

Nick Chamberlain

From A Railway Carriage

for SATB chorus (with divisions) and piano

From A Railway Carriage

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

Faster than fairies, faster than witches,
 Bridges and houses, hedges and ditches;
 And charging along like troops in a battle,
 All through the meadows the horses and cattle;
 All of the sights of the hill and the plain,
 Fly as thick as driving rain;
 And ever again, in the wink of an eye,
 Painted stations whistle by.

Here is a child who clambers and scrambles,
 All by himself and gathering brambles;
 Here is a tramp who stands and gazes;
 And there is the green for stringing the daisies!
 Here is a cart run away in the road
 Lumping along with man and load;
 And here is a mill and there is a river:
 Each a glimpse and gone for ever!

From A Railway Carriage

for SATB chorus (with divisions) and piano

The piece is a setting of the Scottish poet Robert Louis Stevenson's 'From A Railway Carriage'. The single movement work describes a series of fleeting moments as witnessed from a railway carriage speeding through the countryside. The whimsical nature of Stevenson's poem conveys a sense of wonder, perhaps a child's first train journey, taking in views of rolling countryside, village life or stations whistling by. With the lilting rhythmic backdrop of the motion of the train, fast busy music alternates with slower reflective sections evoking scenes that are merely glimpsed then gone forever.

Nick Chamberlain

This work was developed for Glasgow Lyric Choir as part of the Adopt-a-Composer scheme, funded by the PRSF and run by Sound and Music in association with Making Music.

Performance Notes

GENERAL

There is considerable flexibility in the tempi; the metronome markings are merely suggestions.

Because of the rhythmic lilt within the piece, the words need to be clearly articulated, generally crisp and light.

Hairpins without specific dynamic markings are to suggest expression or shaping within the overall dynamic. Please make the most of these as I like the idea that the piece is “breathing” or pulsing.

The textural glissandi are intended to represent a train whistle. Again please enjoy these moments allowing them to come out of the texture as would a train whistle.

The whispering should be pure whispering with no pitch.

Piano pedalling is at the discretion of the pianist.

INTRODUCTION. Serene

This section provides a reference point for various allargando sections in the piece. These sections should be rich and full in tone.

LETTER A, B, C, D. Faster than Fairies...Child-like Wonder

These sections are very physical, bringing to mind the energy of childhood. The rhythms should “bounce” along with the glissandi being “pushed up” with gusto.

LETTER E, F, G. Dark and Windswept

These sections have a darker feel. Bars 96 – 100 serve as a sort of pedal, crescendoing like a gathering storm towards LETTER F which should be strong and loud. Bars 115 onwards are dense with canons and counterpoint, again intending to evoke the swirl of wind and rain. Here again the hairpin dynamics should be contrasty, contributing to the drama of the section.

LETTER H. Calm After The Storm

There should be a sense of sudden calm here as if sunlight breaking through cloud. This section evokes the opening and calms the mood for the next child-like section.

LETTER I, K, L. Child-like and Playful

This section is intended to be relaxed, free and easy. I have tried to capture the glimpsed scenes with the sudden allargando sections. At LETTER J the playful mood is interrupted by the image of the tramp standing and gazing. This brings back the opening reflective idea. From then onwards the texture should be as light and delicate as daisy chains. At letter L the pace gathers momentum towards Letter M which reprises the main theme, this time slightly slower.

LETTER O. The Mill and Flowing River

At this point the tempo slows and there is a summary of the opening ideas with repeating tunes. The train is disappearing from sight.

DURATION: circa 10 minutes

From A Railway Carriage

Serene ♩ = 58 - 65

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

Piano

In the wink of an eye

In the wink of an eye

In the wink of an eye

In the wink of an eye

mp *mf* *p*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

5

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pf.

In the wink of an eye

In the wink of an eye

In the wink of an eye

In the wink of an eye

mp *mf* *p*

Ped. Ped.

