

Drew Sperry

Comforts From a Place We Call Home

for Soprano, Tenor, and Piano

- Full Score -

Perusal Score

Comforts From a Place We Call Home
for Soprano, Tenor, and Piano

Drew Sperry

Texts from *Orchard and Vineyard* (1921) by Vita Sackville-West

Written for the talents of Anna Fosco and Jonathan Shinn

Movements

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Vocal Ranges

Soprano: C4-B5

Tenor: C3-G4

Duration ca. 25 minutes

Revised 2024

Perusal Score

Texts

1. Voices of the Lonely Land

Mariana in the North (1921)

All her youth is gone, her beautiful youth is gone
Daughter of tarn and tor, the moors that were once her home
No longer know her step on the upland tracks forlorn
Where she was wont to roam.

All her hounds are dead, her beautiful hounds are dead,
That paced beside the hoofs of her high and nimble horse,
Or streaked in lean pursuit of the tawny hare that fled
Out of the yellow gorse.

All her lovers have passed, her beautiful lovers have passed,
The young and eager men that fought for her arrogant hand,
And the only voice which endures to mourn for her at the last
Is the voice of the lonely land.

2. Apart We Remain

Dissonance (1921)

Clamour has riven us, clamour and din.
My hand reaches blindly out for your hand, but within
My mind cannot reach to your mind, because of the clamour and din.

Clang as of brass, an uproar that will not cease.
I would take from the strangest god or devil the gift of peace.
If the strife that divides us were suddenly stilled and would cease

I could come to you, come under washed void skies,
My thought in your thought embraced, my eyes and your eyes
Levelly meeting without the quick faltering of disguise.

But all is a harshness and rack where in vain
We strive through the grossness of flesh to discover our souls again,
And the closer we clasp on another, the further apart remain.

4. From a Diary, January 1918

From a Diary, January 1918 (1921)

Joy have I had of life this vigorous day
Since sunrise when I took the wealden way,
And my fair country as I rapid strode
Lay round the turn of the familiar road
In mists diaphanous as seas in foam.
And all the orchards cried me welcome home.

I drove the spade that turned the heavy loam,
Bending the winter to the needs of spring,
The soft air winnowing
The thistledown that blew along the hedge.
A little moorhen rippled in the sedge;
A distant sheep-dog barked; the day was still,
For summer's ghost in winter lay upon the hill.
I worked in peace; an aeroplane above
Crooned through the heaven coloured like a dove.

Within the house I lit a fire
And coaxed the friendly kettle on to boil.
My boots were heavy with the wealden soil,
My hunger eager from the glow of toil.
Fresh bread had I; brown eggs; a little meat;
Freedom I drank for my delirious wine,
And Shelley gave me company divine.
What more could a heart desire?

And when the orange of the sunset burned,
I laid aside my tools and townward turned,

Seeing across the uplands of the Weald
The ploughteams straining on the half-brown field.
I sang aloud; my limbs were rich with health,
As brooding winter rich with summer's wealth.

5. Before and Now

Before (1921)

I wait your coming as a miracle,
And the expectant morning waits with me;
Time hangs suspended as a quiet bell
That once did strike the hours successively,
For over all the country lies a spell,
A hush, a painted stillness, where I see
(As calm as skies reflected in a well)
The fields enchanted, waiting silently.

Testament (1921)

When I am dead, let not my limbs be given
To rot amongst the dead I never knew,
But cast my ashes wide under wide heaven,
Or to my garden let me still be true,

Lighten the soil with mine. Not the grave!
I loved the soil I fought, and this is my desire.

