

The Last Voyage of Captain Meriwether Lewis

**FIVE DRAMATIC SONGS
for
TENOR OR HIGH BARITONE
and
PIANO**

**Lyrics by
JASON CHARNESKY
Music by
BRUCE TRINKLEY**

THE LAST VOYAGE OF CAPTAIN MERIWETHER LEWIS

Dramatic Song Cycle for High Baritone or Tenor and Piano

Lyrics by Jason Charnesky

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The Last Voyage of Captain Meriwether Lewis is a dramatic song cycle based on the life of Meriwether Lewis and the Voyage of Discovery to the source of the Missouri River, across the Rocky Mountains and down the Snake and Columbia Rivers to the Pacific Ocean.

Meriwether Lewis was born in Virginia in 1774 and grew up within walking distance of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. After serving as an Army field commander, Lewis became President Jefferson's private secretary, during which time Jefferson began to groom the young man for an expedition west across the Mississippi. Lewis, an experienced woodsman, fair-minded leader, and staunch patriot, became under Jefferson's tutelage a naturalist of unusual observational prowess and a capable amateur astronomer. The Lewis and Clark Expedition through the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase gave Americans their first documented report of the Indian nations, the river paths, the wildlife and the natural riches of the lands west of the Mississippi. Lewis returned East a hero and was made Governor of the Louisiana Territory.

Success did not last long however. Having contracted malaria during the voyage, Lewis had been treated with opium and developed a habit for both opiates and excessive drink. His proposals for marriage were rejected. And he soon made enemies in his position as Governor. With a change of Administration, the Federal Government's attitude towards Lewis hardened. The Secretary of the Treasury accused Lewis of financial mismanagement. In 1809 Lewis determined to travel to Washington to defend himself against these unfair charges. Lewis, who had always been prone to bouts of melancholy, was weakened now by disease, drink, and calumny. He fell into suicidal fits of depression during the trip. Tragically, one night alone at Grinder's Inn on the Natchez Trace in Tennessee, Lewis in despair shot himself.

The song cycle begins with Lewis' last night when he doubts that his exploits and life have meant anything. The ensuing three songs follows the explorer as he remembers the exciting days with the men of the Corps of Discovery, the beautiful never-ending Missouri River, and then the treacherous crossing of the forbidding Bitterroot Mountains. In the last song Lewis takes courage in his accomplishments and departs this life heroically, knowing that he will be remembered as a great explorer and scientist.

The spoken parts of the cantata and much of the verse are based upon the journals of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.

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1. Last Light

Jason Charnesky

Bruce Trinkley

Andante con moto $\text{♩} = 66$

espressivo

p *mp* *simile*

Piano

March tempo $\text{♩} = 72$

mp

cresc. ***ff***

Lewis: Madam! Madam! Mistress of this Inn!

Slowly ♩ = 48*mp* *espressivo**p*

Give me some wa - ter,

give me some wa - ter

Mesto ♩ = 63*pp* *barely coherent but intense**p*

and heal my wounds, _____

I am Me - ri - weth - er Lew - is, com -

mp *gaining strength**mf*

pan - ion to the Pres - i - dent,

Dis - cov - er - er of the path to the West - ern

Sea, _____

Best

25 *f* *holding back* *ff* *moving ahead* *mf* *faster* 5

friend of Cap-tain Wil - liam Clark. O Clark, Clark, come quick-ly now! For

25 *f* *sonore*

30 *rit.* *Slowly f*

I have done the bus-'ness, the bus-'ness of my coun - try. And my life has

30 *rit.*

34 *mf* *moving ahead* *holding back* *mp* *rubato* *half-spoken*

run to this sad des-per-ate ma - neu-ver. I have in my des - pair twice shot my - self.

34 *mf* *moving ahead* *holding back* *mp* *p*

38 **Andante** ♩ = 84 *pp cresc.* *f ten.* *ff* *passionately*

O Wil - liam, Wil - liam Clark. I am no

38 *8va*

43 *mp* moving ahead *p* holding back

cow - ard, but I find I am so strong my bod - y still holds on. It is so

46 *p* $\text{♩} = 63$ pleading

hard to die. Come quick - ly, my dear friend and I'll re -

51 *mp* *cresc.* *f* *ten.*

vive. Come find me a - gain as you so of - ten
ten.