10 *mf mp*, *pp mp pp*

S. Wink! And ev - er and ev - er a - gain Paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle by,

A. Wink! And ev - er a - gain Paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle by,

T. Wink! And ev - er a - gain Paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle by,

B. Wink! And ev - er a - gain Paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle by,

Pf. *mf mp pp mp*

16 *p mf mp*

S. paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle by paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle

A. paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle by paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle

T. paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle by paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle

B. paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle by paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle

Pf. *p mf mp*

19 *f mp mf* **Allarg** **A tempo poco accel.**

S. by, - - - whi - stle by. Paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle

A. by, - - - whi - stle by. Paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle

T. by, - - - whi - stle by. Paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle by

B. by, - - - whi - stle by. Paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle by

Pf. *f mp mf*

24 *p* Whispering

S. by Fas-ter than fair - ies, fas - ter than wit - ches

A. by Fas-ter than fair - ies, fas - ter than wit - ches

T.

B.

(Faster than fairies...) ♩. = 115 - 125

Pf. *mf*

27

S. *mf* *gliss.* Fas - ter, fas-ter than

A. *mf* *gliss.* Fas - ter, fas-ter than

T. *p* Whispering *mf* *gliss.* Fas - ter, fas-ter than

B. *p* Whispering *mf* *gliss.* Fas - ter, fas-ter than

Pf. *pp* *mf*

A

30

S. *gliss.* fai - - - ries. Whi - - - stle

A. *gliss.* fai - ies Fas - ter whi - - - stle

T. *gliss.* Paint - ed stat - ions whi - - - stle

B. *gliss.* Paint - ed stat - ions whi - stle

Pf. *mf*

33

(Whispering, no pitch)

norm. *gliss.*

S. by Chuc-ka-ta shoo Fas - ter, fas-ter than

A. by Chuc-ka - ta shoo (Whispering, no pitch) Fas - ster, fas-ter than

T. by Chuc-ka - ta shoo (Whispering, no pitch) Fas - ter_

B. by Chuc-ka - ta shoo Fas - ter_

Pf.

36

S. wit - - - ches Fas ster,

A. wit - - ches Paint - ed sta - tions whi - - stle

T. Paint - ed sta - tions whi - -

B. Paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle

Pf.

39

B *f*

S. Fas-ter than fai - ries

A. by Fas-ter than wit - ches

T. stle by *gliss.* Fas-ter than fai - ries

B. by Fas-ter than wit -

Pf.

42

S. *mf*
Brid-ges and hou - ses fast - - - -

A. *mf*
Brid-ges and hou - ses, hed-ges and dit - - - ches fas - - - ter

T. *mf*
Brid-ges and hou - - - ses fas - - - ter

B. *mf*
- ches Brid-ges and hou - ses, hed-ges and dit - ches fast - - - -

Pf. *mf*

45

S. *f* *mf*
- - - ter, fas - - - ter, fas - ter,

A. *f* *mf*
fas - ter, fas - ter, fas - - - ter, fas - ter,

T. *f* *mf*
fas - ter, fas - ter, fas - - - ter, fas - ter,

B. *f* *mf*
ter fas - - - - - - - - - ter, fas - ter,

Pf. *f* *mf*

48

S. *p*
fast - - - - - - - - - ter, fast - - - - -

A. *p*
fas - - - ter, fas-ter than fai - ries, fas-ter than wit - ches, fas - ter, fas - ter,

T. *p*
fas - - - ter, fas-ter than fai - ries, fas-ter than wit - ches, fas - ter, fas - ter,

B. *p*
fas - - - - - - - - - ter, fas - - - - -

Pf. *p*

51 *mf* *mp* *f*

S. - - - ter, Fas - ter

A. *mf* *mp* *f* *p*
Brid-ges and hou - ses, hed-gesa nd dit - ches, Fas - ter

T. *mf* *mp* *f* *p*
Brid-ges and hou - ses, hed-gesa nd dit - ches, Fas - ter

B. *mf* *mp* *f* *p*
- - - ter Fas - ter

Pf. *mf* *mp*

54 *p* *mf* *mf*

S. Char - ging a - long

A. *mf*
Paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle by

T. *mf*
Paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle by

B. *mf*
Paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle by

Pf. *mf*

57 *gliss.* *gliss.*

S. Char - - - - - ging

A. *gliss.*
Char - ging a - long

T. *gliss.*
Char - ging a - long like

B. Char - - - - - ging Char - ging a - long

Pf.