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Comforts From a Place We Call Home

Text by Vita Sackville-West

1. Voices of the Lonely Land

Drew Sperry

Larghetto. ♩ = 64

Tenor

Piano

Larghetto. ♩ = 64

mp *p* *<mf* *sub. p*

p

4

mp un poco paventoso

All her youth is

pp *mf* *p* *pp*

9

gone her beau-ti - ful youth is gone

p *pp dolce* *mp* *p*

rit. *n*

13

Daugh - ter of tarn and tor, the moors that were once her home

a tempo. *più appassionato* *mf* *mp* *f* *mp*

a tempo. *mp* *f* *p*

16

No lon - ger know her step on up-land tracks for-lorn Where

rit. *a tempo.* *pp* *f* *mp* *f* *mf*

rit. *a tempo.* *pp* *mp*

19 *rit.* *a tempo.* *pp*
 8 she was wont to— roam.

rit. *a tempo.*
pp *mp* *pp* *pp*

22 *rit.* *a tempo.*
 8 All her hounds are

rit. *a tempo.*
mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp*

26 *mp* *mf* *p*
 8 dead, her beau-ti-ful hounds are dead.

mf

a tempo.

29 poco rit. *mp*

That paced That

poco rit. *p* a tempo.

33 *f* *mp*

paced be - side_ the hoofs of her high and nim-ble horse Or

pp *f* *mp*

8^{va}

35

streaked in lean pur - suit of the taw - ny hare_ that

pp

8^{va}

8^{vb}

37 *f* *p* *mp* 3 *mp* 3

fled _____ Out of the_ Out of the yell-ow_

mf *p*

41 *f*

gorse.

mf *f* *pp*

43 *poco accel.*

All her lov - ers have passed her beau-ti - ful lov - ers have

poco accel. *mp*

a tempo.

45 **ff** *mf*

passed! _____ have passed _____

a tempo.

ff *con forza* **p**

3 6 3 3

48 **p** *rit.* **mf**

have passed _____ The

rit. **pp** *8va*

50 **a tempo.** *ad lib.* **molto rit.** **p**

young and ea - ger men _____ that fought for her ar - ro - gant hand

serioso *più forza* *lunga pausa*

a tempo. **molto rit.** **p**

lunga pausa

53 **Meno mosso.** ♩ = 54
p tenderly, non ad-lib. *pp* *p* *mf* 7

And the on - ly voice which endures to mourn for_ her at the_

Meno mosso. ♩ = 54

p

57 *p* **molto rit.** *f* *lunga*

last Is the voice_ of the lon - ely_

p **molto rit.**

8va

60 **Un poco mosso.** ♩ = 60 **molto rit.**

p land.

Un poco mosso. ♩ = 60 **molto rit.**

p *mp* *pp* *mf* *pp*

64 a tempo. (♩ = 60) rit. al fine

a tempo. (♩ = 60) rit. al fine

p molto legato

pp

2. Apart We Remain

Adagio pesante. ♩ = 54

Soprano

Tenor

Adagio pesante. ♩ = 54

Piano

ff *pp* *f* *pp* *sempre pp* *p*

8

ff *p* *mp* *sub.* *pp*

14

mp Cla - mour has riv - en us__ Cla -

mp Cla - mour has riv - en us__ Cla - mour

17 **poco rit.**

mour has riv - en us, the cla - mour and

has riv - en us cla - mour and

poco rit.

19 **a tempo. mp** **rit.** **a tempo. pp** **poco rit.**

din cla - mour and din

din cla - mour and din

a tempo. mp **rit.** **a tempo. pp** **poco rit.**

24

a tempo.

Musical score for measures 24-26. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a whole rest, followed by a half note G4, and ends with a quarter note G4. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). A triplet of eighth notes is marked in the vocal line. The lyrics are: "but My hand reach-es blind-ly out for your hand,".

27

appassionato

Musical score for measures 27-29. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a half note G4, followed by a half note A4, and ends with a half note G4. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). A triplet of eighth notes is marked in the vocal line. The lyrics are: "with - in My mind can-not reach to your mind, be - cause of the cla-mour and_".

29 *p* *mp* *f* *mp* *p*

— din_ Clang as of brass, an up-roar that that will not cease—

p *p* *p*

cla-mour and din_ I would take from

mf *sub. p* *dolce*

32 *f* *n* *p* *mp*

or de - vil_ the cla-mour and_

f *n*

the strang-est god the gift of peace

p *mp* *p* *mf*

35

pp *p* *3*

— din — If the strife that div - ides us would cease

p *3*

If the strife that div - ides us were sud-den-ly — stilled

pp *3*

38

Measures 38 and 39 are empty staves. Measures 40-42 contain a piano part with various dynamics and articulations.

