

Three Songs

on poems by
Herman Hesse

for
Das Femmes

by
Bruce Shavers

For 3-part female chorus

Program Note for
Three Songs on poems by Herman Hesse
for Das Femmes by Bruce Shavers

These poems by Herman Hesse were written in 1911. They impress one with a great sense of foreboding, almost as if they foresee the "Great War" whose dark shadow would fall across Europe in 1914. I have carried these poems around with me since 1978 often trying to set them to music for soprano or tenor with piano or small ensemble and never quite being satisfied with the results. Finally, last year after hearing Das Femmes perform my Madrigals, which were specially arranged for them, I got the idea to have the poems translated into English and to try setting them for 3-part female chorus. Now I am happy with the result. The poems were translated by Dianna Morris Shavers in 1999 and the music was written in 2000.

Bar 44, P11
dimin. to
end pp
on the word
"Sleep"

Andante ♩ = 76-84

Evil Times

© 2000 Bruce Shavers
Böse Zeit [1911] Herman Hesse
Translation © 1999 Dianna Morris Shavers

S1
S2 *p* Mm we are *p* Mm
Alt *p* Mm Now are si - lent *p* Mm

7
S1 *mf* *p* *f* *sub.p*
S2 we are *f* *sub.p*
Alt *f* *sub.p*
Now are si - lent Now we are si - lent
Now we are si - lent Now we are si - lent

A

B

S1
S2 *p* *mp* *mp* *p*
S2 Mm no sing songs, Mm
Alt *p* *mf* *mp* *p*
Alt Mm And lon - ger sing songs, Mm

35 D

S1
hand, Our jour-ney may be long. Give me your hand, The snow,

S2
may be long. Give me hand,

Alt
may be long. Give me hand,

40

S1
Hard is the win - ter in this for - eign land.

S2
The snow! Hard is the win - ter in this land.

Alt
Hard is the win - ter in this land.

E

S1
Where is the time, When a light shone, a

S2
Mm is time, When a light

Alt
Mm Where the time, When a light

51

S1
fire_ burned for us? Give me your hand! Our jour-ney may be long.

S2
fire for us? Give me your hand!_ jour-ney may be long._

Alt
fire_ for us? Give me your hand!_ jour-ney may be

57

S1
long. Give me your hand! Our jour-ney may be long.

S2
long._ Give me your hand!_ jour-ney be long.

Alt
Give me your hand!_ jour-ney be long.

Largo $\text{♩} = 52$

How the days are heavy...

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Wie sind die Tage... [1911] Herman Hesse
Translation © 1999 Dianna Morris Shavers

S1
How days hea - vy! No fire can warm me,
S2
How the are hea - vy! No fire can warm me,
Alt
How the days are hea - vy! No fire can

5

S1
warm me, No sun can cheer me, All is emp - ty, All is
S2
warm me, No sun can cheer me, All emp - ty, All
Alt
warm me, No sun can cheer me, All emp - ty, All

9

S1
cold and mer - ci - mer - ci - less, Not e - ven the
S2
cold and mer - ci - mer - ci - less, Not e - ven the
Alt
cold and mer - ci - mer - ci - less, Not e - ven the

13

mf

S1
dear, clear stars of - fer com - fort. Since, in my heart, I have

S2
dear, clear stars of - fer com - fort. Since, in heart, I

Alt
dear, clear stars of - fer com - fort. Since, in heart, I

3/4

18

Rit.

pp

S1
learned that love can die.

S2
learned love can die.

Alt
learned love can die.

3/4

Gently flowing $\text{♩} = 60$

Mountains at Night

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Berge in der Nacht [1911] Herman Hesse
Translation © 1999 Dianna Morris Shavers

mp

S1
The lake is ex - tin - guished, Black sleeps Black sleeps the reed,
mp

S2
The lake is ex - tin - guished, Black sleeps the reed,
mp

Alt
The lake is ex - tin - guished, Black sleeps the reed,
mp

A *mp*

S1
Whis - per - ing in its Whis - per - ing in its Whis - per - ing in its
mp

S2
Whis - per - ing Whis - per - ing in its Whis - per - ing in its
mp

Alt
Whis - per - ing in its Whis - per - ing in its
mp

6 *mp* *Rit.*

S1
Whis - per - ing dreams. Whis - per - ing in its dreams.
mp

S2
Whis - per - ing in its dreams. Whis - per - ing in its dreams.
mp

Alt
Whis - per - ing Whis - per - ing in its dreams.
mp

B *a tempo*
mp

Mon-strous-ly ex-pand-ing in-to the land-scape the moun-tains threat-en.

