

R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
TEN BLAKE SONGS



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Dedicated to Wilfred Brown and Janet Craxton

TEN BLAKE SONGS

FOR VOICE AND OBOE

WILLIAM BLAKE (1757-1827)

R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

1 INFANT JOY

(Tenor or Soprano)

Andante con moto

VOICE

OBOE

p

"I have no name:— I am but two days

old." What shall I call thee? "I hap-py am, Joy— is my name." Sweet joy be-

- fall thee! Pret-ty Joy! Sweet Joy, but two days

old. Sweet Joy— I call thee.— Thou dost smile, I sing— the while,

— Sweet joy be - fall thee!

Note: The oboe parts of these songs may, in case of necessity, be played on a violin or (by transposing the songs down a tone) on a B flat clarinet—but neither of these expedients is advisable. R.V.W.

2 A POISON TREE

(Tenor)

Lento ma moderato

VOICE



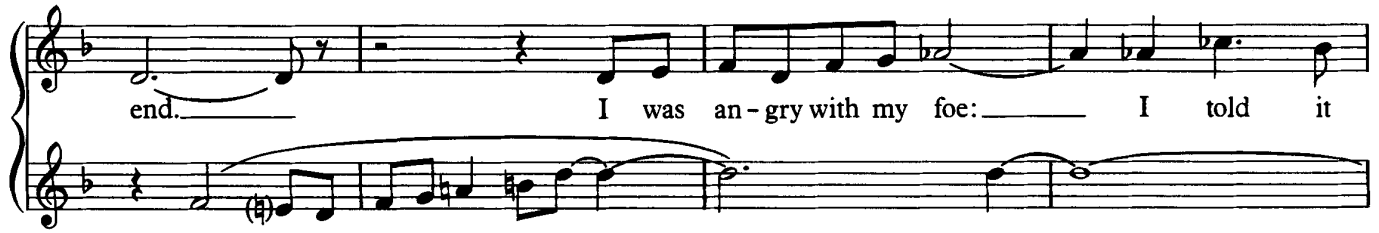
OBOE



p



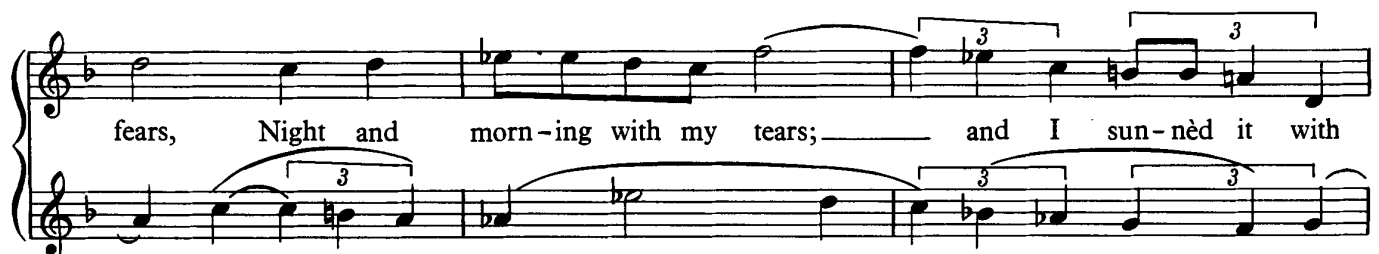
I was an-gry with my friend:_____ I told my wrath, my wrath did



end._____ I was an-gry with my foe:_____ I told it



not, my wrath did grow._____ And I wa-ter'd it in



fears, Night and morn-ing with my tears;_____ and I sun-ned it with

smiles, — And with soft de- ceit- ful wiles.

And it grew both day and night, Till it bore an ap - ple bright;-

— And my foe be-held it shine, And he knew that it was mine, —

— And in - to my gar- den stole When the night had veil'd the pole: In the

morn - ing glad I see My foe — out - stretch'd be-neath the tree.

3 THE PIPER

(Tenor or Soprano)

Allegro moderato (♩ = 63)

VOICE

OBOE

f *p*

Pip - ing down the

val - leys wild, Pip - ing songs of plea - sant glee, On a

cloud I saw a child, And he laugh - ing said to me: "Pipe a

song a - bout a Lamb." So I piped with mer - ry

cheer. "Pi - per, pipe that song a - gain;" So I

f *p*

piped: _____ he wept to hear. _____

f *p*

"Drop thy pipe, thy hap - py pipe; _____

Sing thy songs of hap - py cheer:" So I sang the same a -

- gain, While he wept with joy to hear. _____

"Pi - per, sit thee down and write - In a book, that

Largamente

all may read." So he van-ish'd from my

a tempo

sight, And I pluck'd a hol-low reed, And I

made a ru-ral pen, And I stain'd the wa-ter clear,

And I wrote my hap-py songs Ev-e-ry child may

joy to hear.

