

CASTERBRIDGE FAIR

Opus 1

A CYCLE OF FIVE SONGS FOR BARITONE & PIANO

Words by THOMAS HARDY

Music by

Andrew Downes



Make me forget her name, her sweet, sweet name.

LYNWOOD MUSIC

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This song cycle was first performed by Michael George, accompanied by Ruth Gerald, at the opening concert in the newly built Recital Hall of Birmingham Conservatoire (then known as the Birmingham School of Music) on 11th June 1973. The cycle was a Prizewinner in the 1980 Stroud International Composers' competition.

'...the songs impressed by their expressive and beautifully shaped vocal line and simple though telling accompaniments.'

THE MUSICAL TIMES

The songs are settings of five poems by Thomas Hardy:

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The Ballad Singer

Words by Thomas Hardy

Music by ANDREW DOWNES

$\text{♩} = 110$

Baritone

Piano

p

Bar.

Pno

f

Sing, ballad singer!_ Raise a hearty tune!_

Bar.

Pno

p legato

Make me for - get that there was e - ver a one,

Bar.

 I walked within the meek light of the moon, when the day's work— was

Pno

Bar.

 done. Rhyme, ballad rhymer! Start a country song! —

Pno

Bar.

 Make me for-get that she whom I loved well —

Pno

15

Bar. *p* swore she would love me dearly, love me long. ——— Then what, I can — not

Pno *p*

Bar. *p* tell. ——— Sing, ballad singer ——— 20 from your little book. —

Pno *p*

Bar. *mf* Make me forget these heartbreaks, achings, fears.

Pno *mf*

Bar. *f*

Make me forget her name, her sweet, sweet name.

Pno *f*

Bar. *ff* 25

Make me for-get her tears.

Pno *ff*

Preview File Only

Former Beauties

Words by Thomas Hardy

Music by ANDREW DOWNES

♩ = 90

Baritone

mf

These market dames, mid

Piano

p

Bar.

aged, with lips thin drawn, and tis - sues sere,

Pno

mp

Bar.

mp

are they the ones we

Pno

Bar. *f* *p*

loved _____ in years a - gone and court - ed here?

Pno *f* *p*

Bar. *mp*

Are they the mus - lined pink young things to whom we

Pno

Bar. *mf* *f*

vowed and swore, in nooks on sum - mer Sundays by the Froom -

Pno *mp*

Bar. *p*

— or Budmouth shore? ————— Do they re -

Pno *f* *p*

dim. poco a poco

Bar. member those gay tunes we trod, clasped on the green?

Pno

Bar. *pp*

Aye, trod till moonlight set on the beaten sod, a sa - tin sheen.

Pno

Bar. *pp*
They must for-get, forget, they cannot know what once they were,

Pno

Bar. *mf* *f*
or memory would trans - fig-ure them and show them always

Pno *mf*

Bar. *f* *mf* *mp*
fair.

Pno

A Wife Waits

Words by Thomas Hardy

Music by ANDREW DOWNES

♩. = 90

Baritone

Piano

mf

Bar.

Pno

mf

10

Will's at the dance at the clubroom be-

Bar.

Pno

15

low, where the tall liquor cups foam.

20

Bar. 25 30

I, on the pavement up

Pno

Bar. 35 *f*

here by the bow, wait, wait to stea

Pno

Bar. 40 45

dy him home.

Pno *mf*

50 *p*

Bar. Will and his partner are treading a tune.

Pno *f* *pp*

55 *p* 60

Bar. Loving companions they be. Willy, be - fore we were

Pno

65

Bar. married in June, — said he loved no one but me,

Pno *pp*

Bar. *70*
said he would let his old pleasures all go, _____ ever to

Pno

Bar. *75* _____ *80*
live _____ with his dear _____

Pno

Bar. *85* *mp*
Will's at the dance in the clubroom be - low,

Pno *p*

Bar. *p* 90 *mf* 95

shivering, I wait for him

Pno

Bar. 100

here.

Pno *mf*

Bar. 105

Pno

After the Club Dance

Words by Thomas Hardy

Music by ANDREW DOWNES

$\text{♩} = 80$

Baritone

Piano

mp

Bar.

Pno

mp

p

Blackon frowns east on Maidon_____ and west-ward to the sea,--

Bar.

Pno

— but on neither is his frown lad-en with scorn as his frown on me.—

10 *mf*

Bar. *mf* At

Pno *pp* *mf*

mf 15

Bar. dawn my heart grew heavy. I could not sip the wine.

Pno

Bar. I left the jocund bevy and that young man o' mine.

Pno

Bar. ²⁰

The roadside elms pass by me.— Why

Pno

Bar.

do I sink in shame when the birds aperch there eye me? They

Pno

Bar. ²⁵

too have done the same.

