in my heart, I hear the sea - song

the sea - song of blood in my heart, I hear the sea - song

p *p*

3 3 3

11

mf *f* *mp*

Oo in my ears: And I am far a - part,

mf *f* *mp*

Oo in my ears: And I am far a - part,

mf *pp* *f*

of blood in my ears: And I am far a -

mf *pp* *f*

of blood in my ears: And I am far a -

mf *f*

15

f *rit.* *p* *mp* Più ampio ♩ = 60

am far a - part, (t) And lost (t) in the

f *p* *mp*

am far a part, (t) And lost (t) in the

mp *f* *p* *mp*

- part, am far a - part, (t) And lost (t) in the

mp *f* *p* *mp*

- part, am far a - part, (t) And lost (t) in the

mp

18 *pp* **Tempo I** *mp*

years. But when I lie and dream

years. But when I lie and dream

years. But when I lie and dream

years. But when I lie and dream

years. But when I lie and dream

21 *p* *pp*

of that which was ah

of that which was ah

of that which was Be - fore the first man's shad - ow

of that which was

p *mf* *pp*

25

p

p

p

p

mp

flit - ted on the grass,

p

p

p

pp

mp

I am strick - en

I am strick - en

I am strick - en

I am strick - en

I am strick - en

29

mf

p

dumb With sense of that to come. Is then

mf

p

dumb With sense of that to come. Is

mf

p

dumb With sense of that to come. Is

mf

p

dumb With sense of that to come. Is

mf

p

33

pp

this wild - er - ing sea - song Oo

pp

then this wild - er - ing sea - song Oo

mp

then this wild - er - ing sea - song but a part of the

pp

then this wild - er - ing sea - song Oo

pp

mp

pp

38

p

mp

of the mys - ter - y of the

p

mp

of the mys - ter - y of the

p

mp

old song of the mys - ter - y of the

p

mp

of the mys - ter - y of the

p

mp

Adagio, sospeso $\text{♩} = 52$

42

pp pp mp *dim. poco a poco*

years— Or on - ly the ech - o

pp pp mp *dim. poco a poco*

years— Or on - ly the ech - o

pp pp mp *dim. poco a poco*

years— Or on - ly the ech - o

pp pp mp *dim. poco a poco*

years— Or on - ly the ech - o

46

poco rit. *(dim.)* *pp* *morendo*

of the tired heart And of tears?

(dim.) *pp* *morendo*

of the tired heart And of tears?

(dim.) *pp* *morendo*

of the tired heart And of tears?

(dim.) *pp* *morendo*

of the tired heart And of tears?

A Star Shaken with Light

from "A Song of Dreams" of William Sharp

Allegro, con brio ♩ = 132

f

Soprano
One came to me in the night And said A -

f

Alto
One came to me in the night And said

f

Tenor
One came to me in the night And said

f **ff**

Bass
One came to me in the night And said

Piano
(for rehearsal only)
f

3 **ff** **mf** **ff** **p sub. cresc.**

- rise! I rose, I rose, I rose,

ff **f** **ff** **p sub. cresc.**

A - rise! A - rise! A - rise! I rose, I rose, I rose,

ff **f** **ff** **p sub. cresc.**

A - rise! A - rise! A - rise! I rose, I rose, I rose,

f **ff** **p sub. cresc.**

A - rise! A - rise! A - rise! I rose, I rose,

f **p cresc.**

7

ff *poco* *p sub.*

I rose, I rose, I rose, phan - tom -

ff *poco* *p*

I rose, I rose, I rose, phan - tom -

ff *poco* *p*

I rose, I rose, I rose, phan - tom -

ff *poco* *p*

I rose, I rose, phan - tom -

ff *p*

I rose, I rose, phan - tom -

ff *p*

I rose, I rose, phan - tom -

11

f

- white; Far was my flight To a star

f

- white; Far was my flight To a star

mp *f*

- white; Far was my flight To a star

f

- white; Far was my flight To a star

f

- white; Far was my flight To a star

15 *mp* sub. *f* *mp* *mf*

shak - en, sha - ken with light, with

shak - en, sha - ken with light,

shak - en, sha - ken with light,

mp *f*

shak - en, sha - ken with light,

mp *f* *mp* *mf*

19 *animato* *ff*

light, with light, In the heart of the

mf *animato* *ff*

with light, with light, with light, In the heart of the

mf *animato* *ff*

with light, with light, with light, In the heart of the

mf *animato* *ff*

with light, In the heart of the

ff

22

pp dolce mf pp

skies. Through se - ven

pp dolce mf pp

skies. Through se - ven

pp dolce mf pp

skies. Through se - ven

pp dolce mf pp

skies. Through se - ven

pp mf pp

28

f molto rit. a tempo espr. p

spheres I fled, O - -

f p espr. p

spheres I fled, O - -

f p espr. p

spheres I fled, O - -

f p espr. p

spheres I fled, O - -

f p

33

mp *mp* *pp sub.*

-pal and rose and white,

mp *mp* *pp sub.*

-pal and rose and white,

mp *mp* *pp sub.*

-pal and rose and white,

mp *mp* *pp sub.*

-pal and rose and white,

mp *mp* *pp sub.*

-pal and rose and white,

37

pp molto sotto voce *mp* *pp*

Em - er - ald, vi - o - let,

pp molto sotto voce *mp* *pp*

Em - er - ald, vi - o - let,

pp molto sotto voce *mp* *pp*

Em - er - ald, vi - o - let,

pp molto sotto voce *mp* *pp*

Em - er - ald, vi - o - let,

pp *mp*

f *p*

41

red, Through az - ure was I

f *p*

red, Through az - ure was I

f *p*

red, Through az - ure was I

f *p*

red, Through az - ure was I

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 41 and 42. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment with two staves. The vocal parts have lyrics 'red, Through az - ure was I'. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support. Dynamics are marked as *f* (forte) and *p* (piano). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 between measures.

