

Abraham and Isaac

for choir SATB and piano

The Parable of the Old Man and the Young
by Wilfred Owen

with music by

F L Dunkin Wedd

Music © 2005 F L Dunkin Wedd



Abraham and Isaac

by Marc Chagall

Musée Nationale du Message Biblique Marc Chagall, Nice

From the composer's photograph

The Parable of the Old Man and the Young

So Abram rose, and clave the wood, and went,
And took the fire with him, and a knife.
And as they sojourned both of them together,
Isaac the first-born spake and said, My Father,
Behold the preparations, fire and iron,
But where the lamb for this burnt-offering?
Then Abram bound the youth with belts and straps,
And builded parapets and trenches there,
And stretched forth the knife to slay his son.
When lo! an angel called him out of heaven,
Saying, Lay not thy hand upon the lad,
Neither do anything to him. Behold,
A ram, caught in a thicket by its horns;
Offer the Ram of Pride instead of him.
But the old man would not so, but slew his son,
And half the seed of Europe, one by one.

Wilfred Owen MC

Lieutenant, 5th Bn Manchester Regiment. Son of Mr and Mrs Tom Owen, Monkmoor Rd, Shrewsbury. Native of Oswestry. Enlisted in The Artists' Rifles in October 1915. Commissioned into the Manchester Regiment in June 1916. Killed Monday 4 November 1918, aged 25, during the crossing of the Sambre-Oise Canal, one week before the end of the war.

The Parable of the Old Man and the Young

Poem: Wilfred Owen

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$\text{♩} = 55$

angrily

f *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sim*

tell the story *mf* 10

So A bram rose, and clave the

So A bram rose, and clave the

So A bram rose, and clave and clave the

So A bram rose, and clave and clave the

wood, and went, And took the fire

wood, and went, And took the fire

wood, And took the fire

wood, And took the fire

The first system of the musical score consists of four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is G major (one sharp). The vocal parts are in unison. The lyrics are: "wood, and went, And took the fire". The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand.

chilling *relaxed*

with him and a knife a knife. And as they so journeyed

with him and a knife a knife. And as they so journeyed

with him and a knife a knife. And as they so journeyed

with him and a knife a knife. And as they so journeyed

The second system of the musical score continues with four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The key signature remains G major. The lyrics are: "with him and a knife a knife. And as they so journeyed". The piano accompaniment includes dynamic markings *chilling* and *relaxed*. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it in the right hand of the piano part.

both of them to ge ther Is aac the first born spake and

both of them to ge ther Is aac the first born spake and

both of them to ge ther Is aac the first born spake and

both of them to ge ther Is aac the first born spake and

innocent
mp 20

said Fa ther My fa ther Be hold the pre par a tions fire and

said Fa ther My fa ther Be hold the pre par a tions fire and

said Be hold the pre par a tions fire and

said Be hold the pre par a tions fire and

mp

iron where where where the lamb for this burnt

iron where where where the lamb for this burnt

iron But where where where the lamb for this burnt

iron But where where where the lamb for this burnt

30 *chilling*

offe ring Where?

offe ring Where?

offe ring Where?

offe ring Where?

doomy *fff* *p*

ppp

Then Ab ra ham bound the youth with belts and straps And buil ded

Then Ab ra ham bound the youth with belts and straps And buil ded

Then Ab ra ham bound the youth with belts and straps And buil ded

Then Ab ra ham bound the youth with belts and straps And buil ded

40

pa ra pets and tren ches there And stretched forth the knife to slay

pa ra pets and tren ches there And stretched forth the knife to slay

pa ra pets and tren ches there And stretched forth the knife to slay

pa ra pets and tren ches there And stretched forth the knife to slay

slay slay his son

slay slay his son

slay slay his son

slay slay his son

slay slay his son

slay slay his son

slay slay his son

slay slay his son

fff 3 3

3 3

3 3

shining 50

When lo! an an gel called him out of

f When lo! an an gel called him out of

f lo! an an gel called him out of

f lo! an an gel called him out of

f lo! an an gel called him out of

3 3

3 3

3 3

3 3

heav'n Say ing Lay not thy hand u pon the lad Nei ther do a ny thing to him

heav'n Say ing Lay not thy hand u pon the lad Nei ther do a ny thing to him

heav'n Say ing Lay not thy hand u pon the lad Nei ther do a ny thing to him

heav'n Say ing

60 Be hold a ram caught in a thi cket by his horns

Be hold a ram caught in a thi cket by his horns

Be hold a ram caught in a thi cket by his horns

Be hold a ram caught in a thi cket by his horns

Of fer the Ram of Pride in stead of him

Of fer the Ram of Pride in stead of him

Of fer the Ram of Pride in stead of him

70 *chilling*

But the

But the

But the

But the

mp

old man would not so but slew his son And half the

old man would not so but slew his son And half the

old man would not so but slew his son And half the

old man would not so but slew his son And half the

old man would not so but slew his son And half the

old man would not so but slew his son And half the

80

seed of Eu rope one by one.

seed of Eu rope one by one.

seed of Eu rope one by one.

seed of Eu rope one by one.

seed of Eu rope one by one.

seed of Eu rope one by one.