

R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
TEN BLAKE SONGS



CONTENTS

	<i>page</i>
1 Infant Joy	<i>1</i>
2 A Poison Tree	<i>2</i>
3 The Piper	<i>4</i>
4 London	<i>7</i>
5 The Lamb	<i>8</i>
6 The Shepherd	<i>10</i>
7 Ah! Sun-flower	<i>10</i>
8 Cruelty has a Human Heart	<i>12</i>
9 The Divine Image	<i>13</i>
10 Eternity	<i>14</i>

Dedicated to Wilfred Brown and Janet Craxton

TEN BLAKE SONGS

FOR VOICE AND OBOE

WILLIAM BLAKE (1757-1827)

R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

1 INFANT JOY

(Tenor or Soprano)

Andante con moto

VOICE

OBOE

p

“I have no name:— I am but two days

old.’ What shall I call thee? “I hap-py am, Joy— is my name.” Sweet joy be-

- fall thee!— Pret-ty Joy! Sweet Joy, but two days

old. Sweet Joy— I call thee.— Thou dost smile, I sing— the while,

— Sweet joy be - fall thee!

Note: The oboe parts of these songs may, in case of necessity, be played on a violin or (by transposing the songs down a tone) on a B flat clarinet—but neither of these expedients is advisable. R.V.W.

2 A POISON TREE

(Tenor)

Lento ma moderato

VOICE

OBOE

p

I was an-gry with my friend:_____ I told my wrath, my wrath did

end._____ I was an-gry with my foe:_____ I told it

not, my wrath did grow._____ And I wa-ter'd it in

fears, Night and morn-ing with my tears;_____ and I sun-nèd it with

smiles, — And with soft de- ceit- ful wiles.

And it grew both day and night, Till it bore an ap- ple bright;

— And my foe be-held it shine, And he knew that it was mine,

— And in - to my gar- den stole When the night had veil'd the pole: In the

morn - ing glad I see My foe out - stretch'd be-neath the tree.

3 THE PIPER

(Tenor or Soprano)

Allegro moderato (♩ = 63)

VOICE

Pip - ing down the

OBOE

f *p*

val - leys wild, Pip - ing songs of plea - sant glee, On a

cloud I saw a child, And he laugh - ing said to me: "Pipe a

song a - bout a Lamb." So I piped with mer - ry

f *p*

cheer. "Pi - per, pipe that song a - gain;" So I

f *p*

piped: _____ he wept to hear. _____
f *p*

"Drop thy pipe, thy hap - py pipe; _____
 2

Sing thy songs of hap - py cheer:" So I sang the same a -
 2 2

- gain, While he wept with joy to hear. _____
 2/4

"Pi - per, sit thee down and write In a book, that
 2 2 2 2

Largamente

all may read." So he van-ish'd from my

a tempo

sight, And I pluck'd a hol-low reed, And I

made a ru-ral pen, And I stain'd the wa-ter clear,

And I wrote my hap-py songs Ev-e-ry child may

joy to hear.

4 LONDON

OBOE TACET

(Tenor)

In free time

VOICE

I wan-der thro' each chart - er'd street Near where the chart - er'd—
 Thames does flow, _____ And mark in ev - e - ry face I meet
 Marks of weak - ness, marks of woe. _____ In ev - e - ry cry of ev - e - ry
 Man, In ev - e - ry In - fant's cry of fear, In ev - e - ry
 voice, in ev - e - ry ban, _____ The mind - forg'd ma - na - cles I hear, _____
 How the chim - ney sweep - er's cry Ev - e - ry black - 'ning church ap -
 - pals; _____ And the hap - less sol - dier's sigh Runs in blood down pa - lace
 walls. But most thro' mid - night streets I hear How the youth - ful
 har - lot's curse Blasts the new - born In - fant's tear, And
 blights with plagues the mar - riage hearse. _____

Note: This song may be transposed down a semitone or a tone.

5 THE LAMB

(Tenor)

Andante con moto

VOICE

Lit-tle Lamb, who made thee? — Dost thou know who made thee? —

OBOE

p

Gave thee life, and bid thee feed, By the stream and o'er the mead; Gave thee

cloth - ing of de - light, Soft - est cloth - ing wool - ly, — bright; Gave thee

such a ten - der voice, Mak - ing all the vales re - joice? —

Lit-tle Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee? —

Lit-tle Lamb, I'll tell thee, Lit-tle Lamb I'll

tell thee: He is call - èd by thy name, For He

calls Him - self a Lamb. He is meek, and He is mild:— He be -

- came a lit - tle child. I a child, and thou a lamb, We are -

call - èd by His name. Lit-tle Lamb, God bless thee!.

