

Bones and Glass

for SSAATTBB choir

Áine Mallon

PERUSAL COPY

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Duration: 5' 50"

Composed for the National Youth Choir 18-25, as part of the Emerging Professional Artists programme. Performed and recorded by National Youth Choir 18-25 in July 2024, conducted by Nicholas Chalmers.

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Bones and Glass

I cast a shadow
 peer into the darkness
frozen and numb, I prepare my tools for the
forced excavation
brush, chisel, hammer, brush, chisel, hammer, hammer, shovel
my shadow, naked and raw, deepens and grows.
again. brush, brush, chisel, hammer, brush.
sewn to my bleeding feet, it follows me
eclipsing my form, like the moon blots the sun..

the sun
with a broken piece of mirror I reflect. and
coax the beam to create a spark
I nurture the flickers, they drink the air and [are nourished and]
slowly, slowly, they grow

thawing and breathing, with salt on my face I prepare my tools
melt, blow, shape,
start over. melt. again. melt, shape, blow.
dazzling structures of glass I build atop the bones
I see them from above
In a home of my making, flooded with light. my light.

I hang the broken mirror on the wall
 ready for the next time I hope will never come to pass
I am the shadow. I am the light.

Áine Mallon

With immense thanks to Joanna Marsh for her sage advice and guidance.

Bones and Glass

Text and Music by
Áine Mallon

♩ = 80, Desolate

Soprano *pp static*
I cast a sha - dow,

Alto

Tenor *mp intense* Ah *mf*

Tenor 2 *mp intense* Ah *mf*

Bass *intense p* Ah *mp* ah *mf*

Bass 2 *intense p* Ah *mp* ah *mf*

♩ = 80, Desolate

For rehearsal purposes only

Piano *pp static* *p intense* *mp*

7

S. *pp* Peer in - to the dark - ness

A. *pp* Peer in - to the dark - ness

T. ah *f*

T.2 ah *f*

B. ah *f*

B.2 ah *f*

Pno. *pp* *mf*

11 *pp* *p* *f*

S. fro - zen and numb (m) I pre - pare my tools for the forced ex - ca - va - tion

A. fro - zen and numb (m) I pre - pare my tools for the forced ex - ca - va - tion

T. ah ah for the forced ex - ca - va - tion

B. ah ah for the forced ex - ca - va - tion

Pno. *pp* *p* *mp* *f*



p dry and light

15 *p dry and light* *p dry and light* *p dry and light*

S. brush, brush, brush, ham - mer, ham - mer, brush,

A. brush, brush, brush, chi - sel, chi - sel, brush, brush, brush, chi - sel, chi - sel, brush, brush,

T. brush, brush, brush, brush, brush, brush, brush, brush, brush, brush, brush, brush,

B. brush, brush, brush, brush, brush, brush, ham - mer,

p *poco a poco cresc.*

Pno. *p*

♩ = 108, Methodical

20

S. *f* *mp heavy* *mf*
brush, chi-sel, chi-sel, chi - sel, brush, brush, ham-mer, sho-vel, my sha-dow na-ked and raw

A. *f* *mp heavy* *mf*
brush, chi-sel, chi-sel, brush, brush, brush, sho-vel, my sha-dow na-ked and raw

T. *f* *heavy mf*
brush, brush, brush, brush, brush, brush, brush, ham-mer, ham-mer, sho-vel, ah

B. *f* *heavy mf*
brush, brush, ham-mer, brush, chi - sel, chi - sel, sho-vel, ah

Pno. *f* *mp*

26

S. *f* *ff* *mf exasperated* *P with more weight*
it dee-pens and grows a-gain. brush, brush, brush,

A. *f* *ff* *mf exasperated* *P with more weight*
it dee-pens and grows a-gain. brush, brush, brush, chi-sel, chi-sel, brush, brush,

T. *f* *ff* *mf exasperated* *P with more weight*
ah a-gain. brush, brush, brush, brush, brush, brush, brush,

B. *f* *ff* *mf exasperated* *P with more weight*
ah a-gain. brush, brush, brush,

Pno. *f* *mf* *p*

32

S. ham - mer, ham - mer, brush, brush, chi - sel, chi - sel,

A. brush, chi - sel, chi - sel, brush, brush, brush, chi - sel, chi - sel,

T. brush, brush, brush, brush, brush, brush, brush, brush, brush, brush,

B. brush, brush, brush, ham - mer, brush, brush,

Pno. *poco a poco cresc.*

35

S. ham - mer, ham - mer, ham - mer, ham - mer, ham - mer. *f*

A. brush, brush, brush, ham - mer. *f*

T. brush, chi - sel, brush, ham - mer, ham - mer, ham - mer. *f*

B. ham - mer, brush, chi - sel, chi - sel, ham - mer. *f*

Pno. *f*

37

S. *urgent* Sewn to my bleed-ing feet it fol-lows me e - clip-sing my form _____ *psub.* *p*

A. *urgent* Sewn to my bleed-ing feet it fol-lows me e - clip-sing my form _____ *psub.* *p*

T. *urgent* Sewn to my bleed-ing feet it fol-lows me ah _____ *p*

B. *urgent* Sewn to my bleed-ing feet it fol-lows me ah _____ *p*

Pno. *psub.*

Meno mosso (♩ = 88) Wistful

pp

44

S. the sun (n) the sun (n)

S.2 like the moon blots the sun (n)

A. like the moon blots the sun (n)

A.2 *mf* with a

T. the sun (n)

T.2 the sun (n)

B. the sun (n)

B.2 the sun (n)

Meno mosso (♩ = 88) Wistful

pp

mf

Pno.

