

Yukon

selected lines from poems of Robert W. Service (1874-1958)

Peter Bird

Larghetto ♩ = 64

mp *mf* *mp*

SOPRANO Flat as a drum-head stretch the hag-gard snows; The

ALTO *p* Ah *mp* The

TENOR *p* Oh Oh The

BASS *p* Oh Oh

7

S. *mf* *mp* *p*
might-y skies are pal-i-sades of light; The stars are blurred; the si-lence grows and grows;

A. *mf* *mp* *p*
might-y skies are pal-i-sades of light; The stars are blurred; the si-lence grows and grows;

T. *mf* *mp* *p*
might-y skies are pal-i-sades of light; Stars are blurred; the si-lence grows and grows;

B. *mp* *p*
A si-lence grows and grows;

A

rit. Moderato (♩ = 116)

13

S. *mp* *p* *p*
Vast-er and vast-er vaults the ic-y night. Oh

A. *mp* *p* *mp*
Vast-er and vast-er vaults the ic-y night. Oh, I am the land that list - -

T. *mp* *p*
Vast-er vaults the ic-y night. Oh

B. *mp* *p*
Vast-er the ic-y night. Oh

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21

S. Oh Ah

A. ens, Oh Steeped in e - ter - nal beau -

T. I am the land that broods; Steeped in e - ter - nal beau -

B. I am the land that broods; Ah

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

B

rit. **a tempo** ($\text{♩} = 116$)

30

S. Crys-tal-line wa - ter(s) and wood(s). The sum - mer:

A. ty, Crys-tal-line wa - ter(s) and wood(s). The sum - mer:

T. ty, Crys-tal-line wa - ter(s) and wood(s). The sum - mer:

B. Crys-tal-line wa - ter(s) and wood(s). The sum - mer: No

(perf. 5th) (perf. 4th) (dim. 3rd = maj. 2nd) (same pitch) (same pitch) *mf*

mp *mp* *mf*

39

S. The gray-ling a - leap in the riv - er;

A. No sweet-er was ev - er; the sun-shin-y woods all a -

T. sweet-er was ev - er; the sun-shin-y woods all a - thrill;

B. The

f *mf* *f*

48

S. *mf* The big - horn is a - sleep on the hill. *mp* The *mf*

A. thrill; *f* The strong life that ne-ver knows har -

T. *mf* The gray-ling a - leap in the riv - er; The wilds

B. big - horn is a - sleep on the hill. *mf* The wilds

57

S. strong life that ne-ver knows har - ness; *p* Ah

A. ness; *mp* The fresh-ness, the free-dom, the fair - ness...

T. where the car - i - bou call; *p* Ah Ah

B. where the car - i - bou call; *p* Ah

66 **C**

S. Oh

A. I am the land that list - ens, *p* Oh

T. Oh *mp* I am the land that broods;

B. Oh *mp* I am the land that broods;

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4

76

S. *mp* Ah *mf* Crys-tal-line wa - ter(s) and wood(s). *mp*

A. *mp* Steeped in e - ter - nal beau - ty, *mf* Crys-tal-line wa - ter(s) and wood(s). *mp*

T. *mp* Steeped in e - ter - nal beau - ty, *mf* Crys-tal-line wa - ter(s) and wood(s). *mp*

B. *mp* Ah *mf* Crys-tal-line wa - ter(s) and wood(s). *mp*

D

85 *accel.* *mf* *f* **Allegro** (♩ = 132)

S. The win - ter! The bright-ness that blinds you, *f*

A. The win - ter! The bright-ness that blinds you, *f*

T. The win - ter! Ah *mp*

B. The win - ter! Ah *mp*

94 *mf* *f*

S. The cold fear that fol-lows and *f*

A. the bright-ness that blinds you, Ah *mf*

T. The white land locked tight as a drum, Ah *mf*

B. The white land locked tight as a drum, Ah *mf*

rit.

103

S. finds you, *mp* The snows that are old - er than *mf*

A. Oh *mp* Snows that are old - er than *mf*

T. The si-lence that blud - geons you dumb. Oh *mp*

B. The si-lence that blud - geons you dumb. Oh *mp*

112

S. his - tor - y, Oh *mp* Snows that are old - er than *mf*

A. his - tor - y, Oh *mp* Snows that are old - er than his - *mf*

T. The woods where the weird sha-dows slant; The woods where the weird sha *mp*

B. The snows that are old - er than *mf*

120

S. his - tor - y; Still - ness, moon - light, mys - ter - y; *mp*

A. - tor - y; The woods where the weird sha-dows slant; The *mp*

T. - dows slant; The snows that are old-er than his - tor - y; Ah *p*

B. his - tor - y, The snows that are old-er than his - tor - y; Ah *mp*

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E

6

Andante (♩ = 100)

129

S. *p* Still - ness, the moon - light, the mys - ter - y. I am the land that list - ens,

A. *mp* still - ness, the moon - light, the mys - ter - y. I am the land that list - ens,

T. *p* Ah Oh

B. *p* Oh

138

S. *p* Oh *mp* Steeped in e - ter - nal

A. *mp* I am the land that broods; *mp* Steeped in e - ter - nal

T. *mf* I am the land that broods; *mp* Steeped in e - ter - nal

B. *mp* I am the land that broods; *mp* Steeped in e - ter - nal

145

S. *mf* beau - ty, *mf* Crys - tal - line wa - ter(s) *mp* and *p* wood(s).

A. *mf* beau - ty, *mp* Crys - tal - line wa - ter(s) *p* and wood(s).

T. *mf* beau - ty, *mp* Crys - tal - line wa - ter(s) *p* and wood(s).

B. *mf* beau - ty, *mp* Crys - tal - line wa - ter(s) *p* and wood(s).

Yukon

Lines from three early Yukon poems of Robert W. Service (1874-1958),
selected and arranged by Peter Bird in 2015.

(Note that only poems published in 1913 or earlier are quoted here;
in the USA and in Canada, these are in the public domain.)

Flat as a drum-head stretch the haggard snows;
The mighty skies are palisades of light;
The stars are blurred; the silence grows and grows;
Vaster and vaster vaults the icy night.

I am the land that listens, I am the land that broods;
Steeped in eternal beauty, crystalline waters and woods.

The summer—no sweeter was ever:
The sunshiny woods all athrill;
The grayling aleap in the river,
The bighorn asleep on the hill.
The strong life that never knows harness;
The wilds where the caribou call;
The freshness, the freedom, the fairness-- ...

I am the land that listens, I am the land that broods;
Steeped in eternal beauty, crystalline waters and woods.

The winter! The brightness that blinds you,
The white land locked tight as a drum,
The cold fear that follows and finds you,
The silence that bludgeons you dumb.
The snows that are older than history,
The woods where the weird shadows slant;
The stillness, the moonlight, the mystery, ...

I am the land that listens, I am the land that broods;
Steeped in eternal beauty, crystalline waters and woods.
