

Dedicated to my grandfather Peter Forgue, an artist in wrought iron, who also hand-built a house by the sea.

To The House

Robinson Jeffers

PETER BIRD

Andante ♩=80 *mf marcato*

Soprano I am heap - ping the bones, heap - ing

Alto *mf marcato* (sim.) I am heap - ing the bones, I am heap - ing the bones,

Tenor *mf marcato* (sim.) I am heap - ing the bones, I am heap - ping the

Bass *f marcato* (sim.) I am heap - ing the bones, I am hea - ping the bones, The

6

S. bones of the old mo - ther, old mo -

A. heap - ing bones of the old mo - ther, of the mo -

T. bones, heap - ing bones of the old mo - - -

B. bones of the old mo - ther, old mo -

11

S. ther To build us a hold, build us a hold a - *legato*

A. ther To build us a hold, build us a hold, a hold a - *legato*

T. ther to build us a hold, build us a hold *legato*

B. ther To build us a hold, build us a hold, a hold *legato*

A

accel.

17 $\text{♩} = 96$
mf

S. gainst the host of the air, a - gainst the host

A. gainst the host of the air, a - gainst the host of the air,

T. a - gainst the host of the air, the host, host,

B. a - gainst the host of the air, the host

rit.

 $\text{♩} = 80$

26 *mp* *p*

S. of the air.

A. the host of the air.

T. host of the air.

B. of the air.

B36 Adagio $\text{♩} = 70$

mf *f*

S. Gran - ite, gran - ite, gran-ite the blood heat of her youth, Held molt - en

A. Gran - ite, gran - ite, gran-ite the blood heat of her youth, Held molt -

T. Gran - ite, gran - ite, gran-ite the blood heat of her youth, Held mot -

B. Gran - ite, gran - ite, gran-ite the blood heat of her youth, Held molt - en

44

S. in hot dark - ness a - gainst the heart, held molt - en in hot dark - ness

A. - en in hot dark - ness a - gainst the heart, held molt - en in hot dark -

T. en in hot dark - ness a - gainst the heart, molt - en a -

B. in hot dark - ness a - gainst the heart, held molt - en in hot dark - ness a -

ff *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *f*

C

51

S. a - gainst the heart, Hard - ened to tem - per un - der the feet, un - der the feet

A. ness a - gainst the heart, Hard - ened to tem - per un - der the feet, un - der the feet

T. gainst the heart, Hard - ened to tem - per un - der the feet

B. gainst the heart, Hard - ened to tem - per un - der the feet

mf *con brio* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

$\text{♩} = 80$

D

57

S. Of the o - cean cav - al - ry that are maned with snow, with snow

A. Of the o - cean cav - al - ry that are maned with snow, with snow

T. Of the o - cean cav - al - ry that are maned with snow, with snow

B. Of the o - cean cav - al - ry that are maned with snow, with snow

(stress on 3)

62

S. And march from the re - mot - est, the re - mot - est

A. And march from the re - mot - est west.

T. And march from the re - mot - est west, And march from the re - mot - est

B. And march from the re - mot - est

E **F**

Larghetto ♩=62

S. west. Here in the wet Quar - ry

A. Here in the wet Quar - ry

T. west. This is the prim - i - tive rock.

B. west. This is the prim - i - tive rock.

72

S. un - der the sha - dow of waves_ Whose hol - lows mouth - ed the dawn; Lit - tle

A. un - der the sha - dow of waves_ Whose hol - lows mouth - ed the dawn; Lit - tle

T. Lit - tle

B. Lit - tle

mf accel. f

G

77 Adagio $\text{♩} = 72$

S. house: Each stone bap - tiz - ed from that a - bys - mal font The sea, the

A. house: Each stone bap - tiz - ed from that a - bys - mal font The sea,

T. house: Each stone bap - tiz - ed from that a - bys - mal font The sea, the

B. house: Each stone bap - tiz - ed from that a - bys - mal font The sea,

82

S. sea, the sea and the se - cret earth

A. the sea and the se - cret earth

T. sea, the sea and the se - cret earth

B. the sea and the se - cret earth

85

S. gave bonds to af - firm, af - firm you.

A. gave bonds to af - firm, af - firm you.

T. gave bonds to af - firm, af - firm you.

B. gave bonds to af - firm, af - firm you.

To The House
Robinson Jeffers

I am heaping the bones of the old mother
 To build us a hold against the host of the air;
 Granite the blood-heat of her youth
 Held molten in hot darkness against the heart
 Hardened to temper under the feet
 Of the ocean cavalry that are maned with snow
 And march from the remotest west.
 This is the primitive rock, here in the wet
 Quarry under the shadow of waves
 Whose hollows mouthed the dawn; little house each stone
 Baptized from that abysmal font
 The sea and the secret earth gave bonds to affirm you.

Poem by Robinson Jeffers.

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Robinson Jeffers and his wife Una moved in 1914 to Carmel, California, at the north end of the rugged Big Sur coast. Here he would build Tor House (and later, Hawk Tower) from granite on the site, and celebrate the work with this poem that invokes the four classical elements of earth, air, fire, and water.