

A Magic Like Thee

Perusal Score

Not for performance

AJ Harbison

This is a perusal score only.
For performance materials, please send a request to store@ajharbison.com.
Thank you for your interest in my music!

A Magic Like Thee

Text by Lord Byron

I. She Walks In Beauty

II. Stanzas For Music (There Be None of Beauty's Daughters)

for unaccompanied SATB chorus

AJ Harbison

Program Notes

A Magic Like Thee is a setting of two poems by Lord Byron, “She Walks In Beauty” and “Stanzas For Music (There Be None of Beauty’s Daughters).” It employs word painting throughout to bring to life the vivid imagery in both poems. The first movement is slower and explores the contrast of light and darkness in the text, while the second movement is more driving and uses energetic rhythms idiomatic in pop and rock music. The Singers—Minnesota Choral Artists premiered the piece on May 31, 2014, at Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Performance Notes

The divisions throughout the piece should be equal divisions of each voice part. In any passage with long held notes, the performers should stagger their breathing to make individual breaths as imperceptible as possible.

Duration

ca. 6 minutes

I. She Walks in Beauty

She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes:
Thus mellowed to that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.

One shade the more, one ray the less,
Had half impaired the nameless grace
Which waves in every raven tress,
Or softly lightens o'er her face;
Where thoughts serenely sweet express
How pure, how dear their dwelling place.

And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,
But tell of days in goodness spent,
A mind at peace with all below,
A heart whose love is innocent!

II. Stanzas For Music

(There Be None of Beauty's Daughters)

There be none of Beauty's daughters

With a magic like thee;

And like music on the waters

Is thy sweet voice to me:

When, as if its sound were causing

The charmed ocean's pausing,

The waves lie still and gleaming,

And the lull'd winds seem dreaming:

And the midnight moon is weaving

Her bright chain o'er the deep,

Whose breast is gently heaving

As an infant's asleep:

So the spirit bows before thee

To listen and adore thee;

With a full but soft emotion,

Like the swell of summer's ocean.

A Magic Like Thee

I. She Walks In Beauty

George Gordon, Lord Byron (1815)

AJ Harbison (2012)

Mysteriously, with rubato ♩ = 72

(3+2)

p *mp* *n.* *p*

Soprano
She walks in beau-ty, like the night Of cloud-less climes and star-ry

Alto
She walks in beau-ty, like the night Of cloud-less climes and star-ry

Tenor
She walks in beau-ty, like the night Of cloud-less climes and star-ry

Bass
She walks in beau-ty, like the night climes and star-ry

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY

(3+2)

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

skies; And all that's best of dark and bright Meet in her as-pect and her

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

skies; And all that's best of dark and bright Meet in her as-pect and her

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

skies; And all that's best of dark and bright Meet in her as-pect and her

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

skies; And all that's best of dark and bright Meet in her as-pect and her

8 *mp* > *pp* *mp* dolce *p* > *pp* *p* *mp* > *p* *n.*

eyes: Thus mel - lowed to that ten - der light which heav'n to gaud - y day de - nies.

eyes: Thus mel - lowed to that ten - der light which heav'n to gaud - y day de - nies.

eyes: light which heav'n to gaud - y day de - nies.

eyes: light which heav'n to gaud - y day de - nies.

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY

13 *mf* > *mp* (2+3) *mp*

one ray the less, Had half im - paired

one ray Had half im -

One shade the more, Had half im - paired im -

One shade the more, Had half im - paired the

18 *mf* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

the name - less grace Which waves which waves in eve-ry ra-ven tress, Or
paired the name - less grace Which waves
paired name - less grace Which waves
name - less grace Which waves

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY

23 *mf* *mp* *mf* *p* *p* *mf* *p* *p dolce* *p dolce*

soft - ly light - ens o'er her face;
soft - ly light - ens o'er her face; Where thoughts se-rene - ly
soft - ly light - ens o'er her face; thoughts
soft - ly light - ens o'er her face;

29

How pure, how dear their dwell - ing place. —
sweet ex - press — pure, dear dwell - ing place. —
sweet ex - press — pure, dear dwell - ing place. —
sweet ex - press — pure, dear dwell - ing place. —

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY

Slightly more movement ♩ = 78

35

And on that cheek, — and o'er that brow, — So
that cheek, that brow,
that cheek, that brow,
that cheek, that brow,

41

(3+2) (3+2) (3+2)

