

IDYLL

For SATB Chorus and Piano or Chamber Ensemble

(String Quartet, Piano Trio, and Woodwind Quintet)

Poem by

THEODORE ROETHKE

Music by

BRUCE TRINKLEY

IDYLL

*Now as from maple to elm the flittermice skitter and twirl,
A drunk man stumbles by, absorbed in self-talk.
The lights in the kitchens go out; moth wings unfurl;
The last tricycle runs crazily to the end of the walk.*

*As darkness creeps up on the well-groomed suburban town,
We grow indifferent to dog howls, to the nestling's last peep;
Dew deepens on the fresh-cut lawn;
We sit in the porch swing, content and half asleep.*

*The world recedes in the black revolving shadow;
A far-off train blows its echoing whistle once;
We go to our beds in a house at the edge of a meadow,
Unmindful of terror and headlines, of speeches and guns.*

Theodore Roethke (1908-1963) taught English and coached the varsity tennis team at the Pennsylvania State College from 1936 to 1943 and again for one year in 1948 after a period at Bennington College, Vermont. From 1948 until his death, the poet lived in or near Seattle and occasionally taught at the University of Washington, where he was given the honorary title of Poet in Residence. Beginning with the publication of his first book, *Open House*, in 1941, Roethke had a highly successful career that brought him a Pulitzer Prize (for *The Waking* in 1953) and two National Book Awards for *Words for the Wind*, which won six other poetry awards in 1958, and *The Far Field*, published posthumously in 1964). His work has world-wide recognition, with translations of poems into many languages.

Idyll is adapted from the song cycle *Summer Evenings* for solo voices and chamber ensemble in *Mountain Laurels: A Choral Symphony*, written to celebrate the 1996 Centenary of State College, Pennsylvania.

Idyll

for SATB Voices and Piano or Chamber Ensemble
(String Quartet, Piano Trio, and Woodwind Quintet)

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

Music by Bruce Trinkley

Andante espressivo $\text{♩} = 72$
molto legato

Piano *sfz* *mp*

5 *mp molto legato*

Now _____ as from ma - ple to elm the flit - ter - mice skit - ter and twirl,

mp molto legato

Now _____ as from ma - ple to elm the flit - ter - mice skit - ter and twirl,

8 *mp molto legato*

Now _____ as from ma - ple to elm the flit - ter - mice skit - ter and twirl,

mp molto legato

Now _____ as from ma - ple to elm the flit - ter - mice skit - ter and twirl,

5 *mp*

8 *mp* The

mf A drunk man stum - bles by, ab - sorbed in self - talk. _____

mp The

mf ab - sorbed in self - talk. _____

8 *p*

11 *p* lights in the kit - chens go out; un - furl;

mp moth wings un - furl; _____ *f poco agitato* craz - i - ly ___ to the

lights in the kit - chens go out; *mf poco agitato* The last tri - cy - cle runs *f* craz - i - ly ___ to the

11 *mp* *poco agitato* *mf* *f*

14

mp As dark-ness creeps up on the well - groomed sub-

mf end of the walk. *mp* As dark-ness creeps up on the

mf end of the walk. *mp* As dark-ness creeps up on the

calmato *mf* *mp* As dark-ness creeps up on the well - groomed sub-

17

f poco marcato *mp* ur - ban town, We grow in - dif - frent to dog howls, to the nest - ling's last peep;

f poco marcato *mp* well - groomed sub - ur - ban town, We grow in - dif - frent to dog howls, to the nest - ling's last peep;

f poco marcato *mp* well - groomed sub - ur - ban town, We grow in - dif - frent to dog howls, to the nest - ling's last peep;

f poco marcato *mp* ur - ban town, We grow in - dif - frent to howls, to the nest - ling's last peep;

17

f poco marcato *mp*

20 *p* quietly

Dew deep - ens _____ on the fresh-cut lawn; con - tent _____ and half _____ a -

p quietly

Dew deep - ens _____ on the fresh-cut lawn; con - tent _____ and half _____ a -

p quietly *pp*

Dew deep - ens _____ on the fresh-cut lawn; con -

We sit _____ in the porch swing, con - tent _____ and half _____ a -

20 *p* quietly

24 *p*

sleep. _____ black re - volv-ing shad-ow; _____

mp *p*

sleep. _____ The world re - cedes in the black re - volv - ing shad-ow; _____

p *mf*

tent _____ and half _____ a - sleep. _____ black re - volv-ing shad-ow; _____ A

p

sleep, _____ a - sleep, _____ a - sleep in the black re - volv-ing shad-ow; _____

24

27 *pp sotto voce* We

pp sotto voce We

rubato ed espressivo *pp sotto voce* We

far - off train blows its e - cho - ing whis - tle once; _____

27 *pp sotto voce* We

29 go to our beds in a house _____ at the edge _____ of a mead - ow, _____

go to our beds in a house _____ at the edge _____ of a mead - ow, _____

go to our beds in a house _____ at the edge _____ of a mead - ow, _____

go to our beds in a house _____ at the edge _____ of a mead - ow, _____

29 *pp* *mp*

32 *f secco* *mp* *mf* *mp*

Un-mind-ful of ter - ror _____ and head - lines, of speech-es _____ and

f secco *mp* *mf* *mp*

Un-mind-ful of ter - ror _____ and head-lines, _____ of speech-es _____ and

f secco *mp* *mf* *mp*

Un-mind-ful of ter-ror _____ and head - lines, of speech-es and

f secco *mp* *mf* *mp*

Un-mind-ful of ter-ror _____ and head - lines, of speech-es and

32 *sfz* *sfz*

35

guns. _____

guns. _____

guns. _____

guns. _____

35 *p* *pp*