Measures 40-42:

- Measure 40: *f* (forte) to *p* (piano) dynamic change. Articulation: *mp* (mezzo-piano) with an accent mark.
- Measure 41: *p* (piano) to *pp* (pianissimo) dynamic change. Articulation: *mf* (mezzo-forte) with an accent mark.
- Measure 42: *pp* (pianissimo) dynamic. Articulation: *mp* (mezzo-piano) with an accent mark.

42

p

I could come to you, un - der

p

Tempo I. ♩ = 65

I could come to you, un - der

ppp *pp*

3

45

washed void skies my eyes and you eyes

3

washed void skies, My thought in your thought em - braced

3

48 *mp* *f*

Lev-el-ly meet ing with-out the quick fal-ter-ing of dis - guise

mp *f*

Lev-el-ly meet ing with-out the quick fal-ter-ing of dis - guise

ff

51

sub. *pp*

ff

pp

p

8vb

57

← ♩ = ♩ →

Musical score for measures 57-60. The score is written for three staves: two treble clefs and one bass clef. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 5/4. The first two staves are empty. The third staff contains the following notation:

- Measure 57: A triplet of eighth notes (B-flat, A, G) followed by a quarter note (F).
- Measure 58: A triplet of eighth notes (F, E, D) followed by a quarter note (C).
- Measure 59: A triplet of eighth notes (B, A, G) followed by a quarter note (F).
- Measure 60: A triplet of eighth notes (E, D, C) followed by a quarter note (B).

Dynamic markings: *f* (forte) at the start of measure 59, *mp* (mezzo-piano) at the start of measure 60, and *sub.* (subito) at the end of measure 60.

60

Musical score for measures 61-64. The score is written for three staves: two treble clefs and one bass clef. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 5/4. The first two staves are empty. The third staff contains the following notation:

- Measure 61: A half note (B-flat) followed by a quarter note (A).
- Measure 62: A half note (G) followed by a quarter note (F).
- Measure 63: A half note (E) followed by a quarter note (D).
- Measure 64: A half note (C) followed by a quarter note (B).

Dynamic marking: *pp* (pianissimo) at the start of measure 61.

65 *p* *3* But all is harsh-ness _____ and rack where in vain _____

p *3* We strive through the gross-ness of flesh to

8^{vb}

69 *mf* And the clo-ser we clasp _____ the

p dis-co-ver our souls a-gain _____ on a-no-ther _____ the

73

rit. mp *a tempo.*

fur-ther a-part re - main the fur-ther a-part re-main

non legato pp

Cla - mour and din Cla - mour and din

p *8vb* *pp*

77

n *mp* *molto rit. pp* *n*

A - part re-main A - part re - main

n *mp* *pp* *n*

Cla-mour and din Cla-mour and din

molto rit.

ppp

(8)

3. Intermezzo: Nocturne

Piano

Andante moderato. ♩ = 60

pp mf p pp

7

mf p ³ p mf pp lunga

8vb

11

Measures 11-14 of the piano score for 'The Rose Tree'. The score is written for piano (p) and features a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 in measure 12, then to 2/4 in measure 13, and back to 3/4 in measure 14. The dynamics are marked as *mp* (mezzo-piano) in measure 11, *p* (piano) in measure 12, *pp* (pianissimo) in measure 13, and *mf* (mezzo-forte) in measure 14. The melody in the treble staff is accompanied by a bass line in the bass staff. A large, stylized watermark 'MusicalScore' is visible across the score.

15

The musical score for measures 15-17 of 'The Swan' by Maurice Ravel. The score is for piano (p), mezzo-forte (mf), and pianissimo (pp). It features a treble and bass staff with various musical notations including triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings.

18

mp

rit.

