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THE TWO COFFINS

(2011)

FOR TENOR & GRAND PIANO

KYLE GULLINGS



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The Two Coffins

(2011)

*This composition is dedicated to my friend and colleague
Dr. Timothy Marshall Ballard, who gave its premiere in 2011.*

Text from: *Songs and Other Verse* (1896)

"The Two Coffins"

by Eugene Field

Accessed at Project Gutenberg, 06/06/2011

<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/9889>

In yonder old cathedral
Two lovely coffins lie;
In one, the head of the state lies dead,
And a singer sleeps hard by.

The castle walls are falling
And war distracts the land,
But the sword leaps not from that mildewed spot
There in that dead king's hand.

Once had that King great power
And proudly ruled the land--
His crown e'en now is on his brow
And his sword is in his hand.

But with every grace of nature
There seems to float along--
To cheer again the hearts of men
The singer's deathless song.

How sweetly sleeps the singer
With calmly folded eyes,
And on the breast of the bard at rest
The harp that he sounded lies.

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gullings@gmail.com

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While this project ends October 15, 2011, future performances of this and other CC21 works are encouraged!

~Kyle Gullings, 2011

The Two Coffins

(2011)

Eugene Field

Kyle Gullings

Harp Music

Slow and Free

The musical score is divided into three systems. The first system is for Harp Music, featuring a Tenor voice and a Piano accompaniment. The Tenor part is marked 'Slow and Free' and includes the instruction '(plucked)'. The Piano part is marked with dynamics *ff*, *mf*, *ff*, and *mf*. A pedal instruction reads 'Ped. (no change until [D].)'. The second system is for Piano, marked 'Bells ringing (normal, not plucked)' and 'poco a poco accell.'. The dynamics range from *ff* to *mp*. The third system is also for Piano, marked '(accell.)' and 'Repeat until [B.]'. A tempo change to 'Larghetto' is indicated with a quarter note equal to 66 (♩ = 66). The dynamics are marked *mp*.

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The Two Coffins

Adagio ♩ = 76

Not in time with piano

A rubato, distant

mp

In yon-der old ca - thed - ral _____ Two lov'-ly cof-fins lie; _____

A (Continue repeating)

Not in time with voice

Pno.

molto rit. -----

In one, the_ head of the state lies dead, _____ And a sing-er sleeps hard

Pno.

by.

B

♩ = 66 *accel.* -----

B

8va -----

Pno.

Andante, heavy ♩ = 88

In time with voice

mf (♩=♪)

4

Once had that king great pow - er

Andante, heavy ♩ = 88

In time with piano

(♩=♪)

Pno.

4

8

proud - ly ruled the land.

His

R.H. *pp* \longleftarrow \longrightarrow *mf*

Pno.

8

12

crown ev'n now is on his brow

And his sword, his

Pno.

12

16 (♩=♩)

8 sword, _____ is in his hand. _____

Pno. *pp*

Harp Music

20 *non rit.* C **Slow and Free**

8 *ff* *non rit.* C **Slow and Free** (plucked) *f*

Pno.

8vb - - - - -

legatissimo

8 How sweet - ly sleeps the sing - er With calm - ly fold - ed eyes,

Pno. *mp* *f* *mp*

8vb - - - - -

8

And on the breast of the bard at rest The harp that he

Pno.

f *mp* *f* *mp*

Repeat sim. Repeat sim.

8vb - -'

8

sound-ed lies. _____ Ah _____

Pno.

f *mp*

Repeat sim.

(let ring)

8vb - -'

Ped. off!

D **Frenetic, Violent** ♩ = 132
In time with piano *f*

22

8

The cas - tle walls are fall - - -

D **Frenetic, Violent** ♩ = 132
In time with voice (normal, not plucked)

Pno.

f *staccatissimo* *sim.*

26

ing _____ And war dis -

Pno. _____ *sim.* _____

30

tracts the land, _____

Pno. _____

34

But the sword, _____ the ____

Pno. _____ *sim.* _____

38 *ff*

sword, the sword

Pno.

42

leaps not from that mil - - - dew'd

Pno.

46

spot

Pno.

Harp Music Slow and Free

E **Freely** half-spoken *mp*

There in that dead king's hand.

E *ff* *mp* *ff* (plucked)

Ped. (no change through end.)

But with ev' - ry grace of na - ture

There seems to float a-long,

Repeat as needed, 2-5 times. *mp*

Repeat sim. *f* *mp*

Ped. *8vb*

To cheer a-gain the hearts of men The sing-er's death - less song.

Pno. *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *8vb*

Repeat sim. Repeat sim.

Detailed description: This system contains the first two measures of the piece. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature. The lyrics are "To cheer a-gain the hearts of men" and "The sing-er's death - less song." The piano accompaniment is in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The first measure starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic, followed by a piano (*mp*) section enclosed in a box labeled "Repeat sim.". The second measure also starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic, followed by another piano (*mp*) section in a box labeled "Repeat sim.". A *8vb* marking is present in the bass clef of the second measure.

Ah Ah

Pno. *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *8vb*

Repeat sim. Repeat sim.

Detailed description: This system contains the third and fourth measures. The vocal line has a long note with a fermata, labeled "Ah". The piano accompaniment follows the same pattern as the first system, with a forte (*f*) dynamic followed by a piano (*mp*) section in a box labeled "Repeat sim." in both measures. A *8vb* marking is present in the bass clef of the fourth measure.

Ah

Pno. *f* *mp* *pp* (let ring)

Repeat sim.

Detailed description: This system contains the fifth measure. The vocal line has a long note with a fermata, labeled "Ah". The piano accompaniment starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic, followed by a piano (*mp*) section in a box labeled "Repeat sim.", which then fades to a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic. The instruction "(let ring)" is written above the final notes of the piano part.

Let Ped. ring for some time. END.