

Hoffman | Twilight, Goodbye, Peace | Low Voice, Low Flutes (Alto and Bass), Piano

STANLEY M. HOFFMAN

Twilight, Goodbye, Peace

for Low Voice, Low Flutes (Alto and Bass) and Piano

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Notes

Twilight, Goodbye, Peace is dedicated to low flutes virtuoso Peter Sheridan. It was begun in 2013 and completed in 2016; the total duration is 6:41. The texts by Solomon Ibn Gabriol, Samuel L. Clemens (aka Mark Twain), and one attributed to Fra Giovanni Giocondo but probably written by Earnest Temple Hargrove, take the listener on a journey from grief/death to hope/heaven. The musical language is unapologetically chromatic. Other than perhaps the most academic of composers these days, chromaticism has largely fallen into disuse, having been replaced by the in-vogue maximalistic minimalism style (sound clouds), what I refer to as a whole lot of nothing going on. Although the vast majority of my music written since around 1998 is either tonal or more often modal, I occasionally return to a chromatically saturated musical language to express certain emotions through sounds that are alien to those musical languages. I did so in the present title with the intent of painting the three texts more poignantly. While most passages feature familiar-sounding triads and octaves, the melodies, harmonies and cadences sound unfamiliar. It is to be hoped that the listener will find the music both moving and engaging, challenging one to listen to these three songs in new ways.

—Stanley M. Hoffman, 9/11/2016, fifteen years after 9/11

Twilight

Behold the sun at twilight time:
crimson, as though it clad itself in red.
It undresses the north and the south,
It envelops the west with violet.
And the world, now left bare,
seeks shelter in the darkness of the evening, and slumbers.
Then the heavens grow dim,
as if wrapped with sackcloth,
lamenting the loss of a dear one.*

* The words “a dear one” are used in place of the name “Jekuthiel” (Jekuthiel Hassan) the poet’s mentor. After Hassan was assassinated, the poet wrote many verses in his memory.

Lament

—Solomon Ibn Gabriol (eleventh century)
Stanley M. Hoffman (b. 1959), tr., alt.

Goodbye

Good-bye! a kind good-bye,
I bid you now, my friend,
And though ’tis sad to speak the word,
To destiny I bend.

And though it be decreed by Fate
That we ne’er meet again,
Your image, graven on my heart,
Forever shall remain.

Aye, in my heart thou’lt have a place,
Among the friends held dear -
Nor shall the hand of Time efface
The memories written there.
Goodbye.

To Jennie (1856)
—Samuel L. Clemens
(1835–1910)

Peace

No Heaven can come to us
unless our hearts find rest in today.
Take Heaven!

No Peace lies in the future
which is not hidden in this
present little instant.
Take Peace!

The gloom of the world is but a shadow.
Behind it, yet within our reach is joy.
There is radiance and glory in the darkness
could we but see—
and to see we only have to look.

No Heaven can come to us

—Attributed to Fra Giovanni Giocondo (1513).
Probably written by Earnest Temple Hargrove (1870–1939),
a leading member of the Theosophical Society in America.
Published in the Theosophical Quarterly Magazine
(Vol. 8, No. 4, April, 1911)
under Fra Giovanni’s name.

If Mr. Hargrove wrote these words,
clearly he preferred that they be attributed to
the 16th-century monk.

Twilight, Goodbye, Peace

Three Songs for Low Voice, Low Flutes* and Piano

Score in C

1. Twilight

Solomon Ibn Gabriol (eleventh century)
S. M. H., tr., alt.

Stanley M. Hoffman (b. 1959)

Adagio ♩ = 60

Alto Flute

Low Voice

Piano

Be - hold the sun at

twi-light time: crim-son, as though it clad it-self in red. It un-

p *mp* *mp*

mf *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

mf *mp*

* Alto flute in movements 1 and 3, and bass flute in movement 2.

9

mf *f* *mf*

mf *f*

dress-es the north and the south, It en-vel-ops the west with vi-o-let.

mf *f*

Ped.