Mon-strous-ly ex-pand-ing in-to the land-scape threat-en.

Mon-strous-ly ex-pand-ing the moun-tains threat-en.

Emphatically

12 *f* *ff* **C** *mp*

They rest not. They rest not. They breathe deep-ly, And

They rest not. They rest not. They breathe deep-ly, And

They rest not. They rest not. They breathe deep-ly, And hold each

16 *mp* *mp*

And hold each oth-er close-ly. Deep-ly breath-ing, Deep-ly breath-ing,

hold each oth-er close-ly. Deep-ly breath-ing, Deep-ly breath-ing,

oth-er close-ly. Deep-ly breath-ing, Deep-ly breath-ing,

21

p *mf*

S1
La - den with dull for - ces, In the bond-age In the

S2
p *mf*
La - den with dull for - ces, In the bond-age In the bond-age

Alt
p *mf*
La - den with dull for - ces, In the bond-age In the bond-age

25

mp

S1
bond-age of con - sum - ing pas - sion con - sum - ing pas - sion.

S2
mp
con - sum - ing con - sum - ing pas - sion.

Alt
mp
con - sum - ing pas - sion.

27

ff [D] *mp*

S1
ff They breathe deep - ly, And hold each oth - er close - ly.

S2
ff *mp*
They breathe deep - ly, And hold each oth - er close - ly.

Alt
ff *mp*
They breathe deep - ly, And hold each oth - er close - ly.

31 *mp* *Rit.* *mf*

S1: Deep - ly breath-ing, Deep - ly breath-ing, La - den with dull forc - es,

S2: Deep - ly breath - ing, Deep - ly breath - ing, Deep - ly breath - ing,

Alt: Deep - ly breath - ing, Deep - ly breath - ing, Deep - ly breath - ing, Deep - ly breath - ing,

E *a tempo* *f* *mf*

S1: La - den with dull forc - es, In the bond - age

S2: La - den with dull forc - es, In the bond - age In the bond - age

Alt: La - den with dull forc - es, In the bond - age In the

38 *mp*

S1: In the bond - age of con - sum - ing pas - sion con - sum - ing pas - sion.

S2: of con - sum - ing con - sum - ing pas - sion.

Alt: bond - age of con - sum - ing pas - sion.

40 *ff*

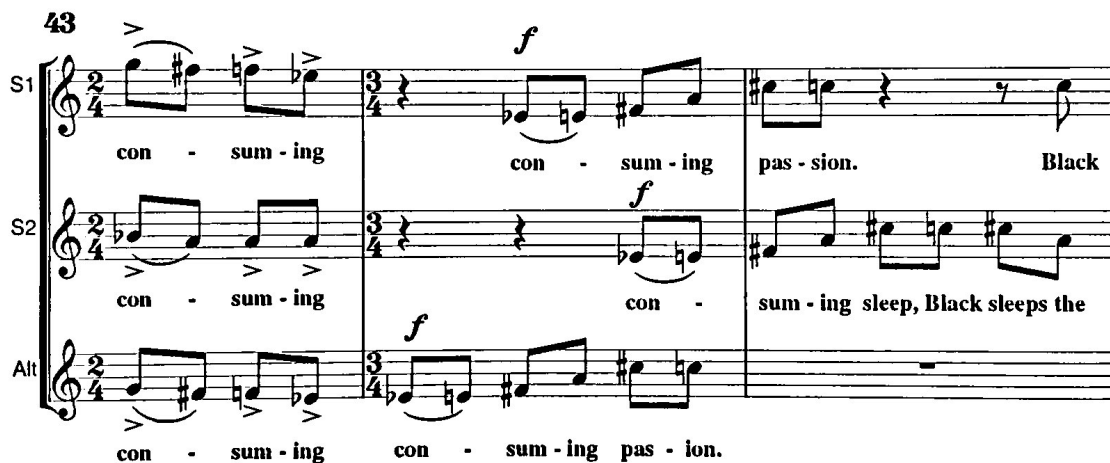


S1
La - den with dull forc - es, In the bond-age of con - sum - ing pas - sion.

S2
ff
La - den with dull forc - es, In the bond-age of con - sum - ing pas - sion.

Alt
ff
La - den with dull forc - es, In the bond-age of con - sum - ing pas - sion.

43



S1
con - sum - ing con - sum - ing pas - sion. Black

S2
con - sum - ing con - sum - ing sleep, Black sleeps the

Alt
con - sum - ing con - sum - ing pas - ion.

46 *Rit.*



S1
sleeps the reed, Aa.

S2
reed, Aa.

Alt
Black sleeps the reed, Aa.