55 $\text{♩} = 56$ *p* with growing animation *mp* *mf*

did on our voy - age of dis - cov - er - y, our

61 *f*

jour - ney west. O Wil - liam, I re -

61 *mf* *simile* *f*

67 *dim.* *mp*

mem - ber it all. All pass - es be - fore me a -

67 *dim. poco a poco*

71 *o. = o. recalling Jefferson* *holding back* *ten.*

gain. Thom - as Jef - fer - son's call to seek the fur - ther - most West - ern Sea.

71 *pp* *p* *holding back* *ten.*

76 *f* with abandon *mp*

Lis - ten, lis - ten, o see! It pass - es

76 *f* with abandon *mp*

81 *cresc.*

all be - fore me, the Corps of Dis -

81 *mf* *mp cresc.*

86 *f*

cov - er - y.

86 *f* *ff*

91 *dim.* *poco rit.*

Attacca #2

2. The Corps of Discovery

Freely *mp* *port.* *mf*

Voice

Come, all ye heart - y men and hale! Thom - as Jef - fer - son

Piano

mf

March tempo $\text{♩} = 72$ *poco rit.*

calls ye ____ to seek the fur - ther - most West - ern field though un - known dan - gers as -

Rollicking $\text{♩} = 88$ *legato* *con pedale*

sault thee. ____ For Na - tion's Pride, our Coun - try's Good come seek the West - ern

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It begins with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature (C). The first system is for the voice, with a piano accompaniment. The voice part starts with a half note rest, followed by a half note, then a quarter note, and continues with a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The piano part consists of a series of chords and single notes. The second system is a march tempo section, marked with a tempo of 72 beats per minute. It features a more rhythmic melody for the voice and a corresponding piano accompaniment. The third system is a rollicking section, marked with a tempo of 88 beats per minute. It features a more playful melody for the voice and a piano accompaniment with a 'con pedale' instruction. The score includes various musical notations such as rests, notes, and dynamic markings.

14 *mp cresc.* *f*

Sea. _____ And join our lust - y Broth - er - hood, the Corps of _____ Dis -

14 *mp cresc.* *f*

18 President Thomas Jefferson to the Congress of the United States, December 1802:

cov - er - y. _____

18 *mf*

"The river Missouri and the Indians inhabiting it are not as well known as is rendered desirable by their connection with the

22 *rit. e dim.* $\text{♩} = 72$

pp poco marcato

Mississippi and consequently with us. One officer and three dozens soldiers could explore the whole line, even to the Western Ocean."

27

32 *mp* *cresc.*

We'll trek out to the fur - thest edge of Lou - si - an - a's

32 *mp* *cresc.*

36 *f* *rit.*

Pur - chase.____ men of more grit and cour - age than land - ed folk or

36 *f* *rit.*

40 **Tempo giusto** ♩ = 88 *mf*

mer - chants.____ Come join from where - so - e'er you would from

40 *mf*

12 44

12 44

Main to Ten - nes - see. Come join our daunt - less Broth - er - hood, the Corps

44

poco rit.

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of the musical score, measures 12 to 44. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature. The lyrics are "Main to Ten - nes - see. Come join our daunt - less Broth - er - hood, the Corps". The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. Measure 44 is marked with a box containing the number 44. The system concludes with a *poco rit.* (poco ritardando) instruction.

49

of Dis - cov - er - y.

49

poco rit.

mf

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of the musical score, measures 49 to 53. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "of Dis - cov - er - y.". The piano accompaniment continues with a similar rhythmic pattern. Measure 49 is marked with a box containing the number 49. The system concludes with a *poco rit.* (poco ritardando) instruction and a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic marking.

54 **Freely** *mp*

A crowd - ed keel - boat launched up - on the gen - tle brown Mis -

54

p *mp*

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of the musical score, measures 54 to 57. The vocal line begins with the word "Freely" in bold, followed by the lyrics "A crowd - ed keel - boat launched up - on the gen - tle brown Mis -". The piano accompaniment features a change in dynamics from *p* (piano) to *mp* (mezzo-piano). Measure 54 is marked with a box containing the number 54. The system concludes with a *p* (piano) dynamic marking.