13

mp *mp* *p* *mp*

And the world, now left bare, seeks shel-ter in the dark-ness of the

mp

Ped. Ped.

18

mf *mp* *p* *mp*

eve-ning, and slum-bers, slum-bers. Then the

mf *mp* *p*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

23 *mp* *colla voce*
heav - ens grow dim, as if wrapped in sack - cloth, la - *a piacere*
mp *colla voce*
Ped. Ped.

27 *In tempo*
ment - ing the loss of a loved one. *p*
In tempo

29 *mp*
mp

(Flute sounds one octave lower than written.)

2. Goodbye

To Jennie (1856)
Samuel L. Clemens (1835–1910)

Stanley M. Hoffman
(b. 1959)

Adagio ♩ = 60

Bass Flute

Low Voice

Piano

B. Fl.

Voice

Pno.

Good - bye! a kind good - bye, (ossia) I

p *mp* *mf*

p *p*

Ped. Ped. Ped.

Ped. Ped. Ped.

9

B. Fl.

Voice

Pno.

mp *mp*

(8) *(ossia)* bid you now, my friend, And though 'tis sad to

Ped.

12

B. Fl.

Voice

Pno.

mf *mf* *mp*

speak the word, To des - ti - ny I bend.

Ped.

15

B. Fl.

Voice

Pno.

mp *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

And though it be de -

Andante subito ♩ = 80

mp *cresc. poco a poco*

Ped.

18 *(cresc.)* *f*

Voice: creed by Fate That we ne'er meet a - gain, *(ossia)* Your im - age grav - en

Pno. *(cresc.)* *f*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

22 *rit.* $\text{♩} = 60$

B. Fl.

Voice: on my heart For - ev - er shall re - main. *molto* *mp* *p* *p* Aye. in my

Pno. *rit.* $\text{♩} = 60 *molto* *mp* *p*$

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

26 *mp*

B. Fl.

Voice: heart *(ossia)* thou - 't have a place, A -

Pno. *mp*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

29

B. Fl. *mp* *mp* *mf*

Voice (8) mong the friends held

Pno. *mp* *mf*

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.*

32

B. Fl. *mf*

Voice *mp* dear, — Nor *mp*

Pno. *mp* *mf*

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

35 **Andante subito** ♩ = 80

B. Fl.

Voice *f* shall the hand of Time ef - face The mem - 'ries writ - ten *molto*

Pno. *f* *molto*

Andante subito ♩ = 80 *rit.*

Ped. *Ped.*

38 $\text{♩} = 60$

B. Fl.

Voice *mp* there. *p* Good - bye, *mp* Good-

Pno. *mp* *p* *mp*

Ped.

42 *rit.*

B. Fl. *mf* *p*

Voice *rit.* bye, *p* Good - bye.

Pno. *mf* *p*

Ped.

Score in C

3. Peace

Attributed to Fra Giovanni Giocondo (1513)
Probably written by Earnest Temple Hargrove (1870–1939)

Stanley M. Hoffman (b. 1959)

Andante con moto ♩ = 100

Alto Flute *p* *senza vib.*

Low Voice *p*
Mm, — mm. — No

Piano *p*

5 *ord.*

mp

mp
Heav - en can come to us un-less our hearts find rest in to-day.

mp

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

9 *senza vib. (white tone)*

ord.

< mf mf

Take Heav - en! — No Peace lies in the fu - ture

mf

Ped. Ped.

13 *senza vib. (white tone)*

mp

which is not hid - den in this pre - sent lit - tle in - stant. Take Peace. The

mp

Ped. Ped.

17 *ord.*

mp mf cresc.

mp

gloom of the world — is but a sha - dow. — Be -

mf cresc.

Ped. Ped.

21

f hind it, yet with-in our reach is *molto* *mp* (*mp*)

f *molto* *mp*

Ped.

25

mf joy. There is *mp*

mf *mp*

mf *mp*

Ped. Ped. Ped.

