

INVOCATIONS

Three poems of Louis MacNeice
set for voice and violin

1. Invocation

2. The Riddle

3. Apple Blossom

Score in C. Duration c.12 minutes

Dedicated to Sir Michael Tippett for his 85th birthday

Invocations

1. Invocation

1. Invocation.

Dolphin plunge, fountain play
Fetch me far and far away.

Fetch me far my nursery toys
Fetch me far my mother's hand,
Fetch me far the painted joys

And when the painted cock shall crow
Fetch me far my waking day
That I may dance before I go.

Fetch me far the breeze in the heat,
Fetch me far the curl of the wave,
Fetch me far the face in the street.

And when the other faces throng
Fetch me far a place in the mind
Where only truthful things belong.

Fetch me far a moon in a tree,
Fetch me far a phrase of the wind,
Fetch me far the verb To Be.

And when the last horn burns the hills
Fetch me far one draught of grace
To quench my thirst before it kills.

Dolphin plunge, fountain play
Fetch me far and far away

2 The Riddle

'What is it that goes round and round the house?'
The riddle began. A wolf, we thought, or a ghost?
Our cold backs turned to the chink in the kitchen shutter,
The range made our small scared faces warm as toast.

But now the cook is dead, and the cooking,
no doubt, electric,
No room for draught or dream, for child or mouse,
Though we, in another place, still put ourselves the question:
'What is it that goes round and round the house?'

3. Apple Blossom

The first blossom was the best blossom
For the child who had never seen an orchard;
For the youth whom whisky had led astray
The morning after was the first day.

The first apple was the best apple
For Adam before he heard the sentence;
When the flaming sword endorsed the Fall
The trees were his to plant for all.

The first ocean was the best ocean
For the child from streets of doubt and litter;
For the youth for whom the skies unfurled
His first love was his first world.

But the first verdict seemed the worst verdict
When Adam and Eve were expelled from Eden'
Yet when the bitter gates clanged to
The sky above was just as blue.

For the next ocean is the first ocean
And the last ocean is the first ocean
And, however often the sun may rise,
A new thing dawns upon our eyes.

For the last blossom is the first blossom
And first blossom is the best blossom
And when from Eden we take our way
The morning after is the first day.

Louis MacNeice.

Louis MacNeice

1. Invocation

Laurence
Armstrong
Hughes
1987

Larghetto, improvisatory
♩ = c.60

3 *mp ad lib. (dreamily)*

Voice Dol - phin plunge, foun - tain play,

Vln *colla voce* *p* *mp* *p*

6 *p* *d. = c.42*

Voice Fetch me far and far a - way, Far a - way.

Vln *mp* *p* *12/8* *12/8*

8 *mp cantabile*

Voice Fetch me far my nur - sery toys Fetch me far my

Vln *mp legato sempre*

10

Voice mo - ther's hand Fetch me far the pain - ted joys

Vln

12

Voice And when the pain - ted cock shall crow

Vln

14

Voice Fetch me far my wak - ing day That I

Vln

16

Voice — may_ dance_ be - fore_ I go_____ May

Vln

Poco accel.

Voice dance,____ may dance_____ be - fore I go,_____

Vln

Poco accel.

Voice — be - fore I go_____

Vln

Poco accel.

Voice

Vln = c.80

23

Voice

Vln *mf*

24

Voice *mf*

Vln

Fetch me far

25

Voice

the breeze in the heat

Vln

26

Voice

Fetch

Vln

27

Voice

me far the curl

Vln

28

Voice

of the wave

Vln

29

Voice

Vln

mp

30 *mp*

Voice Fetch me far the face

Vln

31

Voice in the street And when the

Vln sul G *p*

33 *poco*

Voice o - ther voi - ces throng

Vln

34 *poco* =

Voice Fetch me far a place in

Vln *mf* *poco f* *mp*

36

Voice the mind

Vln *mf* *poco f* =

37 *mp* Rit.