4 LONDON

OBOE TACET

(Tenor)

In free time

VOICE

I wan-der thro' each chart - er'd street Near where the chart - er'd
Thames does flow, _____ And mark in ev - e - ry face I meet
Marks of weak - ness, marks of woe. _____ In ev - e - ry cry of ev - e - ry
Man, In ev - e - ry In - fant's cry of fear, In ev - e - ry
voice, in ev - e - ry ban, _____ The mind - forg'd ma - na - cles I hear, _____
How the chim - ney sweep - er's cry Ev - e - ry black - 'ning church ap -
- pals; _____ And the hap - less sol - dier's sigh Runs in blood down pa - lace
walls. But most thro' mid - night streets I hear How the youth - ful
har - lot's curse Blasts the new - born In - fant's tear, And
blights with plagues the mar - riage hearse. _____

Note: This song may be transposed down a semitone or a tone.

5 THE LAMB

(Tenor)

Andante con moto

VOICE

Lit-tle Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?

OBOE

p

Gave thee life, and bid thee feed, By the stream and o'er the mead; Gave thee

cloth - ing of de - light, Soft - est cloth - ing wool - ly, bright; Gave thee

such a ten - der voice, Mak - ing all the vales re - joice?

Lit-tle Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?

Lit-tle Lamb, I'll tell thee, Lit-tle Lamb I'll

tell thee: He is call - èd by thy name, For He

calls Him - self a Lamb. He is meek, and He is mild:— He be -

- came a lit - tle child. I a child, and thou a lamb, We are -

call - èd by His name. Lit-tle Lamb, God bless thee!

Lit-tle Lamb, God bless thee!

pp

6 THE SHEPHERD

(Tenor or Soprano)

Allegretto (♩ = 132)

VOICE

How sweet is the Shep-herd's sweet lot! From the morn to the
eve - ning he strays; He shall fol - low his sheep all the day, And his
tongue shall be fill - - - - - èd with praise. For he
hears the lamb's in - no - cent call, And he hears the ewe's ten - der re -
- ply; He is watch - ful while they are in peace, For they
know when their Shep - - - - - herd is nigh.

Note: This song may be transposed down a semitone, a tone, or a minor third.

7 AH! SUN-FLOWER

(Tenor)

VOICE

Moderato

senza misura

Ah, Sun-flower! wea-ry of time,—

OBOE

senza misura

— Who coun-test the steps of the sun; Seek - ing af - ter that

sweet gol - den clime, Where the trav - el - ler's jour - ney is

done; Where the Youth pined a - way with de -

senza misura

- sire, And the pale Vir - gin shroud - ed in snow,

— A - rise from their graves, and as - pire — Where my Sun - flower

wish - es to go.

senza misura

8 CRUELTY HAS A HUMAN HEART

(Tenor or Soprano)

Moderato

VOICE

OBOE

f

f

Cru - - el - ty has a

hu - man heart, And Jea - - lou - sy a hu - man face;

f *f*

Ter - - - ror the hu - man form di - vine, And

f *p* *f*

Se - cre - cy the hu - man dress. The hu - man dress is forg - èd iron, The

f

hu - man form a fie - ry forge, The hu - man face a fur - nace seal'd,

f

The hu - man heart its hun - gry gorge.

p *p*

9 THE DIVINE IMAGE

(Tenor or Soprano)

Semplice

To Mer - cy, Pi - ty, Peace, and Love All pray in their dis - tress;

And to these vir - tues of de - light Re - turn their thank - ful - ness.

For Mer - cy, Pi - ty, Peace, and Love Is God, our Fa - ther dear,

And Mer - cy, Pi - ty, Peace, and Love Is man, His - child and care.

For Mer - cy has a hu - man heart, Pi - ty a hu - man face,

And Love, the hu - man form di - vine, And Peace, the hu - man dress.

Then e - ve - ry man, of e - ve - ry clime, That prays in his dis - tress,

Prays to the hu - man form di - vine, Love, Mer - cy, Pi - ty, Peace. And

all must love the hu - man form, In hea - then, Turk, or Jew;—

Where Mer - cy, Love, and Pi - ty dwell There God is dwel - ling too.

10 ETERNITY

(Tenor or Soprano)

Andante sostenuto (♩ = 66)

VOICE

OBOE

p

He who binds to him-self a Joy Doth the wing-èd life des-troy; But_

he who kiss-es the Joy as it flies Lives in E-ter - - ni-ty's sun - rise.

f

The_ look of_ love a - larms, Be -

p

- cause it's fill'd with fire; But the look of soft de - ceit Shall win the lo - ver's hire.

Soft de- ceit and i - dle - ness, These are Beau -

- ty's sweet - est dress.

ppp