Pno

p *pp*

After the Fair

Words by Thomas Hardy

Music by ANDREW DOWNES

Baritone

$\text{♩} = 70$

mp

poco legato

The

Piano

mp

Bar.

singers are gone from the corn market place, — with their broadsheets of

Pno

Bar.

rhymes. The street rings no longer in treble and bass, —

Pno

10

Bar. *7* with their skits on the times. _____ And the cross, lately

Pno *p*

Bar. *7* thronged, is a dim, naked space, that but echoes the stammering chimes

Pno

Bar. *p* from clock corner steps as each

Pno *p*

20

Bar. quarter ding dongs. Away the folk roam

Pno *f*

Bar. by the 'Hart' and Grey's bridge into byways and drongs or across the

Pno *mf* *mp*

Bar. *p* ridged loam, _____ *p* the younger ones

Pno *p*

30

Bar. shrilling the lately heard songs, the old saying: 'Would we were

Pno

35

Bar. home!' The

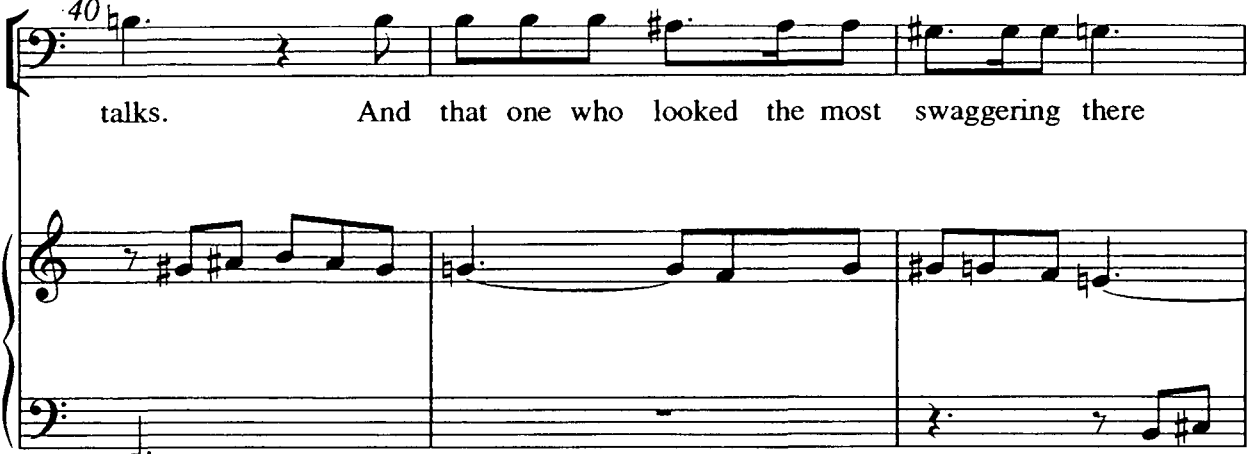
Pno

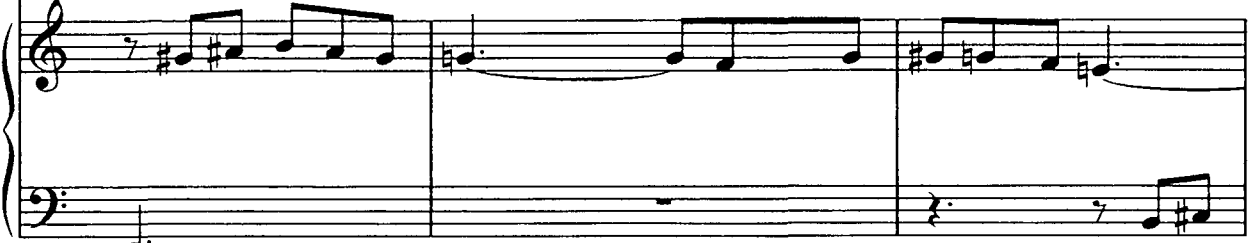
cresc. *mp* *mp*

Bar. shy seeming maiden, so mute at the fair, now rattles and

Pno

40


Bar.  *talks. And that one who looked the most swaggering there*

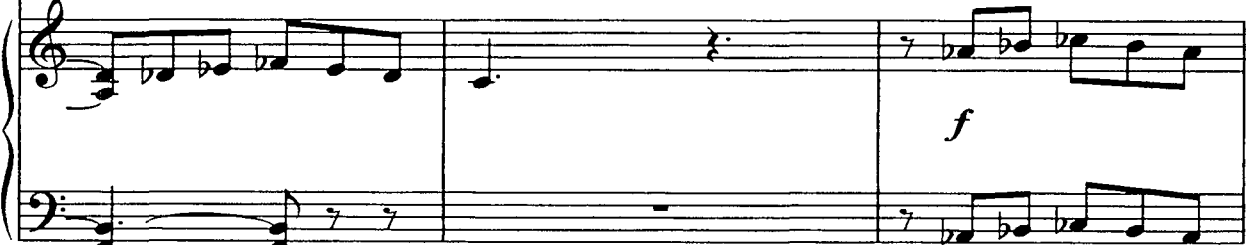
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45