Voice Where on - ly truth - ful things be - long

Vln *mp* *p*

39

Voice

Vln

40

Voice

Vln

42

mp

Voice

Vln

Fetch me far the moon

43

Voice

Vln

in a tree

44

Voice

Vln

Fetch me

7:6

45

Voice far a phrase of the wind

Vln

46

Voice Fetch me

Vln *tr* 7:6

47

Voice far the verb To Be And

Vln 7:6 7:6 7:6 p

49

Voice when the last horn burns the hills

Vln mp poco

51

Voice Fetch me far one draught of grace To

Vln

53 **Rit.**

Voice quench my thirst be - fore it kills

Vln

56 ***mp ad lib. (dreamily)***

Voice Dol - phin plunge, foun - tain play,

Vln *colla voce*

58 ***p***

Voice Fetch me far and far a - way,

Vln *poco*

pp

pp

ppp

Louis MacNeice

Laurence
Armstrong
Hughes
1987**2. The Riddle**

Moderato

J = c.72

mp (breathless)

Voice What is it? what is it? that goes

Vln *mp*

p

65

Voice round and round the house? The rid-dle be-gan A wolf,

Vln *mf*

mp

mf

p

70

Voice a wolf, we thought, or a ghost?

Vln *poco fp*

Vln *mp poco sul pont.*

75

Voice

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

Our

79

Voice cold backs turned to the chink in the kit - chen shut - ter

Vln

poco

Vln *p*

83

Voice The range made our small scared fac - es warm as toast

Vln

p

Vln *p*

88

Voice But now the cook is dead

Vln

mf espress.

Vln *mf espress.*

93

Voice and the cook-ing, no doubt, e - lec-tric

Vln

No room for draught or

Vln *mp*

98

Voice dream, for child or mouse Though we in an - oth - er place

Vln *poco*

103 > **p**

Voice ask_ our- selves What is it? what is it?

Vln *mp* *p*

109

Voice that goes round and round the house? pizz.

Vln *pp*

Louis MacNeice

Laurence
Armstrong
Hughes
1987

3. Apple Blossom

Moderato $\text{♩} = \text{c.70}$

114

Voice *mp simply* The first blos- som was the best blos- som

Vln *pizz.* *mf* *mp*

120

Voice — For the child who ne - ver had seen an or - chard —

Vln

126

Voice For the youth____ whom whi - sky had led____ a -stray the

Vln

131

Voice mor-ning af - ter____ was the first____ day____

Vln

mp

137

Voice The first ap - ple____ was the best ap - ple____ for

Vln

arco
mp

143

Voice A - dam be - fore he heard the sen - tence When the flam

Vln

148

Voice - ing sword en-dorsed the Fall Then trees were his

Vln

154

Voice to plant for all

Vln *mf express.*

159

Voice The

Vln *mp*

162

Voice first oc - ean was the best oc - ean for the child from

Vln

165

Voice streets of doubt and lit - ter

Vln

168

Voice For the youth for whom the

Vln

171

Voice skies un - furled

Vln *mf*

173

Voice His first love was his

Vln *mp*

175

Voice first world

Vln

177

Voice But the first ver - dict seemed the worst

Vln *f*

181

Voice ver - dict When Ad - am and Eve were ex - pelled from Ed - en

Vln *mf*

186 *mp*

Voice Yet when the bit-ter gates clanged to_____

Vln *espress.* *mp*

191

Voice the sky a bove____ was just as blue

Vln

196 *mp*

Voice For the next oc- ean____ is the first oc -

Vln *p*

202

Voice - ean and the last____ oc- ean____ is the first oc - cean

Vln

208 **Poco rit.**

Voice And how-ev-er af- ter____ the sun may rise____ A new thing

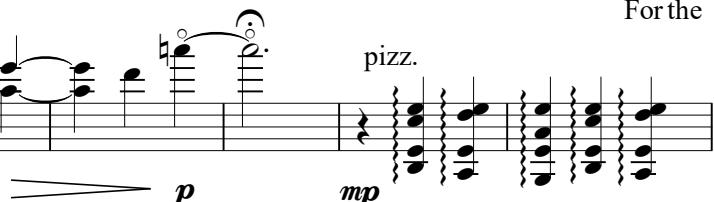
Vln

A tempo
 $\text{♩} = \text{c.70}$

mp

214

Voice dawns up - on our eyes _____ For the

Vln 

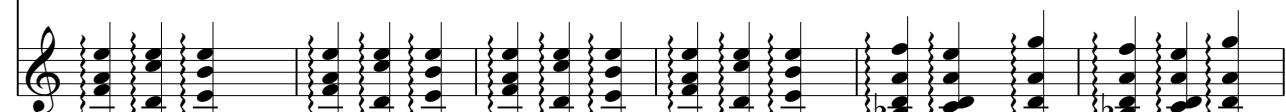
221

Voice last blos- som _____ is the first blos- som _____ and the first blos- som _____ is the

Vln 

227

Voice best blos- som _____ And when from Ed - en we

Vln 

233

Voice take our way _____ the mor - ning af - ter _____

Vln 

236

Voice _____ is the first _____ day.

Vln 