58 *rit.* *mf* *a tempo* *cresc.*

sou - ri. My youth - ful life I left be - hind, my des - ti - ny be -

58 *rit.* *a tempo* *mf*

Detailed description: This block contains the fourth system of the musical score, measures 58 to 61. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "sou - ri. My youth - ful life I left be - hind, my des - ti - ny be -". The piano accompaniment features a change in dynamics from *mf* (mezzo-forte) to *a tempo* and *cresc.* (crescendo). Measure 58 is marked with a box containing the number 58. The system concludes with a *rit.* (ritardando) instruction and a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic marking.

Rollicking $\text{♩} = 88$

62 *f* *mp*

fore me. Through riv - er, prai - rie, field and wood, 'cross moun - tain to the Sea. _____ We

62 **Rollicking** $\text{♩} = 88$ *mp*

67 *cresc.* *f* *rit. e dim.*

form our dar - ing Broth - er - hood: the Corps of _____ Dis - cov - er - y. _____

67 *cresc.* *f* *rit. e dim.*

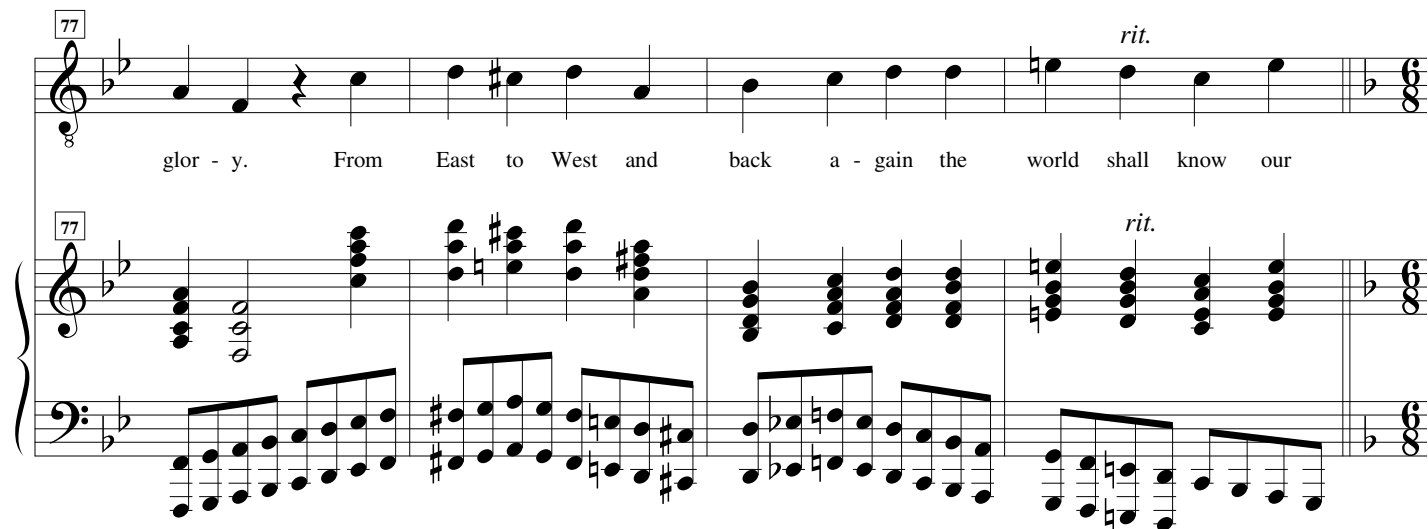
72 **Grandly** $\text{♩} = 60$ *f*

An em - pire calls us to be - gin our con - ti - nen - tal

72 *mp* *f*

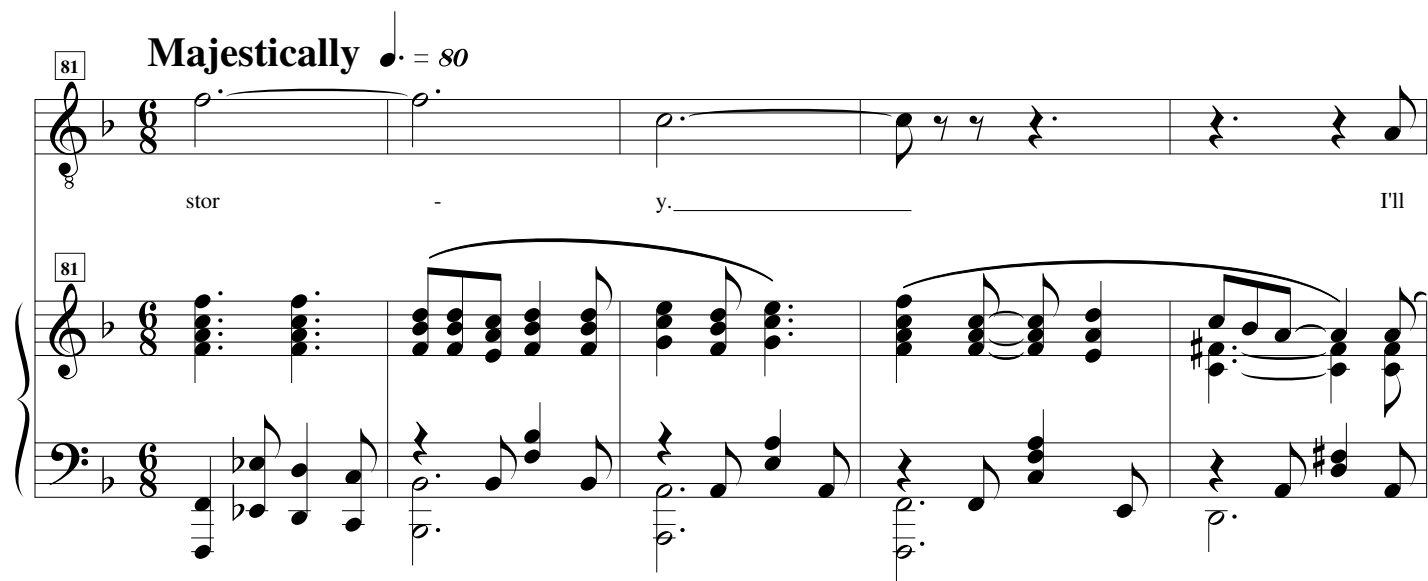
77 *rit.*

glor - y. From East to West and back a - gain the world shall know our



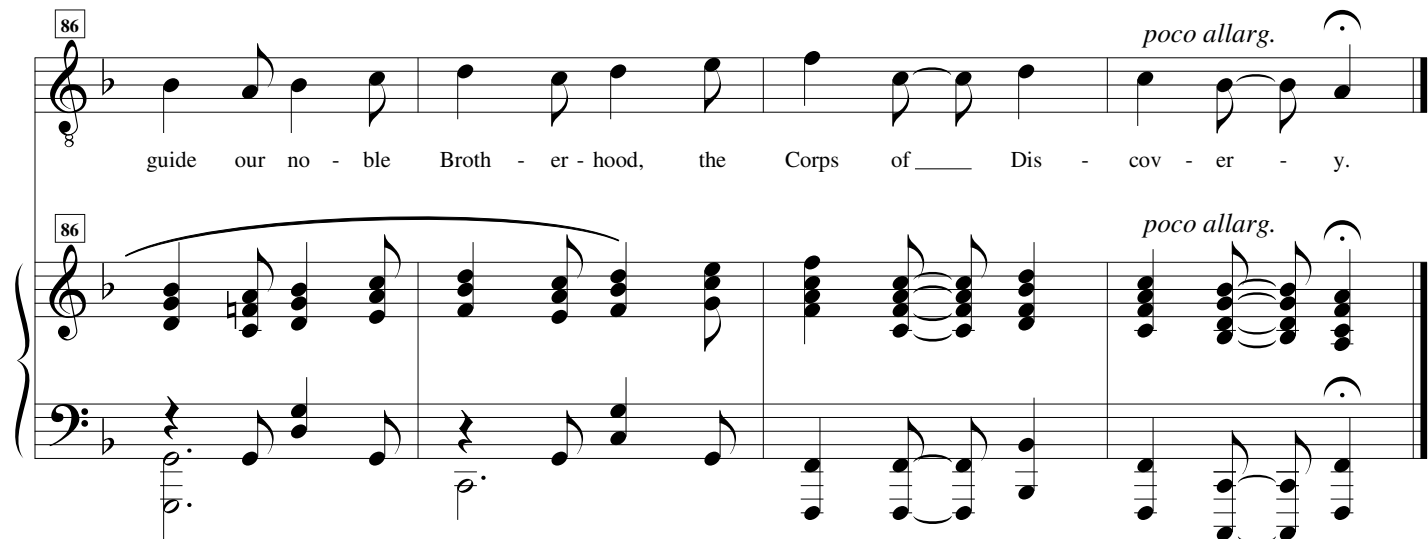
81 **Majestically** ♩ = 80

stor - y. I'll



86 *poco allarg.*

guide our no - ble Broth - er - hood, the Corps of Dis - cov - er - y.



