

*Commissioned by the Sheffield Chamber Players and WordSong
to Bert Hornback*

The Second Coming

(2022)

for voice and string quartet

score

6 minutes duration

Howard Frazin

text by William Butler Yeats

The Second Coming

Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

Surely some revelation is at hand;
Surely the Second Coming is at hand.
The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out
When a vast image out of *Spiritus Mundi*
Troubles my sight: somewhere in sands of the desert
A shape with lion body and the head of a man,
A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun,
Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it
Reel shadows of the indignant desert birds.
The darkness drops again; but now I know
That twenty centuries of stony sleep
Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle,
And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?

– William Butler Yeats

to Bert Hornback

The Second Coming

text by William Butler Yeats

Howard Frazin
(2022)

Fervent
♩ = ca. 63

f esp.

rit. - - - -

mp

Mezzo-soprano

Turn-ing and turn - ing in the wid-en - ing gyre The

Fervent
♩ = ca. 63

rit. - - - -

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

6

p dolce

A Broad and expansive
♩ = ca. 72

fal - con can-not hear the fal - con - er; Things

A Broad and expansive
♩ = ca. 72

pp

p dolce

pp

p dolce

pp

p dolce

pp

p dolce

2 12

fall a - part; the cen - tre can - not hold;

19

poco rall.

Mere an - ar - chy is loosed up - on the

poco rall.

Slowly lilting

♩. = ca. 63

B

3

pp *misterioso*

26 - - - -

world, The blood

Slowly lilting

♩. = ca. 63

B

ppp *misterioso*

pizz.

ppp *misterioso*

pp **ppp** *misterioso*

32

- dimmed tide is loosed, and eve - ry - where

poco accel.

37

The cer - e - mo - ny of in - no - cence is drowned;

pizz.

pp

arco

pp

poco accel.

More forward

♩ = ca. 69

C

mp

42

The best lack all con - vic

More forward

♩ = ca. 69

C

mp

arco

*mp**mp**mp*

The best lack all con - vic

47

- tion, while the worst Are full

52 *poco f poco accel.*

of pas - sion - ate in - ten - si - ty.

poco f

poco f

poco f

poco f

D

Still more forward

♩. = ca. 76

poco accel..

57

Sure - ly _____ some rev - e - la - tion is _____ at _____ hand; _____ Sure - ly _____

D

Still more forward

♩. = ca. 76

poco accel..

62

E

the Sec - ond Com - ing _____ is _____ at _____ hand. _____

E

ff esp.

ff esp.

ff esp.

ff esp.

Broad and expansive

♩ = ca. 72

poco rit.

66 ***ff esp.***

The Sec - - - ond Com - ing! _____

Broad and expansive
♩ = ca. 72
poco rit.

F A little slower

♩ = ca. 63

73 ***p dolce***

Hard - ly are those words out _____ When a vast _____ im - age _____

F A little slower

♩ = ca. 63

p dolce ***pp***

p dolce ***pp***

79 *rall.* *pp*

— out of Spir - i - tus Mun - di Troub - les my

pp

85 *G* Distant $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 144$ *pp dolce*

(3+3+2) sight: some - - where

G Distant $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 144$ *pp cantabile*

(3+3+2) *pp sotto voce*

pizz. *pp* *pizz.* *pp*

88

in sands of the des - ert

arco

This musical system covers measures 88 to 90. The vocal line (top staff) features a melody with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 89. The piano accompaniment consists of five staves: two treble staves and three bass staves. The piano part includes arpeggiated chords and sustained notes, with the label 'arco' appearing in the bottom staff of measure 90.

91

A shape with li - on bod - y and the

arco

This musical system covers measures 91 to 93. The vocal line (top staff) features a melody with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 92. The piano accompaniment consists of five staves: two treble staves and three bass staves. The piano part includes arpeggiated chords and sustained notes, with the label 'arco' appearing in the bottom staff of measure 93.

H A little slower
♩ = ca. 126

(2+2+2+2) **pp** mysterious

94 **mp** poco rall.

head of a man, A gaze

mp poco rall.

pp mysterious

pizz.

pp mysterious

pp mysterious

pizz.

pp mysterious

98

blank and pit - i - less as the sun, Is

arco

102

mov - ing its slow thighs, while all a - bout it Reel

pp expressionless

arco

105

shad - - ows of the in - dig - nant

pizz.

pizz.

108

I Slowly lilting
♩. = ca. 63

des - ert birds.

pp

pp

arco

pp

ppp misterioso

The dark - ness drops a - gain;

ppp misterioso

ppp misterioso

pizz.

ppp misterioso

118

but_ now_ I_ know_ that_ twen - ty cen - tur -

pp

J

13

pizz.

ppp misterioso

pp

arco

pp

123

ies_ of ston - y sleep_ Were_ vexed_

p esp.

poco accel.

poco accel.

arco

128 *mp*

to night - mare by a rock - ing cra - dle

mp

mp

mp

mp

K Broad and expansive
♩. = ca. 72 *mf esp.*

133 And what rough beast, its hour come round at

K Broad and expansive
♩. = ca. 72 *mf*

mf

mf

mf

mf

141

p *pp*

last, _____ Slouch-es _____ towards Beth - le - hem to _____ be

150

rall.

born? _____

rall.

con sord.

ppp

con sord.

con sord. pizz.

ppp

con sord. pizz.

ppp