28 Subito $\text{♩} = 100$

mf ra-dience and glo-ry in the dark-ness could we but see—

Subito $\text{♩} = 100$

mf

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

32 *senza vib. (white tone)* $\text{♩} = 60$
colla voce

a piacere
mp

and to see _____ we on - ly _____ have to

$\text{♩} = 60$
colla voce

35 *Andante con moto* $\text{♩} = 100$ *senza vib.*

p

look. _____ Mm, _____ mm,

Andante con moto $\text{♩} = 100$

p

39 *sim.* *(big breath!) (sim.)*

pp *ppp*

pp *(big breath!) ppp*

mm, _____ mm. _____

pp *8^{va}* *ppp* *15^{ma}*

(loco) *8^{vb}*

Stanley M. Hoffman was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1959. He has lived in the greater Boston area since 1977. He received degrees in Composition from Brandeis University (Ph.D. 1993), the New England Conservatory of Music (M.M. 1984), and the Boston Conservatory (B.M. Cum Laude 1981).

Dr. Hoffman's accomplishments as a composer include having his published flute duet, *Arirang Variations*, receive a world premiere performance on a program in Toronto, Ontario, Canada on April 12, 2015, by bass flute players Peter Sheridan and Judy Diez d' Aux in a concert was sponsored by the Toronto-based music organization Flute Street. Peter Sheridan also commissioned *Prelude and Fughetta* for alto flute and organ and gave the premiere performance of this work on May 3, 2015, St. Patrick, Mentone, VIC, Australia, with the organist Christopher Trikalis. Peter Sheridan also recorded the alto flute duet *Meditations and Memories* which appears on the CD *Monologues and Dialogues* performed on the Australian label MOVE Records (Catalogue Number: MD 3349); the individual track is available on iTunes. His unpublished compositions *Crimson Sunset* for organ solo, *Album Leaf for Harp Solo*, *Variant on "Battle Cry of Freedom,"* for wind quintet, *Get me a rag! Just a minute...* for piano solo and *Limericks and Laughter Thereafter* for clarinet solo, were chosen for performance by David Bohn, Jasmin Cowin, the West Point Woodwind Quintet, Shiao-uen Ding and Bruce Curlette, respectively, in the 2012 and 2011 call for scores known as "15-Minutes-of-Fame" by the Composer's Voice Concert Series in New York City. His piece *The Monkey* for clarinet, violin and piano was selected to be part of the 12-movement work "Zodiac: Across the Universe," which was premiered in China as part of The Zodiac Trio's 10-concert tour, which took place during November, 2013. Dr. Hoffman won a co-first place prize in the 2008–09 Longfellow Chorus International Composition Competition for his setting of the Longfellow poem *Nature*. He won a third place prize in the 2008 Choral Composition Competition sponsored by The New York Virtuoso Singers for his unpublished piece *Anim Zemiros* for SATB chorus. In 2008, Dr. Hoffman received a commission from Carolina Brass for *Fanfare, Tango and Fughetta* on Hebrew Themes. *Grant Us Peace* for SATB chorus received an "Honors" citation in 2002 in the *Waging Peace Through Singing* project sponsored by *iwagepeace.com*. The first song from his song cycle *Selections From "The Song of Songs"* for male voice and wind ensemble received a 1996 premiere performance from the Metropolitan Wind Symphony. Dr. Hoffman received a 1995 commission from the ALEA III contemporary music ensemble for his composition *Trio In One Movement* for clarinet, viola and violoncello. His piece *There Is a Name* for SA chorus and amplified classical guitar was performed before an audience of over 8000 people at the dedication ceremonies of the New England Holocaust Memorial in Boston on October 22, 1995. Dr. Hoffman's composition *String Quartet* (1987) was performed by the Boston Composers String Quartet at Jordan Hall in Boston on January 29, 1989. This piece was also performed by them in the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, New York City on February 12, 1989. He received a 1984–85 Broadcast Music Incorporated (BMI) Award to Student Composers for his composition *Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird*.

Dr. Hoffman also works as a conductor, vocalist and lecturer. He has been Chief Editor at ECS Publishing since 1998, and is the Founding Music Director of The Temple Israel of Natick Singers.

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