50

S. and coax the beam (m)

S.2 and coax the beam (m)

A. and coax the beam (m)

A.2 bro - ken piece of mir - ror I re - flect. and coax the beam (m)

T. and coax the beam (m)

T.2 and coax the beam (m)

B. and coax the beam (m)

B.2 and coax the beam (m)

Pno.

55

mf *f* *p*

S. to cre-ate a spark and

A. a spark I nur - ture the flic - kers, they drink the air and

A.2 a spark I nur - ture the flic - kers, they drink the air,

T. a spark

T.2 a spark

B. a spark they drink the air and

B.2 a spark they drink the air and

Pno. *f* *p*



61

rall. *A tempo*

S. slow - ly, slow - ly slow - ly they grow thaw - ing and

A. slow - ly, slow - ly slow - ly they grow thaw - ing and

A.2 slow - ly, slow - ly slow - ly they grow thaw - ing and

T. slow - ly, slow - ly slow - ly they grow thaw - ing,

T.2 slow - ly, slow - ly slow - ly they grow thaw - ing,

B. slow - ly, slow - ly, slow - ly they grow thaw - ing,

B.2 slow - ly, slow - ly, slow - ly they grow thaw - ing,

Pno. *pcresc.* *f*

67

S. *mf*
breath - ing with salt on my face I pre - pare my

A. *mf*
breath - ing with salt on my face I pre - - pare my

T. *mf*
breath - ing, salt on, face I pre - pare my

B. *mf*
breath - ing, salt on, face I pre - pare my

Pno. *mf*

72

S. *mp* *rall.* *p*
tools melt, blow,

A. *mp* *f* *p*
tools, pre - pare, I pre - pare my tools

T. *mp* *mf* *f*
tools, pre - pare, I pre - pare my tools

B. *mp* *mf* *f*
tools, pre - pare, I pre - pare my tools

Pno. *mp* *mf* *f* *p* *rall.* *p*

mp

S. *blow,* *shape,* *blow,*

S.2 *shape,* *shape,*

A. *melt,* *melt,* *melt,* *melt,* *melt,* *melt,* *melt,* *melt,* *melt,* *melt,* *melt,* *melt,*

A.2 *melt,* *melt,* *melt,* *melt,* *melt,* *melt,* *melt,* *melt,* *melt,* *melt,* *melt,* *melt,*

T. *melt,* *blow,* *shape,*

T.2 *melt,* *blow,* *shape,*

B. *melt,* *blow,* *blow,* *shape,*

B.2 *melt,* *blow,* *blow,* *shape,*

Pno. *mp cresc*

86

S. *mf* shape, daz-zling struc-tures of glass I

S.2 *mf* shape, daz-zling struc-tures of glass melt, melt, melt,

A. *mf* blow, blow, blow, daz - zling struc-tures of glass

A.2 *mf* blow, blow, blow, daz - zling struc-tures of glass

T. melt, blow, melt, melt, melt,

T.2 *mf* melt, blow, daz - zling struc-tures of glass shape,

B. *mf* daz - zling struc-tures of glass

B.2 *mf* daz - zling struc-tures of glass

Pno. *mf*

89

S. build a - top the bones the bones *mp* *rall.*

S.2 I build a - top the bones the bones

A. bones, I build a - top the bones *mp*

A.2 bones, I build a - top the bones *mp*

T. shape, bones I can see them from a - *mp*

T.2 bones I can see them from a - *mp*

B. I build a - top the bones I build a - top the bones *mp*

B.2 I build a - top the bones I build a - top the bones *mp*

Pno. *mp* *rall.*

A tempo (♩ = 60)

warm and nostalgic

93

p legato *mp*

S. in a home of my mak - ing, daz - zling

A. in a home of my mak - ing,

A.2 in a home of my mak - ing,

T. bove, in a home, in a home of my mak - ing,

T.2 bove, in a home, in a home of my mak - ing,

B. in a home of my mak - ing,

Pno. *p* *mp*

A tempo (♩ = 60)



97

mf *ff'*

S. struc - tures, flood - ed with light, my light, my light

A. flood - ed with light, my light, my light

A.2 flood - ed with light, my light, my light, my light

T. flood - ed with light, my light, my light, my light

T.2 flood - ed with light, my light, my light, my light

B. flood - ed with light, my light, my light, my light

Pno. *mf* *ff*

Meno mosso, Gently

102

mp

S. *mp*
I hang the bro - ken mir - ror on the wall rea - dy for the next time I hope will

A. *p*
oo

T. *p*
oo

T.2 *p*
oo

B. *p*
oo

Meno mosso, Gently

mp

Pno. *mp*



106

mp

pp

S. *mp* *pp*
ne - ver come to pass I am the light.

mp

pp

A. *mp* *pp*
I am the light.

mf

pp

T. *mf* *pp*
I am the sha - dow, the light.

mf

pp

T.2 *mf* *pp*
I am the sha - dow, the light.

mf

pp

B. *mf* *pp*
sha - dow, the light.

Pno. *mf* *mp* *pp*