

PATRICK HOULIHAN

A DISTANT STREAM
OF MUSIC

for SATB Choir and Piano

RIVER ISLAND MUSIC

“A Distant Stream of Music” is the third movement of *Songs of Vision and Light*, which was commissioned by the by the Arkansas Federation of Music Clubs in commemoration of the Centennial of the National Federation of Music Clubs.

Duration: ca. 2:30

Text

*Adapted from the works of Christina Rossetti, 1830-1894
and Mechtild of Magdeburg, c.1210-c.1280.*

Let a distant stream of music lull me,
languid as a dream,
soft as the whisper of a summer sea.

The music swells into a song,
the echoes take it up along the hills.
And the wind blows it back again,
and the wind blows it back again.

As I awaken to your presence, I can hear it in my soul.

Let a distant stream of music lull me, lull me,
languid as a dream,
soft as the whisper of a summer sea.

Lord, sing to me your joyful song,
a song without noise or notes,
a song of love behind words, beyond words.

As I awaken to your presence, I can hear it in my soul,
I can hear it in my soul, I can hear it in my soul.

Let a distant stream of music lull me,
languid as a dream,
soft as the whisper of a summer sea.

Please inform the composer of any performances so he can file the information with BMI. Royalty payments from BMI to composers depend in part on reports of performances. Thank you in advance! Email to music@patrickhoulihan.com

A Distant Stream of Music

from *Songs of Vision and Light*
SATB and Piano

Christina Rossetti, 1830–1894
Mechthild of Magdeburg, c.1210–c.1280
Adapted by Patrick Houlihan

Patrick Houlihan

Very slowly & freely, not strictly metrical

p

Soprano
Let a dis - tant stream of mu - sic lull me, lan - guid as a dream, —

Alto
p *Altos optional mm. 1–6*
Let a dis - tant stream of mu - sic lull me, lan - guid as a dream, —

Tenor
8

Bass
8

Piano

Very slowly & freely, not strictly metrical

5 *mp* *ten.* 3 *pp*
S soft as the whis - per of a sum - mer sea. —

A *mp* *ten.* 3 *pp*
A soft as the whis - per of a sum - mer sea. —

T
8

B

Piano
5 *Delicately* *p* 3 3
Red. Red.

9 *accel.* *flowing* *mp*

S the

A the

T *mp*
The mu - sic swells in - to a song, the

B *mp*
The mu - sic swells in - to a song, the

Piano *accel.* *pp* *mp*

Red. *Red.*

14

S ech - oes take it up a - long the hills. And the wind blows it

A ech - oes take it up a - long the hills. And the wind blows it

T ech - oes take it up a - long the hills.

B ech - oes take it up a - long the hills.

Piano *Red.* *

17

S
back a - gain._____ And the wind blows it back a - gain._____

A
back a - gain._____ And the wind blows it back a - gain._____

T
mp And the wind blows it back a - gain._____

B

Piano

19

S
p As I a - wak - en to your pres - ence, I can hear it in my soul. *mf* *p*

A
p As I a - wak - en to your pres - ence, I can hear it in my soul. *mf* *p*

T
p As I a - wak - en to your pres - ence, I can hear it in my soul. *mf* *p*

B
p As I a - wak - en to your pres - ence, I can hear it in my soul._____ *mf* *p*

Piano

22 *Quietly; with much freedom*

S
Let a dis - tant stream of mu - sic lull me, lull me, _____

A
Let a dis - tant stream of mu - sic lull me, lull me, _____

T
8 Let a dis - tant stream of mu - sic lull me, lull me, _____

B
Let a dis - tant stream of mu - sic lull me, lull me, _____

Piano
Quietly; with much freedom

26

S

A
ten.
soft as the whis - per of a sum - mer sea. _____

T
ten.
soft as the whis - per of a sum - mer sea. _____

B
lan - guid as a dream, _____

Piano

3

29 *mp accel.*

S Lord, sing to me your joy-ful song, a song with-out noise or notes, a

A *pp accel.* *mp* a

T *pp accel.* *mp* Lord, sing to me your joy - ful song, a

B *accel.* *mp* a

Piano *mp accel.*

33 *f*

S song of love be - yond words, — be - yond words. As I a -

A song of love be - yond words, — be - yond words. As I a -

T song of love be - yond words, — be - yond words. As I a -

B song of love be - yond words, — be - yond words. As I a -

Piano *f*

The musical score consists of four systems. The first system (measures 36-39) features four vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a Piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "wak - en to your pres - ence, I can hear it in my soul, I can". The vocal parts have a melodic line with a fermata over the final note of the phrase. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The second system (measures 39-42) continues the vocal parts with the lyrics: "hear it in my soul." and "I can hear it in my soul." The piano accompaniment continues with a more active melodic line. The score includes dynamic markings such as *rit.*, *ff*, *mf*, and *mp*, and time signature changes from 2/4 to 3/4.

Very slowly & freely, not strictly metrical

42

S

A

T

B

p

Let a dis - tant stream of mu - sic lull me,

p

Let a dis - tant stream of mu - sic lull me,

Very slowly & freely, not strictly metrical
for rehearsal only

42

Piano

p

47

S

A

T

B

p

lan - guid as a dream, — soft as the whis - per of a sum - mer sea.

pp ten.

pp ten.

pp ten.

p

pp ten.

lan - guid as a dream, — soft as the whis - per of a sum - mer sea.

lan - guid as a dream, — soft as the whis - per of a sum - mer sea.

lan - guid as a dream, — soft as the whis - per of a sum - mer sea.

47

Piano

p

pp ten.

A Distant Stream of Music
SATB Choir and Piano

About the Composer

Patrick Houlihan's music has been called "original and refreshing" (Speight Jenkins). Martin Bookspan wrote that he "treats his materials with imagination" and "displays a keen sensitivity to the [music's] possibilities." Some of Houlihan's compositions have been inspired by special locations, such as *At Milsons Point* (Sydney) and *Snoqualmie Passages* (Cascade Mountains). In addition to music for concerts and recitals, his commissions include music for worship, and grants include support for electro-acoustic museum installations in collaboration with sculptor Wallace Mallette.

Houlihan is a native of New Orleans and holds degrees from the University of Mississippi and Florida State University. He has received grants, commissions, and awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, Meet the Composer, the New Orleans Contemporary Arts Center, the Florida College Music Teachers Association, and other organizations. He has taught music theory, composition, electro-acoustic music, and music industry at Mississippi Valley State University and Ouachita Baptist University.

RIVER ISLAND MUSIC

ISMN 979-0-800127-09-0



9 790800 127090