

# THE POEMS ARE TALKING TO THEMSELVES AGAIN

Poems of James Laughlin  
for Two-part Men's Chorus and Piano

1. Poets	3
2. The Poem Factory	8
3. Like the Octopus	12
4. The Word Machine	16

## NOTES

James Laughlin (1914-1997), editor, publisher and poet, was born in Pittsburgh and studied with the poet Ezra Pound in Italy. Legend has it that Pound told Laughlin to not write poetry but to do something useful with his life. The useful thing he did was to found one of the greatest publishing houses in America, New Directions, which became the first American publisher of Nabokov, and also published the works of Tennessee Williams, William Carlos Williams, Ezra Pound, Henry Miller, and Dylan Thomas.

Luckily Laughlin ignored Pound's advice about writing and produced a body of work noted for its humor and imagery and use of classical forms.

Performers must take great care to enunciate and project the text. The abrupt changes in the musical texture will make sense only if the words are clearly understood by the audience.

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