

# 1. The Bat

For Two-Part Chorus and Piano

Theodore Roethke (1908-1963)  
from *Open House* (1941)\*

Bruce Trinkley

**'Swooping' allegro** ♩ = 132 *mf*

Part 1 By day the bat is cous-in to the

Part 2 By day the bat is cous-in to the

Piano *ff* *mf* *con pedale*

8va-----

4 mouse. He likes the at - tic of an ag - ing house. His

4 mouse. He likes the at - tic of an ag - ing house. His

*f* *mf* *f*

7

*dim.*

fin-gers make a hat a-bout his head. His pulse beat is so slow we think him

*dim.*

fin-gers make a hat a-bout his head. His pulse beat is so slow we think him

*mf*

*dim.*

11

*p* dead. *f* He loops in cra - zy fig - ures half the

*p* dead. *f* He loops in cra - zy fig - ures half the night A -

11

*p* *f*

14

night A - mong the trees that face the light. But when he brush-es up a-against a

mong the trees that face the cor-ner light. But when he brush-es up a-against a

14

17 *mf*

screen, We are a - fraid of what our eyes have seen: For

screen, We are a - fraid of what our eyes have seen: For

17 *mf*

20 *mp*

some-thing is a - miss or out of place When mice with wings can wear a hu - man

some-thing is a - miss or out of place When mice with wings can wear a hu - man

20 *mp*

23

face.

face.

23

*morendo* *poco rit.*

*8vb*