60 *mp*

S. Char - ging a - long like troops like

A. Char - ging a - long like troops like

T. troops, like troops Char - ging a - long

B. like troops Char - ging a - long

Pf. *mp*

63 **D** *f*

S. troops Char - ging a - long like troops in a bat - tle

A. troops Char - ging a - long like troops

T. like troops

B. like troops

Pf. *f*

69 *mf* *mp*

S. all through the mea - dows the hor - ses and cat - tle, the

A. bat - tle all through the

T. bat - tle bat - tle bat - tle

B. Char - ging, char - ging a - long like

Pf. *mf* *mp*

76

S. meadows the meadows meadows, meadows, in the *mp*

A. meadows, the meadows, meadows, in the *mp*

T. *mf* all through the meadows the horses and cat-tle, the *mp*

B. *mf* troops all through the meadows the horses and cat-tle, all through the meadows, the *mp*

Pf. *mf* *mp*

83

S. wink of an eye, wink in the wink of an

A. wink of an eye, the wink of an eye, the wink of an

T. wink wink of an eye, wink of an eye,

B. meadows Paint-ed sta-tions whi-stle *mp*

Pf.

88

S. eye, whi-stle by *p*

A. eye *p*

T. Paint-ed sta-tions whi-stle by *p*

B. by whi-stle by *p*

Pf. *p*

E **Meno mosso** (the gusting wind...) ♩. = 96 - 110

93

S. *mp* All of the sights

A. *mp* All of the sights *gliss.*

T. 8

B. *p* All of the sights, the sights of the hill and the plain

Pf.

97

S. *mp* Fas - ter All of the sights (stagger breathing) *cresc.*

A. *mp* All of the sights Fas - ter *gliss.*

T. *mp* All of the sights Fas - ter

B. *mp* All of the sights *gliss.*

Pf.

100

S. *f* All of the sights of the hill and the plain **Allarg** **F**

A. *f* All of the sights of the hill and the plain **Allarg** **F**

T. *f* All of the sights of the hill and the plain **Allarg** **F**

B. *f* All of the sights of the hill and the plain **Allarg** **F**

Pf. *cresc.* *f*

9

105 *f* *mp* *f dim.* *mp*

S. dri - ving rain fly as thick as dri-ving rain dri - ving

A. *mp* *f* *mp* *f dim.* *mp*
fly as thick as dri-ving rain fly as thick as dri-ving rain dri - ving

T. *mp* *f* *mp* *f dim.* *mp*
fly as thick as dri-ving rain fly as thick as dri-ving rain dri - ving

B. *mp* *f* *f dim.* *mp*
fly as thick as dri-ving rain, driv - ing rain dri - ving

Pf. *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f dim.* *mp*

10

113 *p* *mp* *mp*

S. rain All of the sights of the hill and the plain

A. *p* *mp*
rain All of the sights of the

T. *p* *mp*
rain All of the

B. *p*
rain

Pf. *p* *mp*

A tempo (dark and windswept...)

G *f*

♩ = 96

117

S. fly as thick as dri - ving rain,

A. hill and the plain fly as thick as

T. sights of the hill and the plain

B. *mp*
All of the sights of the hill and the plain

Pf.

120 *f*

S. rain, dri - - ving, dri - - ving,

A. dri - ving rain dri - - ving, *f* dri - - ving

T. fly as thick as dri - ving rain. *f* In the wink of an

B. fly as thick as dri - ving rain

Pf. *f*

123

S. rain Paint - ed sta - tions whi - - stle

A. rain wink Paint - ed sta - tions fly as thick as dri - ving rain

T. eye, in the wink of an eye *gliss.*

B. in the wink of an eye, fly as thick as dri - ving rain

Pf.

126 *mf*

S. by, paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle by *gliss.*

A. *mf* Paint - ed sta - tions

T. *mf* paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle by

B. *mf* whi - stle by *gliss.*

Pf. *mf*

129

S. Paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle by

A. whi - - stle by Paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle

T. fly as thick as dri - ving rain Fly, Fly, fly as thick as dri - ving

B. fly as thick as dri - ving rain Fly as

Pf.

132

S. Whi - stle by rain

A. by rain, rain rain

T. rain fly as thick as dri - ving rain, rain fly as thick as dri - ving

B. thick fly as thick as dri - ving rain, rain fly as thick as dri - ving

Pf.

136

S. fly as thick as dri - ving rain Fly thick as dri - ving rain

A. fly as thick as dri - ving rain Fly, thick as dri - ving rain

T. rain fly as thick as dri - ving rain fly as thick as dri - ving rain

B. rain fly as thick as dri - ving rain fly as thick as dri - ving rain fly as thick as

Pf.

