

SONGS OF TRAVEL

(POEMS BY ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON)

1. THE VAGABOND (TTBB)
2. BRIGHT IS THE RING OF WORDS (SATB)
3. LET BEAUTY AWAKE (SATB)
4. THE INFINITE SHINING HEAVENS
(SATB)
5. IN DREAMS (SSAA)
6. I HAVE TROD THE UPWARD AND
DOWNWARD SLOPE_(SATB)

Martin Chambers
(2013)

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Songs of Travel, a group of nine poems drawn from a book of poems of the same name written by *Robert Louis Stevenson* in 1896.

This poetry became well known through solo settings for voice and piano by *Ralph Vaughan Williams* most probably written in 1904.

These poems explore perennial travel and adventure themes of a traditional English wayfarer or vagabond, world-weary yet resolute.

THE VAGABOND

Robert Louis Stevenson

Martin Chambers
b. 1944

With Spirit

Moderato ♩ = 100

1
Tenor

2
mp
Bum Bum bum bum Ah _____ bum bum

1
mp
Bum Bum bum bum bum bum bum bum

2
mp
Bum bum bum bum bum bum bum bum

Piano for Rehearsal Only

5
mf
Ten. 1
Give to me the life I love, Let the lave go by me,

Ten. 2
Bum Bum bum bum bum bum bum bum

Bar.
Bum Bum bum bum bum bum bum bum

Bass
Bum Bum bum bum bum bum bum bum

9

Ten. 1
Give the jol - ly heav'n a - bove And the by - way nigh me.

Ten. 2
Bum Bum bum bum bum Bum bum bum

Bar.
Bum Bum bum bum bum Bum bum bum

Bass
Bum Bum bum bum bum Bum bum bum

Musical score for measures 9-12. Tenors 1 and 2 sing lyrics. Baritone and Bass sing 'Bum'. Piano accompaniment is shown below.

13 *mf*

Ten. 1
mf Bed in the bush with stars to see, Bread I dip in the riv - er -

Ten. 2
mf Bed in the bush with stars to see, Bread I dip in the riv - er -

Bar.
mf Bed in the bush with stars to see, Bread I dip in the riv - er -

Bass
mf Bed in the bush with stars to see, Bread I dip in the riv - er -

Musical score for measures 13-16. Tenors 1 and 2 sing lyrics. Baritone and Bass sing lyrics. Piano accompaniment is shown below.

17 *f*

Ten. 1
8 There's the life for a man like me, There's the life for e - ver.

Ten. 2
8 *f* There's the life for a man like me, There's the life for e - ver.

Bar.
f There's the life for a man like me, There's the life for e - ver.

Bass
f There's the life for a man like me, There's the life for e - ver.

21

Ten. 1

Ten. 2
8 *mp*
Bum bum bum bum Ah — bum bum

Bar.
mp
Bum bum bum bum bum bum bum bum

Bass
mp
Bum bum bum bum bum bum bum bum

25 *mf*

Ten. 1
Let the blow fall soon or late, Let what will be o'er me;

Ten. 2
Bum Bum bum bum bum bum bum bum

Bar.
Bum Bum bum bum bum bum bum bum

Bass
Bum Bum bum bum bum bum bum bum

29

Ten. 1
Give the face of earth a - round And the road be - fore me.

Ten. 2
Bum Bum bum bum bum Bum bum bum

Bar.
Bum Bum bum bum bum Bum bum bum

Bass
Bum Bum bum bum bum Bum bum bum

33 *mf*

Ten. 1
Wealth I seek not, hope nor love, Nor a friend to know me;

Ten. 2
Wealth I seek not, hope nor love, Nor a friend to know me;

Bar.
Wealth I seek not, hope nor love, Nor a friend to know me;

Bass
Wealth I seek not, hope nor love, Nor a friend to know me;

mf

37

Ten. 1
All I seek, the heav'n a - bove And the road be - low me.

Ten. 2
All I seek, the heav'n a - bove And the road be - low me.

Bar.
All I seek, the heav'n a - bove And the road be - low me.

Bass
All I seek, the heav'n a - bove And the road be - low me.

41

Ten. 1 *mf* Or let au - tumn fall on me

Ten. 2 *mp* *mf* Bum Bum bum bum Or let au - tumn fall on me

Bar. *mp* *mf* Bum Bum bum bum Or let au - tumn fall on me

Bass *mp* *mf* Bum bum bum bum Or let au - tumn fall on me

45

Ten. 1 Where a - field I lin - ger, Sil - en - cing the bird on tree,

Ten. 2 Where a - field I lin - ger, Sil - en - cing the bird on tree,

Bar. Where a - field I lin - ger, Sil - en - cing the bird on tree,

Bass Where a - field I lin - ger, Sil - en - cing the bird on tree,

49

Ten. 1 *mp*
Bit - ing the blue fin - ger. White as meal the fros - ty field -

Ten. 2 *mp*
Bit - ing the blue fin - ger. Ah _____

Bar. *mp*
Bit - ing the blue fin - ger. Ah _____

Bass *mp*
Bit - ing the blue fin - ger. Ah _____

53

Ten. 1 *, mf*
Warm the fire - side ha - ven - Not to au - tumn will I yield,

Ten. 2 *, mf*

Not to au - tumn will I yield,

Bar. *, mf*

Not to au - tumn will I yield,

Bass *, mf*

Not to au - tumn will I yield,

57 *f*

Ten. 1 *f* Not to win - ter e - ven!

Ten. 2 *f* Not to win - ter e - ven! *mp* Bum Bum bum bum

Bar. *f* Not to win - ter e - ven! *mp* Bum Bum bum bum

Bass *f* Not to win - ter e - ven! *p* Bum bum bum bum

f *mp*

61 *mf*

Ten. 1 Let the blow fall soon or late, Let what will be

Ten. 2 Ah — bum bum Bum Bum bum bum

Bar. bum bum bum bum Bum Bum bum bum

Bass bum bum bum bum Bum Bum bum bum

mf

65

Ten. 1
o'er me; Give the face of earth a - round, and the road be -

Ten. 2
bum bum bum bum Bum Bum bum bum

Bar.
bum bum bum bum Bum Bum bum bum

Bass
bum bum bum bum Bum Bum bum bum

5

69

Ten. 1
fore me; Wealth — seek not, hope nor love, *mf*

Ten. 2
bum Bum bum bum Wealth I seek not, hope nor love, *mf*

Bar.
bum Bum bum bum Wealth — seek not, hope nor love, *mf*

Bass
bum Bum bum bum Wealth — seek not, hope nor love, *mf*

mf

73 $\text{♩} = 90$

Ten. 1
Nor a friend to know me; All I ask, the heav'n a - bove

Ten. 2
Nor a friend — know me; All I ask, the heav'n a - bove

Bar.
Nor a friend to know me; All I ask, the heav'n a - bove

Bass
Nor a friend to know me; All I ask, the heav'n a - bove

77 $\text{♩} = 80$

Ten. 1
f And the road be - low me. *rit.* And the road be - low me. *mp*

Ten. 2
f And the road be - low me. *rit.* And the road be - low me. *mp*

Bar.
f And the road be - low me. *rit.* And the road be - low me. *mp*

Bass
f And the road be - low me. *rit.* And the road be - low me. *mp*