3. A New Eden

Freely $\text{♩} = 60$

l. h. *p* *con pedale* *r. h.*

The piano introduction is in 9/4 time, marked 'Freely' with a tempo of 60 beats per minute. It features a left hand (l. h.) and a right hand (r. h.). The left hand plays a series of chords in the bass register, marked 'p' (piano) and 'con pedale'. The right hand plays a series of chords in the treble register, marked 'r. h.'. The music is divided into three measures by wavy lines.

Tempo di Missouri $\text{♩} = 66$

pp *molto legato*

The end-less Mis-sou - ri

pp *molto legato*

The vocal and piano accompaniment for 'A New Eden' is in 9/4 time, marked 'Tempo di Missouri' with a tempo of 66 beats per minute. The vocal line is in the treble clef, marked 'pp' (pianissimo) and 'molto legato'. The piano accompaniment is in the bass clef, marked 'pp' (pianissimo) and 'molto legato'. The music is divided into three measures by wavy lines. The lyrics are 'The end-less Mis-sou - ri'.

cresc. poco a poco

flowed in its glor - y like a strong brown god,

cresc. poco a poco

The vocal and piano accompaniment for 'A New Eden' is in 9/4 time, marked 'Tempo di Missouri' with a tempo of 66 beats per minute. The vocal line is in the treble clef, marked 'cresc. poco a poco'. The piano accompaniment is in the bass clef, marked 'cresc. poco a poco'. The music is divided into three measures by wavy lines. The lyrics are 'flowed in its glor - y like a strong brown god,'.

10 *f*

Our ships were en-dorsed on the cur-rent's broad force and

13 *molto dimin.* *p* *mp cresc.*

strove a-gainst the stream. To as -

16 *f*

cend, to as - cend to the end of the

19 *p*

end - less Mis - sou - ri.

19 *p*

22 **Freely**

22 *mf* *l. h.* *r. h.* *mp*

25 **Tempo di Missouri** $\text{♩} = 66$ *pp*

The un - chart - ed prai - rie

25 *dim.* *pp*

28 *p cresc. poco a poco*

beck-oned from where we rode the wild spill - ways.

28 *cresc. poco a poco*

31 *f*

To the ho - ri - zon thun - der - ing bi - son

31 *mf f*

34 *molto dimin. p cresc.*

met our star - tled gaze. To as -

34 *molto dimin. p*

37 *f*

cend, _____ to as - cend _____ to the ends of the

37 *cresc.* *f*

40 *p*

end - less un - seen Rock - y Moun - tains. _____ Here lost to sight from

40 *p*

43 *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

all that I knew. _____ I found my - self in a world made new. _____

43 *cresc.* *mf*

46 *mp*

An - i - mals nev - er be - fore be - held.

46 *mp* *mf*

49 *mf*

Wa - ter - falls plum - met - ted, riv - er - banks swelled. _____

49 *mp*

52 *mp* *cresc.*

The beast trod the earth in peace _____ in a

52 *mf* *mp*

55 *f*

world un - known to the East _____ since E - den was

cresc. *f*

58 *mf*

lost. _____ A land of fire and

ff *mf*

62 *mp*

frost. A new E - den. _____ A new

mp *dimin. poco a poco*

65 *p*
E - den. And we searched the un - dis - cov - ered

68 *pp*
E - den's end.

70 *rit.*
E - den's end.

8vb - -

4. Bitterroot

Largo sostenuto ♩ = 60

Voice

pp

The Bit - ter - root, ____ the bru - tal peak ____ of

Piano

mf *p* *pp*

5 *p* *mp* *p*

moun - tains rise a - round us. A land of ice and snow and sleet where win - ter comes in Au - gust.