141 *mf*

S. fly as thick as dri - ving rain, dri - ving rain

A. *mf* fly as thick as dri - ving rain fly as thick as dri - ving rain

T. *mf* fly as thick as dri - ving rain, dri - ving ra - in fly as thick as dri - ving rain,

B. dri - ving rain, dri - ving rain fly as thick as dri - ving rain

Pf. *mf*

Subito A tempo ♩ = 96 - 110

144 *f*

S. All of the sights of the Hill and plain

A. All of the sights of the hill

T. All of the sights of the hill All of the sights of the plain

B. All of the sights of the hill All of the sights of the plain

Pf. *f*

Subito A tempo ♩ = 96 - 110

H Serene

149 *mp* *p*

S. Dri - ving rain dri - ving rain

A. *mf* Hill and plain

T. *mf* *mp* Dri - ving rain Dri - ving rain

B.

Pf. *mf* *mp* *p* (wind chimes...)

155 *P* (calm after the storm...)

S. And ev - er a - gain in the wink of an eye

A. in the wink of an eye

T. *PP* (a distant echo) Dri - ving rain

B. *P* And ev - er a - gain

Pf.

159

S. Paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle

A. *mf* Paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle by

T. Paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle by

B. Paint - ed sta - tions whi - stle by

Pf.

I *Meno mosso* ♩ = 72 - 85 (child-like and playful...)

163

S. by

A.

T. *mf*

B. *mf*

Pf. *mf* (child-like and playful...) *Meno mosso* ♩ = 72 - 85 (music box)

167 *mf*

S. Here is a child _____ Here is a child _____ all

A. _____

T. _____

B. _____

Pf. _____

170 *mp*

S. by him self _____ Here is a child who clam - bers _____

A. *mf* Here is a child who clam-bers and scam-bles _____

T. *mp* Here is a child who clam - bers _____

B. *mp* Here _____

Pf. _____

174 *p* **J** Allarg (*standing and gazing...*) *mf*

S. _____ and scam - bles _____ Here is a tramp who stands _____ and

A. *mf* all by him-self _____ and ga-ther-ing bram-bles _____ Here is a tramp who stands _____ and

T. *mp* _____ and here _____ is a child _____ Here is a tramp who stands _____ and

B. *mp* (either higher or lower octave) Here is a child _____ Here _____ stands _____ and

Pf. *mp* **J** Allarg (*standing and gazing...*) *mf*

179 *p* ga - zes stands and ga - zes *mp* Here is the green, the

A. *p* ga - zes Stands and ga - zes *mp* Here is the

T. *p* ga - zes Ah - Stands and ga - zes *mp* Here is the green, the

B. *p* ga - zes Stands, Stands and ga - zes *mp* Here is the

Pf. *p* *mp*

K A tempo ♩ = 72 - 85 (stringing daisy chains...)

186 *mf* *p* green, the green for string-ing the dai - sies, string ing the dai - sies,

A. *mf* *p* green, the green, the green string-ing the dai - sies, dai -

T. *mf* *p* green the green

B. *mf* *p* green, the green, the green

Pf. *mf* *p* *mp*

K A tempo ♩ = 72 - 85 (stringing daisy chains...)

191 *mf* string-ing the dai - sies, string-ing the dai - sies, dai - sies, dai - sies, dai - sies

A. *mf* sies, string-ing the dai - sies, dai - sies, string-ing the dai - sies, dai - sies, dai - sies, dai -

T. *mp* *mf* string-ing the dai - sies, string-ing the dai - sies, dai - sies, dai - sies,

B. *mp* string-ing the dai - sies, dai - sies, string-ing the dai - sies, dai -

Pf. *mf*

194 *p*

S. dai - sies, dai - sies, dai - sies

A. sies dai - sies, dai - sies

T. dai - sies dai - sies, dai - sies, dai - sies

B. sies, dai - sies dai - sies

Pf. *p*

197 *mf*

S. string-ing the dai - sies, all by him-self

A. *mf* Here is a child who clam-bers and scam-bles all by him-self and ga-ther-ing bram-bles.

T. *mf* string - ing dai - sies, string-ing the dai - sies

B. *mf* string - ing dai - sies, dai-sies, dai - sies, string - ing

Pf. *mf*

200 *mf*

S. string-ing the dai - sies. Here is the green for

A. Here is a tramp who stands and gaz - es. For

T. sies, string-ing the dai-sies. Here is a tramp who stands and gaz -

B. dai - sies, dai-sies, dai - sies

Pf.