Bar.  *grows sad as she walks. — And she who seem'd eaten by cantering*

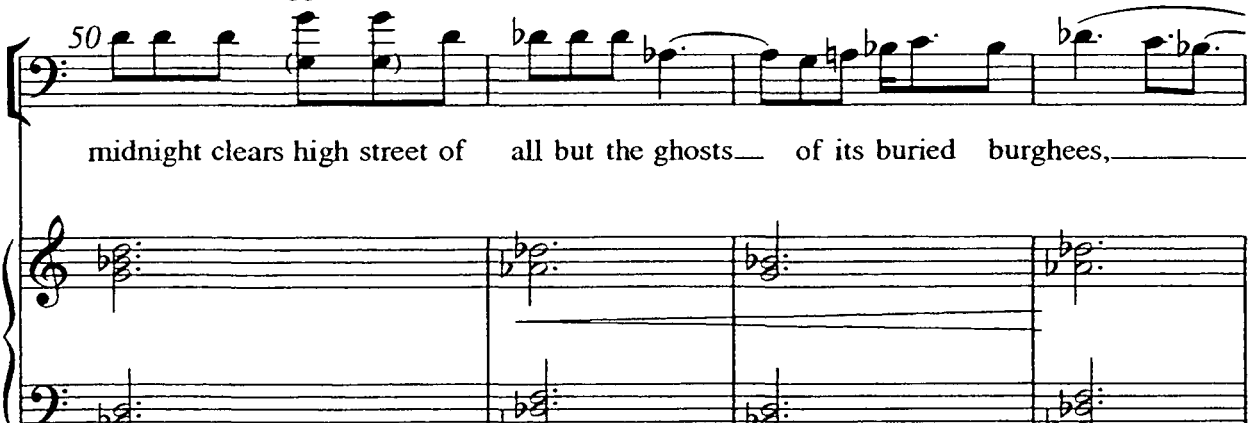
Pno 

Bar.  *care, in sta - tu - esque sturdiness stalks. And*

Pno 


ff

50

Bar. 

midnight clears high street of all but the ghosts— of its buried burghes,


55

Bar. 

— from the latest far back to those old Roman hosts,

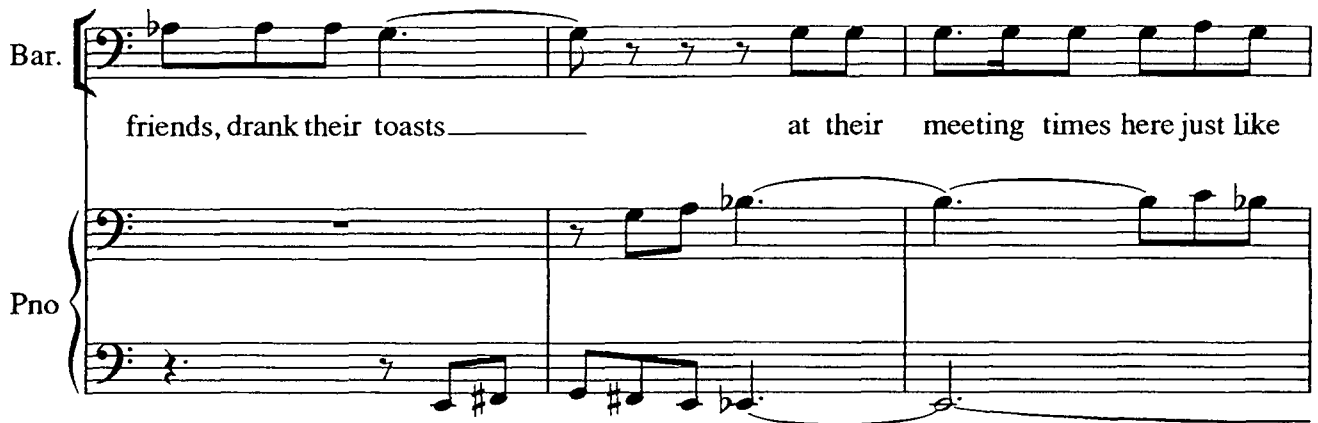
Pno *ff*

60


Bar. 

whose remains one yet sees, — who loved, laughed and fought, hailed their

Pno

Bar. 

friends, drank their toasts _____ at their meeting times here just like

Pno 

Bar. 

rit.
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these. _____

Pno 

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