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

soft, so calm, yet el - o - quent, The_

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

soft, so calm, soft, so calm, yet el - o - quent, The_

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

soft, so calm, soft, yet el - o - quent,

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

soft, so calm, soft, yet el - o - quent,

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY

46

(2+3) *p* *mp* *pp* *mp* *p* *mp* *rall.*

smiles that win, the tints that glow, But tell of days in good-ness

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

smiles that win, the tints that glow, of days in good-ness

pp *mp* *p* *mp*

glow, in good - ness

pp *mp* *p*

glow, _____

♩ = 70

(3+2) (3+2)

50 *f* *p* *mf* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *pp*

spent, A mind at peace with all be - low, A

f *p* *p* *mp* *p* *pp*

spent, peace with all be - low,

f *p* *p* *mp* *p* *pp*

8 spent, peace with all be - low,

f *p* *p* *mp* *p* *pp*

spent, peace with all be - low,

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY

molto rubato

♩ = 66

♩ = 72

(staggered breaths)

55 *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

heart whose love is in - no - cent! There be

(staggered breaths)

p *mp* *n.*

is in-no-cent!

(staggered breaths)

p *mp* *n.*

is in-no-cent!

p *mp* *n.*

is in - no - cent!

attacca

II. Stanzas For Music (There Be None of Beauty's Daughters)

With movement ♩ = 72

none of Beau-ty's daugh-ters With a mag-ic like thee;_ And like
None of Beau-ty's daugh-ters_ with mag-ic_ like thee; and_
None of Beau-ty's daugh-ters_ with mag-ic_ like thee; and_
None of Beau-ty's daugh-ters_ with mag-ic_ like thee; and_

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY

3
mu-sic on the wa-ters Is thy sweet voice to me:_ When, as if its_ sound were caus-ing
mu-sic on_ the wat-ers_ is thy voice to me: if its_ sound were caus-ing
mu-sic on_ the wat-ers_ is thy voice to me: if its sound were
mu-sic on_ the wat-ers_ is thy voice to me: if its sound were

(2+3)

6 *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* *mp* *pp*
The charm-ed o - cean's paus-ing,
mp *p* *mp* *mf* *mp* *p*
The charm-ed o - cean's pause paus - ing, The waves lie still and
8 *mf* *pp*
caus-ing The charm - ed o - cean's paus - ing,
<mf> *mp* *mf* *pp* *pp* *p* *p*
caus - ing charm - ed o - cean's paus - ing, waves lie

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY

10 *p* *pp* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *n.* *p*
gleam - ing seem dream - ing dream - ing dream - ing: - And the
mp *pp* *mp* *p* *mp* *n.*
gleam - ing And the lull'd winds dream - ing dream - ing: -
8 *p* *pp* *p* *mp* *p* *n.*
gleam - ing lull'd winds dream - ing: -
pp *n.* *p* *mp* *p* *n.*
gleam - ing lull'd winds dream - ing: -

15

mid - night moon is weav - ing bright chain bright chain

mid - night moon weav - ing bright chain bright chain

mid - night moon weav - ing Her bright chain her bright chain

mid - night moon weav - ing bright chain bright chain o'er__

Dynamics: *p*, *mp*, *f*, *mf*, *p*, *f*, *p*, *mp*, *p*, *mf*, *f*, *p*, *mp*, *p*, *mf*, *f*, *p*

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY

20

Whose breast___ is___ whose breast is___ gen - tly heav - ing

whose breast is___ gen - tly heav - ing

o'er the deep___ is___

the deep___

Dynamics: *p*, *mp*, *p*, *p*, *mp*, *p*, *mp*, *p*

23



heav - ing heav - ing as an in - fant's a - sleep.

heav - ing heav - ing a - sleep. So the

heav - ing heav - ing a - sleep.

heav - ing a - sleep.

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY

28



spir - it bows be - fore thee. To lis - ten and a - dore thee;

spir - it bows be - fore thee lis - ten and a -

spir - it bows be - fore thee lis - ten and a -

(2+3)

31

With a full but soft_ e - mo - tion Like the
full but soft_ but soft Like the swell
dore thee; full but soft_ but soft Like the swell
dore thee; full but soft_ but soft Like the swell

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY

(2+3)

35

swell_ like the_ swell of sum - mer's sum - mer's_ o -
like the swell_ swell_ of sum - mer's
swell like the swell of sum - mer's
swell swell like the swell sum - mer's

40 *n.* *mf* *f* *ff* *n.* (staggered breaths)

cean sum - mer's o - cean.

mp *f* *ff* *n.* (staggered breaths)

sum - mer's o - cean.

p *f* *ff* *n.* (staggered breaths)

swell of o - cean.

p *f* *ff* *n.* (staggered breaths)

like the o - cean.

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