

Ethan Watts

BOAT SONG

SATB Choir (divisi), Piano

Text

Early in the day it was whispered that we should sail in a boat,
 only thou and I, and never a soul in the whole world would know of this
 our pilgrimage to no country and to no end.
In that shoreless ocean, at thy silently listening smile
 my songs would swell in melodies, free as waves, free from all bondage of words.
Is the time not come yet? Are there works still to do?
 Lo, the evening has come down upon the shore,
 and in the fading light the seabirds come flying to their nests.
Who knows when the chains will be off, and the boat,
 like the last glimmer of sunset vanish into the night?

– Rabindranath Tagore

Notes

- Performers and conductors should take great care to make sure that the quarter-note triplets prevalent in this piece are performed correctly – an even division of two beats into three notes; **not** like groups of 3 + 3 + 2 sixteenth notes.
- At mm. 136 and 138, the pianist should drag these quarter-note triplets in such a way that they sound distinct from the equivalent passage at mm. 26 and 28.
- The piano should not be relegated to the background but be ‘played out’ like a solo instrument – taking care to not overpower the choir, but also not treading on eggshells.
- The ending choral ‘pad’ in the upper three voices should begin almost inaudibly and swell to a decent but subdued volume around mm.153-154, then swell back down. There should be minimal to no vibrato and no extreme consonants. Tenors may choose to take this passage in head voice to blend with the sopranos and altos.

Boat Song

Rabindranath Tagore

Ethan Watts (b. 2003)

Hushed ♩ = 60

pp

Soprano

Ear-ly in the day ___ it was whis-pered that we should sail ___ in a boat,

pp

Alto

Ear-ly in the day ___ it was whis-pered that we should sail ___ in a boat,

pp

Tenor

8 Ear-ly in the day ___ it was whis-pered that we should sail ___ in a boat,

Bass

Piano

pp

8va

5

p

S

Ear-ly in the day ___ it was whis-pered that we should sail ___ in a boat,

p

A

Ear-ly in the day ___ it was whis-pered that we should sail ___ in a boat,

p

T

8 Ear-ly in the day ___ it was whis-pered that we should sail ___ in a boat,

p

B

...day ___

...day ___ a boat,

Pno.

p

8va

10

S *p* on - ly thou and I, _____ on - ly thou and I, _____

A *p* on - ly thou and I, _____ on - ly thou and I, _____

T *p* on - ly thou and I, _____ on - ly thou and I, _____

B *p* Ear - ly in the day _____ Ear - ly in the day _____ and

Pno. *pp*

A Glorious ♩ = 65
f

14

S *f*

A *f*

T *f*

B *f*

Pno. *ff* 8va (let the notes ring, pedal freely)

Pno.

17

(8va) *tr*

3

3

8va

Pno.

20

8va

8va

Pno.

23

(8va) *tr*

pp

p

3

3

[B]

S

p

and ne - ver a soul

would

A

p

and ne - ver a soul in the whole world

would

T

pp

whole

B

pp

the whole

29

8va *tr*

8va *tr*

*1/2 ped., let the trill retain resonance while the other notes fade out

Boat Song

S
know of this our pil-grim-age_ to no coun-try and to no end. _____ to no

A
know of this our pil-grim-age_ to no coun-try and to no end. _____ to no

T
world no _____ end, to no end.

B
world to no _____ end, to no end.

Pno.
crescendo poco a poco

S
coun - try and to no end. _____ to no

A
coun - try and to no end. _____ to no

T
and ne-ver a soul in the whole world would

B
and ne-ver a soul in the whole world would

Pno.
mf

Boat Song

7

41

S

coun - - - try and to no end.

A

coun - - - try and to no end. *mp* to no

T

8

know of this our pil - - - grim - age

B

know of this our pil - - - grim - age

Pno.

41

f

45

S

mp we should

A

coun - try no end. to no

T

8

and to no end.

B

mp we should

Pno.

45

mp

8va (fade in/out)

decresc.

8va simile

Boat Song

49

S

sail

A

coun - try

T

and to no end. (nn)

B

sail

Pno.

(gradually close to 'oo')

pp

(gradually close to 'nn')

(gradually close to 'oo')

49

7

3 3 3 3

ppp

54

S

A

T

B

Pno.

C Swirling $\text{♩} = 55$

mp

pp

In that shore - less o - cean,

54

(speeding into the new tempo)

mp

60

S *p* ah

A

T *p* ah

B at thy si - lent - ly lis - ten - ing smile

Pno. *pp simile* *cresc.*

66

S *mf* In that shore - less o - cean, at thy si - lent - ly lis - ten - ing smile

A *mf* In that shore - less o - cean, at thy si - lent - ly lis - ten - ing smile

T *mp* (gradually close to 'nn') In that shore - less o - cean, (nn) at thy si - lent - ly lis - ten - ing

B *mp* (gradually close to 'nn') In that shoreless o - cean, (nn) at thy si - lent - ly lis - ten - ing

Pno. *pp* *mf* *cresc.*

This page has been removed from the perusal score.
To purchase this score, please go to www.ethanwattsmusic.com

Boat Song

11

81 *f* *a tempo*

S waves _____ ah! _____

A *f* free _____ as waves, free _____ as free _____ as free _____ as

T waves _____ free _____ as waves, free _____ as

B *f* free _____ as waves, free _____ as waves as

Pno.