5

p *mp*

8 *mp* *mf* *mp*

There is a voice with - in me cries ____ and these

8 *mp*

The musical score is for the song "The Windy Boy". It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "glass - y gla - cier crags e - cho that cold and hun - gry sigh. I hear the wind's re -". The piano accompaniment is written in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The first system shows the vocal line starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The piano accompaniment starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The second system shows the vocal line continuing with the lyrics "I hear the wind's re -". The piano accompaniment continues with the same melody. The score is marked with a "11" in a box at the beginning of each system.

14 *p cresc.* *mf* *mp*

ply. The worst road ev - er hors - es passed our hors - es passed, and

14 *p* *cresc.* *mf*

17

dim.

8

we trudge o - ver ice and ra - zor rock and starve and ache and freeze.

17

mp

dim.

20 *mp cresc.* *f*

The wind calls out: "O pu - ny man, be - hold the vast - ness of the world.

20 *cresc.* *mf* *f*

23 *ff*

Ye fleas who scamp - er o'er the back and rock - y shoul - ders of A - mer - i - ca."

23 *ff* *mf* *mp* *ff*

26 *f*

26

A

28 *p* very intensely

land of ice and snow and sleet where win - ter comes in Au - gust. We

28 *f* *dim.*

31 have now nei - ther game nor food, nor com - fort, warmth nor clothes. We fol - low, stum - bling, on

31 *p*

34 *mf* *angushed* *mp*

bruised feet Poor pu - ny man. Where do you go? What

34 *mp* *dim.*

38 *p* *mp cresc.* *ff*

do you seek? What can you know? Why do you live? _____

38 *p* *cresc.* *ff*

41

8

41

mf dim.

44

mp

44

p

The ic - y breeze cries out, _____ a lone hawk hov - ers where the win - ter

Recitative

47

p

mf

mp

47

air ech - oes my des - pair. Oh! The lone - ly ceil - ing of the world is on - ly half as

51

ten.

rit. p

A tempo

51

rit.

pp

bleak as the view I gaze up - on with - in the soul I seek. _____

54 *mp cresc. poco accel.*

But, we pro - ceed - ed on. Through ice storm and frost bite 'til we

54 *poco accel.*

cresc. poco a poco *mp*

57 **Andante con moto** $\text{♩} = 92$ *f*

came un - to the sight of the Snake Riv - er

57 *mf*

61

and its ter - rif - ic cat - a - racts that

61 *f*

65
8 lead to the Pa - cif - ic. The West - ern Sea!

69
8 The West - ern Sea! The win - ter waste of rocks comes to an end

74
8 and we de - scend in - to the rush - ing wa - ters of the sea.

78 *rit. e dim.* *mp*

We have a - chieved our goal: A -

rit. e dim.

83 **Nobly** ♩ = 112

mer - i - ca shall re - ceive this boun - ti - ful land in peace. A -

mp *sonore*

87 *poco rit.* **Tempo di Missouri** ♩ = 66

mer - i - ca shall re - ceive this boun - ti - ful land in peace.

poco rit.

91 *rit.*

E - den's end.

rit. *8va*

Attacca #5

5. First Light

Slowly $\text{♩} = 48$

mp *espressivo* *p* *pp* *rit.*

Give me some wa - ter, give me some wa - ter and heal my

wounds. _____ Light! Lights! Give me light! _____ O

quickly *rit.* *quickly* *rit.*

March tempo $\text{♩} = 72$

mp *cresc.* *f* *mp* *cresc.*

Lib - er - ty, A - mer - i - ca, send your dead - ly ea - gle to feed up - on the

mp *cresc.* *f* *mp* *cresc.*

The musical score is divided into three systems. The first system, marked 'Slowly' with a tempo of 48 beats per minute, features a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in 6/8 time. The vocal line includes lyrics: 'Give me some wa - ter, give me some wa - ter and heal my'. The piano part has a low, sustained accompaniment. The second system continues the vocal line with lyrics: 'wounds. _____ Light! Lights! Give me light! _____ O'. The piano part includes a 'quickly' section and a 'rit.' (ritardando) section. The third system, marked 'March tempo' with a tempo of 72 beats per minute, features a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in 4/4 time. The vocal line includes lyrics: 'Lib - er - ty, A - mer - i - ca, send your dead - ly ea - gle to feed up - on the'. The piano part includes a 'mp cresc.' (mezzo-piano crescendo) section and a 'f' (forte) section.

