

# 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.

# BRIGHT IS THE RING OF WORDS

Robert Louis Stevenson

Martin Chambers  
b. 1944

**Allegro** (M.M. ♩ = c. 120)

Soprano  
Alto  
Tenor  
Bass

*f*

Bright is the ring of words When the right man rings — them, Fair the fall of songs

Piano  
Reh. only

8

*mf*

When the sing-er sings them. Still they are carol - led and said On wings they are car - ried

*mf*

When the sing-er sings them. *mf* Still they are carol - led and said On wings they are car - ried

8

When the sing-er sings them. Still they are carol - led and said On wings they are car - ried

*mf*

When the sing-er sings them. Still they are carol - led and said On wings they are car - ried

♩ = 110  
*mp*

15 *p* *rit.* *mp*

*p* Af - ter the sing - er is dead And the mak - er bur - ied. Low as the sing - er lies

*p* Af - ter the sing - er is dead And the mak - er bur - ied. *mp*

8 *p* *rit.* *mp*

Af - ter the sing - er is dead And the mak - er bur - ied. Low

*p* *rit.* *mp*

Af - ter the sing - er is dead And the mak - er bur - ied. ♩ = 110

22 *mp*

In the field of hea - ther, In the field of hea - ther, Songs of his fash-ion bring The swains to -

*mp*

In the field of hea - ther,

8 *mp*

as the sing - er lies In the field of hea - ther, of hea - ther, Songs of his fash-ion bring The

*mp*

Low as the sing - er lies In the field of hea - ther, Songs of his

29

geth - er. bring The swains to - geth - er. And when the west is red

Songs of his fash - ion bring The swains to - geth - er. And when the west is red

swains to - geth - er. The swains to - geth - er. And when the west is red

fash - ion bring The swains The swains to - geth - er. And when the west is red

*p* *rit.*

*p* *rit.*

*p* *rit.*

*p* *rit.*

*p* *rit.*

*p* *rit.*

35

With the sun - set em - bers, The lov - er ling - ers and sings And the maid re - mem - bers.

With the sun - set em - bers, The lov - er ling - ers and sings And the maid re - mem - bers.

With the sun - set em - bers, And the maid re - mem - bers.

With the sun - set em - bers, And the maid re - mem - bers.

*p* *rit.*

*p* *rit.*

*pp* *rit.*

*pp* *rit.*

*p* *rit.*

*pp* *rit.*

*p* *rit.*

*pp* *rit.*