

HAUNTED HOUSES

for Mezzo-Soprano and Piano

Lyrics by

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

Music by

BRUCE TRINKLEY

Haunted Houses

*All houses wherein men have lived and died
Are haunted houses. Through the open doors
The harmless phantoms on their errands glide,
With feet that make no sound upon the floors.*

*We meet them at the door-way, on the stair,
Along the passages they come and go,
Impalpable impressions on the air,
A sense of something moving to and fro.*

*There are more guests at table than the hosts
Invited; the illuminated hall
Is thronged with quiet, inoffensive ghosts,
As silent as the pictures on the wall.*

*The stranger at my fireside cannot see
The forms I see, nor hear the sounds I hear;
He but perceives what is; while unto me
All that has been is visible and clear.*

*We have no title-deeds to house or lands;
Owners and occupants of earlier dates
From graves forgotten stretch their dusty hands,
And hold in mortmain still their old estates.*

*The spirit-world around this world of sense
Floats like an atmosphere, and everywhere
Wafts through these earthly mists and vapours dense
A vital breath of more ethereal air.*

*Our little lives are kept in equipoise
By opposite attractions and desires;
The struggle of the instinct that enjoys,
And the more noble instinct that aspires.*

*These perturbations, this perpetual jar
Of earthly wants and aspirations high,
Come from the influence of an unseen star
An undiscovered planet in our sky.*

*And as the moon from some dark gate of cloud
Throws o'er the sea a floating bridge of light,
Across whose trembling planks our fancies crowd
Into the realm of mystery and night,--*

*So from the world of spirits there descends
A bridge of light, connecting it with this,
O'er whose unsteady floor, that sways and bends,
Wander our thoughts above the dark abyss.*

Haunted Houses

For Medium Low Voice and Piano

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)

Bruce Trinkley

Largo cantabile $\text{♩} = 50$

Piano *p*

All hous-es where-in men have lived and died are haunt-ed hous-es.

6

Through the o - pen doors the harm - less phan - toms_____ on their er - rands

11

p *sub. pp*

glide _____ with feet that make no sound up - on the floors.

15 *mp* *p*

19 *mf* *mp dim.* *p* *poco cresc.*

We meet them at the door - way, on the

23 *mp* *pochiss. rit.* *p* *pochiss. rit.*

stair, _____ a-long the pas-sag-es they come and go, Im-pal-pa-ble im-press-ions on the air, _____ a

27 *a tempo* *p* *mp*

sense of some - thing mov-ing to and fro. There are

cresc. *f*

more guests at ta - ble than the hosts In - vit - ed; the il - lu - mi - nat - ed hall Is thronged with

30

mf

sub. p

qui - et, in - of - fen - sive ghosts, As si - lent as the pic - tures on the wall.

33

sub. p

Poco agitato ♩ = 126 *mf* *crescendo e stringendo poco a poco*

The stran - ger at my fire - side can - not see _____ The

36

mp *crescendo e stringendo poco a poco*

f *mf*

forms I see, nor hear the sounds I hear; _____ He but per - ceives what is; while un - to

40

mf

allargando *p* *a tempo* *more passionately* *mf*

me All that has been is vis - i - ble _____ and clear. We

44 *allargando* *a tempo*

dim. *p*

have no ti-tle-deeds to house or lands; _____ Own - ers and oc-cu-pants of ear - li - er dates From

48

mp

cresc. *allargando*

graves for - got - ten stretch their dust - y hands, And hold in mort-main still their old es -

52 *allargando*

cresc.

Largo cantabile ♩ = 50

f *mp* *pochiss. rit.*

tates. _____ The spir - it-world a-round this world of sense Floats like an

56 *pochiss. rit.*

mf *p*

at - mo - sphere, and ev - 'ry - where Wafts through these earth - ly mists and va - pours

60

dense _____ A vi - tal breath of more e - the - real air. _____ Our

64

p *mp*

Poco agitato ♩ = 126 *cresc. poco a poco*

lit - tle lives are kept in e - qui - poise _____ By op - po - site at - trac - tions and de -

69

mp *cresc. poco a poco*

sires; _____ The strug - gle of the in - stinct that en - joys, _____ And the

72

mf

more no - ble in - stinct that as - pires.

75 *mf* *f*

These per - tur - ba - tions, this per - pet - ual jar Of

78 *mf* *cresc.* *mp* *cresc.*

81 *f* *allargando* *allargando* *mf*

earth - ly wants and as - pi - ra - tions high, Come from the in - flu - ence

84 *dim.* *dim.*

— of an un - seen star An un - dis - cov - ered plan - et in our sky.

Largo cantabile

♩ = 50

mp

7

88 And as the moon from some dark gate of cloud

89 *p*

90 *f*

91 *mp*

92 Throws o'er the sea a float-ing bridge of light, A -

93 *mf*

94 *poco rit.* *a tempo*

95 cross whose trem - bling planks our fan-cies crowd In-to the realm of mys-t'ry and night,

96 *fp* *fp* *fp* *poco rit.* *a tempo*

97 *mp*

98 So from the world of spir - its there de-scends A

99 100 *p*

bridge of light, *mf* con - nect - ing it with *p*

103 *mp* *pp*

this, *mf* *mp* O'er whose un-stead - y floor, that sways and bends, Wan-der our thoughts a -

106 *p cresc.* *mf* *p*

bove the dark a - byss. *8va*

110 *dim. al fine* *pp*