15 *rit.* ***ff*** *holding back* *ten.*
 brains of rats and pol - i - ti - cians! O Lib - er - ty, seize these im - a - ges,

15 *rit.* *holding back* ***ff***

Lewis out of breath, almost
 panting in the silence

19 **Mesto** ♩ = 48 *p*
 mel - an - chol - y de - lir - i - um.

19 *pp cresc. poco a poco*
legato

March tempo
 23 ***ff*** *vehemently* *dim.*
 De - scend, O La - dy, swoop and at - tack these pet - ty men who hound me.

23 ***ff*** *dim.*

27 *p* *mf* *f* *mp* *espressivo*

I am cast back, forced, O Wil - liam,

27 *p* *mf* *mp*

32 *rit. achingly* *ten.* **Mesto** $\text{♩} = 63$ *delirious* *p*

Wil - liam. Phan - tas - ms dis - turb my dreams. I am

32 *rit.* *ten.* *pp* *8va -*

36 *cresc. poco a poco*

Cap - tain Mer - i - weth - er Lew - is. I have seen the coiled wa - ters that race

36 *cresc. poco a poco*

38 *f* *mf*

past the far - thest cliff - fall of the west - ern sea. I've

38 *f* *ff*

40 *decresc. poco a poco* *p* *rit.*

climbed the blis - t'ring sea - green peak of rock - y ice that turns to rock - y moun - tains.

40 *mf* *decresc. poco a poco* *p* *rit.*

43 *mp* *ff* *angrily* *a tempo*

Must I! Must die! If I must live such sick - ness, I re -

43 *mf* *f* *a tempo* *marcato*

46 *mf* *dying away*

fuse! Not watch each breath be - come a symp - tom, lost at last, waste in - to a corpse.

46 *mp* *dying away*

49 *pp* *wildly* *f* *jauntily*

Clark pur - sues me, be - hind me. O the griz - zlies sur - round us, pur - su - ing.

49 *p* *mf* *jauntily*

51 *giving orders* *rit. e dim.* *pp*

Shoot the sav - a - ges should they make a move towards our ca - noe. _____ Ca -

51

54 *no vibrato* *normal vibrato* *mp cresc.* 3 3
 reen a - way from here! O Wil - liam! O La - dy! O

54 *pp* *mp cresc.*

57 *f* *p*
 Lib - er - ty! I had thought that my life was crammed e - nough with

57 *f dim.* *p*

60 *cresc.* 3 3 *f*
 do - ing, with dar - ing, with the ev - er out - ward push. And now I

60 *cresc.* *f*

63 *ff* *mf* *mp* *half-spoken* *mp* *very intensely*

stand in mad - ness in a strange house. To find, so

63 *ff* *mf* *mp* *mp*

67 *half-spoken*

late, that all the wan - der - ing ad - vanced me no - where?

67

72 **Tempo di Missouri** $\text{♩} = 66$ *mp* *cresc.*

A world un - known to the

72 *mp*

The image displays a musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". It consists of two systems of staves. The first system features a vocal line on a single treble staff and a piano accompaniment on a grand staff (treble and bass staves). The vocal line begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). It starts at measure 75, marked with a box containing the number "75". The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style with a long note value (likely a half note) for the first syllable "East", followed by a series of eighth and quarter notes for "since E - den was lost". A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is placed above the vocal line. The piano accompaniment for the first system uses a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef. It features a key signature of one sharp and a common time signature. The right hand plays a series of chords and single notes, while the left hand plays a simple bass line. The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts at measure 75, marked with a box containing the number "75". The melody continues with a long note value for "East", followed by a series of eighth and quarter notes for "since E - den was lost". A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is placed above the vocal line. The piano accompaniment for the second system uses a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef. It features a key signature of one sharp and a common time signature. The right hand plays a series of chords and single notes, while the left hand plays a simple bass line. The score is presented in a clear, black-and-white format, suitable for a music book or sheet music.

81

frost, A new E - den. An un - dis -

81

84 *f* *dim.*

cov - ered E - den.

84 *f* *dim.* *mp*

87

87 *decresc. poco a poco*

90 *p* *allarg.*

E - den's end.

90 *pp*

8va

8vb