

Two Homer Sonnets

(Keats)

On First Looking Into Chapman's Homer

To Homer

John Kilpatrick

for unaccompanied singers

SATB (4-part)

revised edition (2020)

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and performances given at will.

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To Trish

TWO HOMER SONNETS

words: John Keats music: John Kilpatrick

The pieces may be sung individually, or in sequence as a pair.

1. ON FIRST LOOKING INTO CHAPMAN'S HOMER (1815) – p. 1

Much have I travell'd in the realms of gold,
And many goodly states and kingdoms seen;
Round many western islands have I been
Which bards in fealty to Apollo hold.
Oft of one wide expanse had I been told
That deep-brow'd Homer ruled as his demesne;
Yet did I never breathe its pure serene
Till I heard Chapman speak out loud and bold:
Then felt I like some watcher of the skies
When a new planet swims into his ken;
Or like stout Cortez when with eagle eyes
He star'd at the Pacific - and all his men
Look'd at each other with a wild surmise -
Silent, upon a peak in Darien.

*In the above sonnet Keats confused Cortez with Balboa.
Balboa saw the Pacific, while Cortez's find was Mexico City.*

2. TO HOMER (1818) – p. 7

Standing aloof in giant ignorance,
Of thee I hear and of the Cyclades,
As one who sits ashore and longs perchance
To visit dolphin-coral in deep seas.
So thou wast blind; - but then the veil was rent,
For Jove uncurtain'd Heaven to let thee live,
And Neptune made for thee a spumy tent,
And Pan made sing for thee his forest-hive;
Aye on the shores of darkness there is light,
And precipices show untrodden green;
There is a budding morrow in midnight;
There is a triple sight in blindness keen;
Such seeing hadst thou as it once befel
To Dian, Queen of Earth, and Heaven, and Hell.

*In the first piece nouns which start with a letter corresponding to a note in the musical scale
(German style, A-H) feature a chord of that note; Balboa is allowed a place in Cortez's chord.
In the second piece similar thinking is less strictly applied.*

Pronunciation:

Demesne: to rhyme with serene

Cyclades: sick-lad-ease

Aye (ever): to rhyme with day, not with sky

History: 2003 SATB div.
2005 SATB 4-part; set in Overture 4
This edition 2020 SATB 4-part (revised); set in MuseScore 3
Outer sheets set in OpenOffice; the whole assembled using combinepdf.com

These settings may be freely copied and performed.
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1. On First Looking Into Chapman's Homer

SATB

John Keats

John Kilpatrick

Moderato (♩ = 72)

mp *f*

S Much have I tra - vell'd in the realms, the realms of gold,

mp *f*

A Much have I tra - vell'd in the realms, the realms of gold,

mp *f* *mf*

T Much have I tra - vell'd in the realms, the realms of gold, And

mp *f*

B Much have I tra - vell'd in the realms, the realms of gold,

for rehearsal *mp* *f*

piano

4 *mf*

And ma - ny good - ly states and king - doms seen;

mf

And ma - ny good - ly states and king - doms seen;

mf

ma - ny good - ly states and ma - ny good - ly states and king - doms seen

mf

And ma - ny good - ly states and king - doms seen;

6

Round ma-ny west - ern is - lands have I been Which bards seen; Round ma-ny west - ern is - lands have I been Which bards

9

bards in feal - ty to A - pol - lo hold. Oft of one wide ex -

12

— ex - pane — had I been told That deep-brow'd Ho - mer ruled_

pane — had I been told That deep-brow'd Ho - mer ruled_

pane — had I been told That deep-brow'd Ho - mer ruled_

pane had I, — had I been told That deep-brow'd Ho - mer ruled_

mp ————— *f*

mp ————— *f*

mp ————— *f*

mp ————— *f*

mp ————— *f*

mp ————— *f*

15

— as his de-mesne; Yet did I ne - ver breathe its pure se -

— as his de-mesne; Yet did I ne - ver breathe its pure se - rene_

— as his de-mesne; Yet did I ne - ver breathe its pure se - rene,

— as his de-mesne; Yet did I ne - ver breathe its pure se -

p

p

p

p

p

p

rene Till I heard Chap-man speak out loud and bold:

Till I heard Chap-man speak out loud and bold:

its pure se-rene Till I heard Chap-man speak out loud, loud and bold:

rene Till I heard Chap-man speak out loud and bold, loud and bold:

mp Then felt I like some watch-er, some watch-er of the skies

mp Then felt I like some watch-er, some watch-er of the skies

mp Then felt I like some watch-er, some watch-er of the skies

mp Then felt I like some watch-er, some watch-er of the skies

25

When a new pla - net swims in - to his
 When a new pla - net swims, swims in - to his
 When a new pla - net, a new pla - net swims
 When a new pla - net, a new pla - net swims