21 *a tempo.*

21 *pp grazioso* 3 *mp* 3 *p* 3 *mf* 3

25 *p* 3 *f* 3 *p* 3 *pp* 3 *mf* 3

30 *mp* 3 *f* 3 *ff* 5 *molto rit.* 6 *mp*

pesante, con forza

33 *fff* *mf* *p* *mf* 8vb

39 *pp* 2+2+3+2 8 *f* *p* 2+2+3+2 8 *pp* *mf*

Lento con espressione. ♩ = 54

43

pp

8va

4. From a Diary, January 1918

Allegretto. ♩ = 190

Soprano

Allegretto. ♩ = 190

Piano

p

f

6 **mp** *leggero*

Joy have I had of life this vig-or-ous day since sun-rise when_____ I

pp

mp *pp*

9

f *p*

took the weal-den way, _____

mf *p* *mp* *pp*

13

mf

And my fair coun-try as I rap - id strode Lay round the turn of the fa

mf *p* *pp* *p*

19

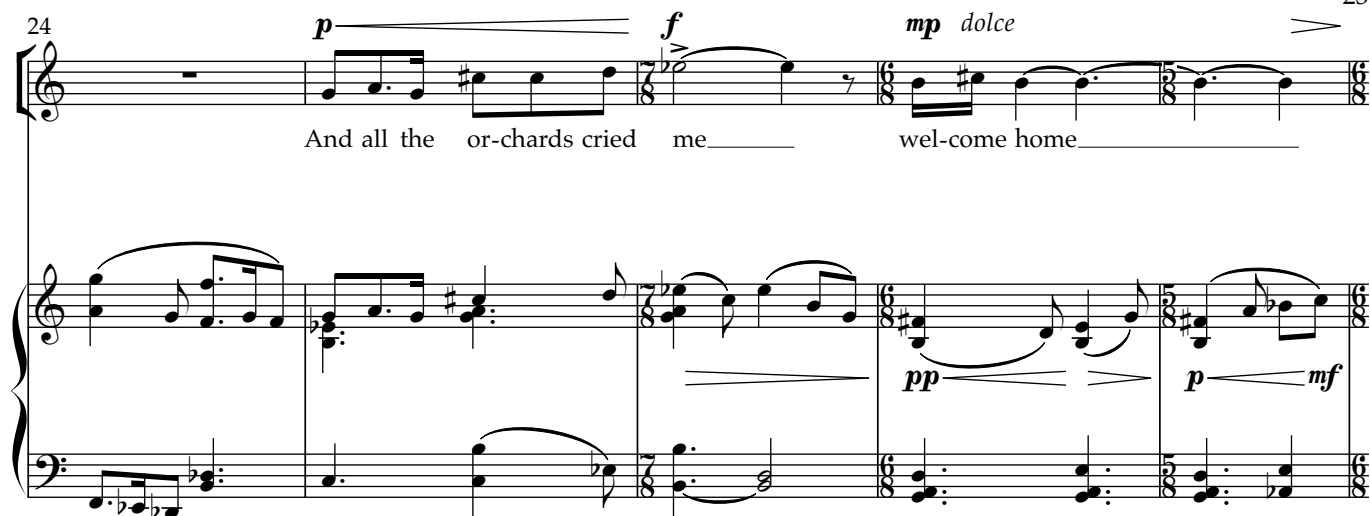
f

mi-li-ar _____ road In mists di-a-pha-nous as seas _____ in foam. _____

mf *mp* *p*

24 *p* *f* *mp dolce*

And all the or-chards cried me wel-come home



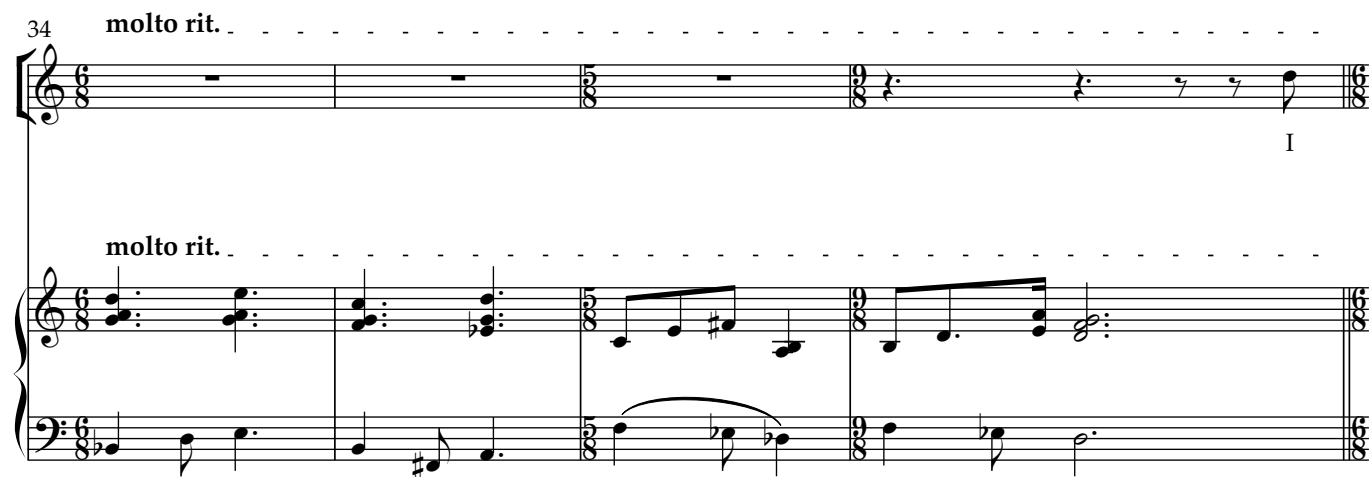
29 *n* *pp* *p*



34 *molto rit.*

molto rit.

I



Meno mosso. ♩ = 160
mf molto legato, reserved

38 *f*

drove the spade that turned the hea-vy loam, — Bend-ing the win-ter to the needs of spring, —

Meno mosso. ♩ = 160
p molto legato *mf*

42 *mf*

— The soft The soft air winn-ow-ing The this-tle down that blew — blew a -

p

46 *f* *mp* *f* *poco rit.* *mf*

long the hedge. — A litt - le moor-hen ripp-led in the sedge. —

f *p* *pp* *p* *poco rit.*

51 *p* *a tempo.* 25

A dis - tant sheep - dog

mf *a tempo.* *pp*

54 *p* *f* *mp* *molto rit.* *f* *lunga*