Lit-tle Lamb, God bless thee!

pp

6 THE SHEPHERD

OBOE TACET

(Tenor or Soprano)

Allegretto (♩ = 132)

VOICE

How sweet is the Shep-herd's sweet lot! From the morn to the

eve - ning he strays; He shall fol - low his sheep all the day, And his

tongue shall be fill - - - - - ed with praise. ——— For he

hears the lamb's in - no - cent call, And he hears the ewe's ten - der re -

- ply; ——— He is watch - ful while they are in peace, For they

know ——— when their Shep - - - - - herd is nigh.

Note: This song may be transposed down a semitone, a tone, or a minor third.

7 AH! SUN-FLOWER

(Tenor)

Moderato

senza misura

VOICE

Ah, Sun-flower! wea-ry of time,—

senza misura

OBOE

— Who coun-test the steps of the sun; Seek - ing af - ter that

sweet gol - den clime, Where the trav - el - ler's jour - ney is

done; Where the Youth pined a - way with de -

senza misura

- sire, And the pale Vir - gin shroud - ed in snow,

— A - rise from their graves, and as - pire Where my Sun - flower

wish - es to go.

senza misura

8 CRUELTY HAS A HUMAN HEART

(Tenor or Soprano)

Moderato

VOICE *f* Cru - - el - ty has a

OBOE *f*

hu - man heart, And Jea - - lou - sy a hu - man face;

f *f*

Ter - - - ror the hu - man form di - vine, And

f *p* *f* 3 3

Se - cre - cy the hu - man dress. The hu - man dress is forg - èd iron, The

f

hu - man form a fie - ry forge, The hu - man face a fur - nace seal'd,

f

The hu - man heart its hun - gry gorge.

p *p*

The musical score is written for voice and oboe. The voice part is in 4/4 time and begins with a 'Moderato' tempo. The oboe part provides accompaniment, starting with a forte (f) dynamic. The score consists of seven systems of music. The first system shows the voice entering with the lyrics 'Cruelty has a' and the oboe playing a rhythmic pattern. The second system continues with 'human heart, And Jealousy a human face;'. The third system has 'Terror the human form divine, And'. The fourth system has 'Secrecy the human dress. The human dress is forged iron, The'. The fifth system has 'human form a fiery forge, The human face a furnace sealed,'. The sixth system has 'The human heart its hungry gorge.' and ends with a fermata. Dynamics range from forte (f) to piano (p). There are several triplet markings (3) in the oboe part.

9 THE DIVINE IMAGE

(Tenor or Soprano)

Semplice

To Mer-cy, Pi-ty, Peace, and Love All pray in their dis-tress;

And to these vir-tues of de-light Re-turn their thank-ful-ness.

For Mer-cy, Pi-ty, Peace, and Love Is God, our Fa-ther dear,

And Mer-cy, Pi-ty, Peace, and Love Is man, His child and care.

For Mer-cy has a hu-man heart, Pi-ty a hu-man face,

And Love, the hu-man form di-vine, And Peace, the hu-man dress.

Then e-ve-ry man, of e-ve-ry clime, That prays in his dis-tress,

Prays to the hu-man form di-vine, Love, Mer-cy, Pi-ty, Peace. And

all must love the hu-man form, In hea-then, Turk, or Jew;—

Where Mer-cy, Love, and Pi-ty dwell There God is dwel-ling too.

10 ETERNITY

(Tenor or Soprano)

Andante sostenuto (♩ = 66)

VOICE

He who binds to him-self a Joy Doth the wing-èd life des-troy; But_

OBOE

p

he who kiss-es the Joy as it flies Lives in E-ter - - ni-ty's sun - rise.

f

The_ look of_ love a - larms, Be -

p

- cause it's fill'd with fire; But the look of soft de - ceit Shall win the lo - ver's hire.

Soft de-ceit and i - dle - ness, These are Beau -

- ty's sweet - est dress.

ppp