27

ken; Or like stout Cor - tez when with ea - gle eyes He star'd,
 ken; Or like stout Cor - tez when with ea - gle eyes He star'd,
 in - to his ken; Or like stout Cor - tez when with ea - gle eyes He star'd, he
 in - to his ken; Or like stout Cor - tez when with ea - gle eyes He star'd

— star'd at the Pa-ci - fic: Look'd at each oth - er with a
 — star'd at the Pa-ci - fic: Look'd at each oth - er with a
 S star'd at the Pa-ci - fic: and all his men Look'd at each oth - er with a
 — at the Pa-ci - fic: and all his men Look'd at each oth - er with a

wild sur - mise Sil - ent, up-on a peak in Da - ri - en.
 wild sur - mise Sil - ent, Sil - ent, up-on a peak in Dar - ri - en.
 S wild sur - mise Sil - ent, up-on a peak in Da - ri - en.
 wild sur - mise Sil - ent, up-on a peak in Da - ri - en.

2. To Homer

SATB

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Allegro moderato ♩ = 108

mf

S Stand ing a - loof, in gi - ant ign - or - ance, Of thee I hear

mf

A Stand ing a - loof in gi - ant ign - or - ance, Of thee I

mf

T Stand ing, a - loof in gi - ant ign - or - ance, Of thee I

mf

B Stand ing, a - loof in gi - ant ign - or - ance, Of thee I

for rehearsal

piano *mf*

6 *f* and of the Cy - clad-es, As one who *mp*

hear and of the Cy - clad - es, As one who *mp*

8 hear and of the Cy-clad-es, As one, as one who *mp*

hear and of the Cy - clad - es, As one who *mp*

sits a-shore and longs per - chance To vi - sit dol - phin - co - ral in

sits a-shore and longs per - chance To vi - sit dol - phin - co - ral in

sits a-shore and longs per - chance To vi - sit dol - phin - co - ral in

sits a - shore and longs per - chance To vi - sit dol - phin - co - ral in

deep seas. So thou wast blind; but then the

deep seas. So thou wast blind; but then the

deep seas. So thou wast blind; but then the

deep seas. So thou wast blind; but then the

deep seas. So thou wast blind; but then the

p *ff* *mf*

p *ff* *mf*

p *ff* *mf*

p *ff* *mf*

p *ff* *mf*

18

veil was rent, For Jove un - cur - tain'd Hea -
 veil was rent, For Jove un - cur - tain'd
 veil was rent, For Jove un - cur - tain'd
 veil was rent, For Jove un - cur - tain'd
 veil was rent, For Jove un - cur - tain'd

20

- ven to let thee live, And Nep - tune made for thee a
 Hea - ven to let thee live, And Nep - tune made for thee a
 Hea - ven to let thee live, And Nep - tune
 Hea - ven to let thee live, And Nep - tune
 Hea - ven to let thee live, And Nep - tune

spu - - my tent, And Pan made sing for thee his for - est - hive;

spu - - my tent, And Pan made sing for thee his for - est - hive;

s made for thee a tent, And Pan made sing for thee his for - est - hive;

made for thee a tent, And Pan made sing for thee his for - est - hive;

mp Aye on the shores of dark - ness there is light, And *f*

mp Aye on the shores of dark - ness there is light, And *f*

mp Aye on the shores of dark - ness there is light, *f*

mp Aye on the shores of dark - ness there is light, And pre - *f*

32

pre - ci - pi - ces show un - trod - den green,
 pre - ci - pi - ces show un - trod - den green,
 And pre - ci - pi - ces show un - trod - den green, There is a bud - ding mor - row_
 - ci - pi - ces show un - trod - den green, There is a bud - ding mor - row_

36

blind - ness keen;
 There is a tri - ple sight in blind - ness keen;
 in mid - night, There is a tri - ple sight in blind - ness keen;
 in mid - night, There is a tri - ple sight in blind - ness keen;

42

Maestoso ♩ = 96

mf

Such see-ing hadst thou, as it once be - fel To Di - an, Queen. of

mf

Such see-ing hadst thou, as it once be - fel To Di - an, Queen. of

mf

Such see-ing hadst thou, as it once be - fel To Di - an, Queen. of

mf

Such see-ing hadst thou, as it once be - fel To Di - an, Queen. of

mf

Such see-ing hadst thou, as it once be - fel To Di - an, Queen. of

46

f *ff* *p*

earth, and Hea - ven, and Hell.

f *ff* *p*

earth, and Hea - ven, and Hell.

f *ff* *p*

earth, and Hea - ven, and Hell.

f *ff* *p*

earth, and Hea - ven, and Hell.

f *ff* *p*

John Kilpatrick was formerly a singer (treble then bass/tenor) but more recently has been a player of clarinet, saxophone and trombone/sackbut, as well as an occasional composer and arranger of choral and wind music. He had a career in industry, and is now retired and living in Sheffield, UK

Also by John Kilpatrick, available on www.johnkilpatrick.co.uk

With words by Edward Lear

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