barked; _____ the day was still, For sum-mer's ghost in win - ter lay up-on the

molto rit. *mp*

57 *Allegretto.* ♩ = 190 *p* *mf* *leggero*

hill. _____ I worked in peace; an

Allegretto. ♩ = 190 *pp* *pp*

59 *f*

ae - ro-plane a - bove _____ Crooned through the hea-ven col-oured like a dove _____

f *mp*

63 *poco rit.* *a tempo.* *p* *dolcissimo*

With-in the house I lit a fire And

poco rit. *a tempo.* *f* *p* *mf* *pp*

70 *mf* *p*

coaxed the friend-ly ket - tle on to boil. _____ My boots were hea - vy with the weal-den soil _____

mf *p*

75 *f* *p*

My hun-ger ea-ger from the glow _____ of toil. _____ Fresh bread had I; brown

79 *ff*

eggs; a lit-tle meat Free-dom! I drank for my de-li-ri-ous wine, And

f *p*

83 *rit. mp*

Shel-ley gave me com-pa-ny di-vine

rit. mf pp

Un poco meno mosso. ♩ = 180 *p timidly* *f* *molto rit. p* *pp*

87 What more could a heart de-sire? What more could a heart de-sire?

Un poco meno mosso. ♩ = 180 *p* *molto rit. pp*

92 **Meno.** $\text{♩} = 164$
n *mp*

And when the orange of the sun - set burned I laid a-side my

Meno. $\text{♩} = 164$
pp

97 *rit.*

tools and town-ward turned,___ See-ing, see-ing ac-ross the, the up-lands of the Weald___

rit.

102 *a tempo.*

The___ plough - teams were strain - ing___

a tempo.
mf *p*

106

rit.

on the half brown field.

on the half brown field.

109

a tempo.

I sang a-loud; my limbs were rich with

a tempo.