L
204 *f*

S. string - ing dai - sies, dai - sies, dai - sies, dai - sies,

A. string - ing dai - sies, dai - sies, dai - sies, dai - sies,

T. - es dai - sies, dai - sies, dai -

B.

Pf. *f*

accl.
(rushing to catch the train...)

209

S. Ah - - - Ah - - -

A. Ah - - - Ah - - -

T. - sies, Ah - - - *f* Ah - - - *f*

B. *f*

(*rushing to catch the train...*) *accl.* Fas-ter than fair - ies, fast-er than wit - ches__ Brid-ges and hous-es, hed-ges and dit ches

Pf. *f*

M ♩. = 105 - 115 (*slightly slower than first journey...*)

213

S. Ah - - -

A. Ah - - -

T. Ah - - - *mf* gliss. Fas - - - ter, fas - ter than

B. *mf* gliss. Fas - - - ter, fast - er than

Pf. *mf*

M ♩. = 105 - 115 (*slightly slower than first journey...*)

216

S. *mf* Paint - ed sta - tions *f* Here is a cart run a-way in the road

A. *mf* Paint - ed sta - tions *mf* whi - - - - - stle

T. *f* fai - - - - - ries *f* whi - - - - - stle

B. *gliss.* fai - ries *gliss.* fas - ter *f* Here is a cart run a-way in the road

Pf. *f*

219

S. —

A. *f* by

T. *f* by *mf* Fas - ter, *gliss.* fas-ter than wit - - - - - ches

B. *f* by *gliss.* Fas - ter, fas-ter than wit - - - - - ches

Pf. *mf*

222

S. *mf* Paint - ed sta - tions Lum - ping a-long with man and load. *mf* Here is the mill and

A. *mp* Paint - ed sta - tions *mf* whi - - - - - stle by *mp* Here is

T. *mp* whi - - - - - stle by *mp* Here is

B. *gliss.* fas - ter *mf* Lum - ping a-long with man and load. *mp* Here is

Pf. *mf*

N *mf*

227

S. there is the riv - er Each a glimpse and

A. the riv - er gone for

T. the ri - ver Each a glimpse and gone for - ev - er

B. the ri - ver Each a glimpse and gone for - ev - er,

Pf. *mp*

234

S. gone for - ev - er Each a glimpse and gone for -

A. *mp* ev - er Each a glimpse and gone for -

T. gone for - ev - er, for - ev - er Each a glimpse and gone for -

B. *mp* gone for - ev - er, for - ev - er Each a glimpse and gone for -

Pf. *p mp*

♩ = 88 - 95

241

S. *O* poco rit. *p* Here is the

A. *p* Here is the

T. ev - er

B. ev - er. Each a glimpse and gone for - ev - er

Pf. *O* poco rit. (the flowing river...) *p* Poco meno mosso *♩ = 88 - 95*

(the flowing river...)

248

S. mill and there is the riv - er, each a glimpse and

A. mill and there is the riv - er, each a glimpse and

T.

B.

Pf.

255

S. gone for - ev - - er gone for - ev -

A. gone for - ev - - er gone for - ev -

T. in the wink of an eye

B. For ev - er a

Pf.

261

(into the distance...)

S. er gone for - ev - er

A. er gone for - ev - er

T. in the wink of an eye in the wink of an eye.

B. gain for ev - er a - gain, in the wink of an eye.

Pf.

(into the distance...)

rit.

268

S. *pp* Bye *gliss.*

(Whispering, no pitch Div. Alt or Sop) *dim.* *pp*

A. Chuc -ka - ta, chuc -ka - ta shoo, Chuc -ka - ta, chuc -ka - ta shoo, Chuc -ka - ta, chuc -ka - ta shoo,

T. Bye *pp*

B. Bye *pp*

Pf. *pp*



271

S. *pppp*

A. Chuc -ka - ta, chuc -ka -ta shoo, Chuc -ka - ta, chuc -ka -ta shoo, Chuc -ka - ta, chuc -ka -ta shoo, *pppp*

T. Bye *gliss.*

B. Bye *gliss.*

Pf. *ppp*