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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
(March 2012, rev. Jun. 2015)

$\text{♩} = 80$

Soprano

Piano

mp *pp*

non legato

Pno.

p

Pno.

Pno.

11 **Poco meno mosso**

S. *mp* ³
 Whe-ther_ on I - da's_ sha - dy brow_

Pno. *pp* *p* *pp*

S. *mf* *mp* *f*
 Or in the cham-bers of the East, The cham-bers_ of the Sun,___

Pno. *mp* *pp* *ff* *p* *f* *p*

S. *mp* *decresc.* *ord.* *almost whispering* *pp*
 that now From an-cient me-lo - dy_ have ceased;

Pno. *p* *mp* *p* *pp*

S. *mf* *pp*

Pno. *mf* *pp*

38

S.

Pno.

ff *mf* *pp*

ff

40

S.

Where the me - lo - di - ous

Pno.

f *p* *ppp* *pp* *f* *f*

mp *p* *mf*

Ped.

42

S.

winds have birth;

Pno.

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

44

S.

mind the clef changes until the end

accel.

Pno.

ff *p*

48

S.

Pno.

p 5 *ff* *pp* *f* 3 8^{va}

51

S.

Pno.

$\text{♩} = 112$

5 *f* 3 3 Red. Red.

54

S.

Pno.

We - ther on crys - tal

mf 3 *f* 3 3 3 3 3 3 Red. Red.

57

S.

Pno.

rocks ye rove, Be - neath

ff *mf* 3 *mf*

59 *mp* *p*

S. *3*
 the bo - som of the sea

Pno. *p* *pp* *3*

Red.

62 *mf*

S. *3* *3* *3*
 Wan-de - ring in ma - ny a co - ral

Pno. *mf* *3*

Red.

66 *f*

S. *f*
 grove; Fair nine for - sa - king

Pno. *f* *ff* *p* *f*

69 *f*

S. *f*
 Po - e - try;

Pno. *fff* *fff* *3*

Red. *al fine*

Sub

71 *rit.*

S.

Pno.

73

S.

Pno.

Largo

(speak, don't sing)
with despair

Fair Nine, forsaking Poetry;

with indignation

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

S. Solo

mp

f

Immediately after
soprano text box

Pno.

p *ff*

lost, demented

The languid strings do scarcely move,

The sound is forced,

whispering

the notes are few.

S. Solo

p

rit.

ppp

mp

ppp

Pno.