43

led, And the cor - o - nal on my head With

led, And the cor - o - nal on my head With

led, And the cor - o - nal on my head With

led, And the cor - o - nal on my head With

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 43 and 44. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment with two staves. The vocal parts have lyrics 'led, And the cor - o - nal on my head With'. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support. Dynamics are marked as *f* (forte) and *p* (piano). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 between measures.

46

mf *pp*

sev - en moons, sev - en moons was

mf *pp*

sev - en moons, sev - en moons was

mf *pp*

sev - en moons, sev - en moons was

mf *pp*

sev - en moons, sev - en moons was

mf *p* *pp*

48

p *mp*

bright, was bright, was bright.

p *mp*

bright, was bright, was bright.

p *mp*

bright, was bright, was bright.

p *mp*

was bright, was bright, was bright.

p *mp*

Tempo I: Allegro, con brio ♩ = 132

50 *f* *ff*

One came to me in the night And said A -

One came to me in the night And said

One came to me in the night And said

One came to me in the night And said

f *ff*

53 *mf* sub.

- rise! I rose, I rose, I rose, I rose, I rose, I

mf sub.

A - rise! I rose, I rose, I rose, I rose, I rose, I

mf sub.

A - rise! I rose, I rose, I rose, I rose, I rose, I

mf sub.

A - rise! I rose, I rose, I rose, I

mf

56 *f* *poco* *p sub.* *mf* *rit.*

rose, phan - tom - white;

rose, phan - tom - white;

rose, phan - tom - white;

rose, phan - tom - white;

rose, phan - tom - white;

rose, phan - tom - white;

61 *a tempo* *ff* *f*

Far was my flight To a star sha - ken with

Far was my flight To a star sha - ken with

Far was my flight To a star sha - ken with

Far was my flight To a star sha - ken

Far was my flight To a star sha - ken

64

light, _____ In the heart of the skies. _____ What

light, _____ In the heart of the skies. _____ What

light, _____ In the heart of the skies. _____ What

_____ with light, _____ In the heart of the skies. _____ What

f

f

f

f

f

68

cresc. won - der that the day, What won - der that the day _____ *ff*

cresc. won - der that the day, What won - der that the day _____ *ff*

cresc. won - der that the day, What won - der that the day _____ *ff*

cresc. won - der that the day, What won - der that the day _____ *ff*

cresc. _____ *ff*

72 *f cantabile* rit. poco a poco - - - - -

Swings_ slow - - - - -

f cantabile

Swings_ slow - - - - -

f cantabile

Swings_ slow - - - - -

f cantabile

Swings_ slow - - - - -

f

(♩ = ca. 120)

76 *p*

- ly through_ slow_ hours!_

p

- ly through_ slow_ hours!_

p

- ly through_ slow_ hours!_

p

- ly through_ slow_ hours!_

81

mf *rit.* *mp* *p* **Tempo I** (♩ = 132)

through slow hours! My heart, My

mf *mp* *p*

through slow hours! My heart, My

mf *mp* *p*

through slow hours! My heart, My

mf *mp* *p*

through slow hours! My heart, My

mf *mp* *p*

86

allarg.

mf *ff*

heart, My heart, My heart, My heart, My heart leaps

mf *ff*

heart, My heart, My heart, My heart, My heart leaps

mf *ff*

heart, My heart, My heart, My heart, My heart leaps

mf *ff*

heart, My heart, My heart, My heart, My heart leaps

a tempo

91

mp *f* *mp*

when the grey Husht feet of

mp *f* *mp*

when the grey Husht feet of

mp *f* *mp*

when the grey Husht feet of

mp *f* *mp*

when the grey Husht feet of

dolcissimo

96

p *dolcissimo*

Night are a - stray,

p *dolcissimo*

Night are a - stray,

p *dolcissimo*

Night are a - stray,

p *dolcissimo*

Night are a - stray,

Tranquillo $\text{♩} = 48$

101

pp *mp* *pp*

And I hear her wild bells

pp *mp* *pp*

And I hear her wild bells

pp *mp* *pp*

And I hear her wild bells

pp *mp* *pp*

And I hear her wild bells

105

mp *rit. pp sotto voce poco*

play On her star - ry tow - ers.

mp *pp sotto voce poco*

play On her star - ry tow - ers.

mp *pp sotto voce poco*

play On her star - ry tow - ers.

mp *pp sotto voce poco*

play On her star - ry tow - ers.

mp *pp poco*

play On her star - ry tow - ers.