84 *f*

S free _____ as waves, _____

A *f* waves, _____ as waves, _____

T *f* waves, _____ as waves, _____

B *f* waves, _____ free as waves, _____

Pno.

84

*poco rit.**p* *pp*

87

S free from all bon - dage of

A free from all bon - dage of

T as waves, from all bon - dage of

B free from all bon - dage of

Pno.

p *pp*

pp

4 4

D

Tempo I

S words. of words.

A words. words.

T words. words.

B words. words.

Pno.

pp *p*

93

3 3 3 3 6

8va-----

8va-----

As Before, More Subdued

Pno.

98

mf

Pno.

101

E Utterly Still 55*pp colla piano*

S

104

A

T

B

Is the time not come yet? Are there

Is the time not come yet? Are there

104

Pno.

p

Boat Song

111 *molto rubato* *mf* **F** Serene ♩ = 65

S mm, the eve - ning has come

A mm, Lo, the eve - ning has come

T works still to do? Lo, the eve - ning has come

B works still to do? Lo, the eve - ning has come

Pno. *mp*

117

S down up-on the shore and in the fad - ing light the sea - birds come flying to their

A down up-on the shore, the shore, and in the fad - ing, fad - ing light come flying to their

T down up-on the shore the shore and in the fad - ing light the sea - birds come fly - ing, come

B down up-on the shore the shore and in the fad - ing light the sea - birds come fly - ing, come

Pno. *8va*

122

S
nests. _____ Lo, _____ the

A
nests. _____ Lo, _____ the

T
fly - ing, fly - ing to their nests. the

B
fly - ing, fly - ing to their nests. the

Pno.
8va

124

S
f eve - ning has come down up - on the shore

A
f eve ning has come down up - on the shore, the

T
f eve - ning has come down up - on the shore

B
f eve - ning has come down up - on the shore

Pno.
f *espressivo* (as if improvised)

8va

127

S and in the fad - ing light the sea - birds come flying to their

A shore and in the fad - ing light the sea - birds come flying to their

T and in the fad - ing light the sea - birds come flying to their

B and in the fad - ing light the sea - birds come flying to their

(8^{va})

127

Pno.

130

S nests.

A nests.

T nests.

B nests.

8^{va}

8^{va}

8^{va}

130

Pno.

(gradually slowing down, not in sync)

The musical score is for a piece titled "Boat Song". It features four vocal parts: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B), along with a Piano (Pno.) accompaniment. The score is divided into two systems. The first system starts at measure 127 and ends at measure 130. The lyrics for the first system are: "and in the fad - ing light the sea - birds come flying to their". The second system starts at measure 130 and ends at measure 130. The lyrics for the second system are: "nests.". The Piano accompaniment in the first system features a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and sixteenth notes. In the second system, the Piano accompaniment is marked with "8va" and "gradually slowing down, not in sync".

133

Pno.

pp

p

8va

tr

3

(drag these triplets, not strict)

G

Hushed ♩ = 60

S

A

T

B

mp

p

p

mp

Who knows when the chains will be off, and the boat, like the last

the boat,

the

like the last

139

Pno.

ppp

ppp simile

8va

8va

*1/2 ped., let the trill retain resonance while the other notes fade out

143 *p* *pp* (stagger breathe)

S the boat, Who knows

A the boat, Who knows

T boat,

B glim-mer of sun-set, van-ish in-to the night?

143 *ppp* 8^{va} *ppp* 8^{va} *mf*

Pno. *cresc.*

148

S — when the chains will be off, and the boat, like —

A — when the chains will be off, and the boat, like —

T *pp* (stagger breathe)

B *mp*

and ne-ver a soul in the whole

148

Pno.

The musical score is for a song titled "Boat Song". It features four vocal parts: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B), along with a Piano (Pno.) accompaniment. The score is divided into two systems, starting at measure 143 and 148. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "the boat, Who knows", "glim-mer of sun-set, van-ish in-to the night?", "— when the chains will be off, and the boat, like —", and "and ne-ver a soul in the whole". The piano accompaniment includes various dynamics such as *p*, *pp*, *ppp*, *mf*, and *mp*, as well as performance instructions like *cresc.* and *stagger breathe*. There are also markings for *8va* (octave up) and triplets (3).

153 *mp*

S the last glim - mer of sun - set van - ish in -

A the last glim - mer of sun - set van - ish in -

T the last glim - mer of sun - set van - ish in...

B world would know of this our pil-grim-age to no coun - try and to no end.

153 *p*

Pno.

158 *pp* *rit*

S - to the night?

A - to the night?

T

B

158 *pp* *ppp*

Pno.

Not For Performance