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Gonçalo Gato

To the Muses

for soprano and piano
Programme Notes:

The word 'music' has its origins in Greek mythology denoting the (art) of the Muses. *To the Muses* is based on William Blake's (1757–1827) poem, which appealed to me because of its musical allusions. Expressions such as "From ancient melody have ceas'd", "melodious winds", "The languid strings do scarcely move! / The sound is forc'd, the notes are few!" allude directly to music, but also metaphorically to inspirational issues. This is further emphasized by expressions such as "Fair Nine [muses], forsaking Poetry!" and "How have you left the ancient love".

London, March 2012

Execution notes:

- Accidentals last one bar and hold for the octave on which they appear;
- Last section Largo is intended to be performed as a poetry recitation with a piano accompaniment. Some drama is welcome.
To the Muses

Words from the poem by William Blake (1757-1827)

Gonçalo Gato
Poco meno mosso

Whether on Idaho's shady brow

Or in the chambers of the East, The chambers of the Sun

that now From ancient melody have ceased;

almost whispering
Poco meno mosso

Whether in heaven,ye

wane

S.

Pno.

32

S.

der

fair, Or

the green

S.

corners of the earth, Or

the blue

S.

regions of the air

S.
Where the melodious

winds have birth;

mind the clef changes until the end
51 \( j = 112 \)

54

57
Largo
(speak, don't sing)

with despair

with indignation

Fair Nine, forsaking Poetry;

How have you left the ancient love
That bards of old enjoy'd in you!

Immediately after soprano text box

lost, demented

The languid strings do scarcely move.

The sound is forced,

whispering

the notes are few.