I sang a-loud; my limbs were rich with

113

rit.

health, As brood-ing win - ter rich

rit.

health, As brood-ing win - ter rich

117 - Allegretto. ♩ = 194

f

with sum - mer's wealth.

- Allegretto. ♩ = 194

p

120 *n*

mf

8va

3

3

124

f

mp

pp

(8) *mf*

5. Before and Now

Andante solennemente, reminiscent. ♩ = 60 molto rit. a tempo. *p* *reflective*

Soprano

Tenor

Piano

p *mf* *pp*

7

as a mir-a-cle

I wait your com-ing as a mir-a-cle and the

molto rit. a tempo.

molto rit. a tempo.

Detailed description: The musical score is for a piece titled '5. Before and Now'. It features three parts: Soprano, Tenor, and Piano. The tempo starts as 'Andante solennemente, reminiscent' with a metronome marking of ♩ = 60. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 5/4 and back to 4/4. The Soprano part has lyrics 'I wait your com-ing' and 'as a mir-a-cle'. The Tenor part has lyrics 'I wait your com-ing as a mir-a-cle and the'. The Piano part provides harmonic support with dynamics ranging from piano (p) to pianissimo (pp). There are tempo changes to 'molto rit.' and 'a tempo.' throughout the piece. A large diagonal watermark 'Perusal Score' is visible across the page.

11

mf *p*

Time hangs sus-pen -

mf *n*

ex-pec-tant morn-ing waits with me_____

mp *p* *mf* *p* *pp*

15

mp *p* *f* *p*

ded as a qui-et bell_____ That once did strike the hours That once did

f *p*

That once did strike the hours That once did

18 *mp* *p* *pp* *n*

strike the hours suc-ces-sive-ly suc-ces-sive-ly

8 *mp* *p* *pp* *n*

strike the hours suc-ces-sive-ly suc-ces-sive-ly

mp *p* *mf* *mp*

22

p

For ov-er all the coun-try lies a

f *p* *f* *pp*

3

26 *mf* *p* *f* *p* *senza appassionato* *mf* *p*

A hush_ a pain-ted still - ness, _____ Where I see as calm

p *mf* *appassionato*

spell wait-ing si - lent-ly still - ness _____ calm as skies

p *mp*

29 *normale*

The fields_ en-chant-ed, wait - ing _____ si-lent

p *p* *mp*

re-flect-ed in a well_ si - lent-ly si-lent

p *p*

32

rit.

ly

ly si-lent-ly si-lent - ly

mf pp

rit.

pp mf pp

8vb

Un poco meno mosso. ♩ = 54

36

p *rubato* *f* *p*

When I am dead, let not my limbs be giv-en

p *rubato*

To rot a-mongst the dead I ne-ver

Un poco meno mosso. ♩ = 54

40 *p* *in tempo* *molto rit.*

I ne-ver knew _____ But cast my ash-es wide But cast my ash-es wide _____ un-der

mp *n* *p* *in tempo* *molto rit.*

knew _____ But cast my ash-es wide But cast my ash-es wide _____ un-der

p *solemnly* *molto rit.*

45 *Andante. ♩ = 60* *f* *mp* *3*

hea-ven!__ Or__ to my gar-den let me still be true

f *p*

hea-ven!__ let me still be true

Andante. ♩ = 60 *f* *p* *3*

49 **rit.** **a tempo. quasi recitative** **p** **mf**

Ash-es, Light-en the soil with mine _____

not the grave! I

rit. **a tempo.** **mf**

55 **normale** **molto rit.** *lunga*

I fought _____ and this is my de - sire and this is my de -

normale **p** *lunga*

loved the soil I fought _____ and this is my de -

molto rit. **pp** **p** *col canto*

60 **a tempo.** **molto rit.** **a tempo.**

sire. this is my de - sire. _____

sire. this is my de - sire. _____

a tempo. **molto rit.** **a tempo.**

p *mp* *pp* *f* *p* *pp dolce*

66 **rit.**

rit.

f *mp* *p* *pp* *lunga*

senza forza *8vb* *ppp*