

VOICES

Four Choruses for SSA and SSAA Voices and Piano

Poems by

CONSTANTIN CAVAFY (1863-1933)

Music by

BRUCE TRINKLEY

1. VOICES

*Ideal and beloved voices of those who are dead,
or of those who are lost to us like the dead.
Sometimes they speak to us in our dreams;
sometimes in thought the mind hears them.
And for a moment with their echo other echoes return
from the first poetry of our lives like music
that extinguishes the faroff night.*

2. DECEMBER 1903

*And if I cannot speak of my love,
if I do not speak about your hair, your lips, your eyes,
Yet your face that I keep within my soul,
The sound of your voice that I keep within my mind,
The days of September that dawn in my dreams
Mold and color my words and phrases
In whatever theme I get into, whatever idea I utter.*

3. FAR OFF

*I should like to relate a memory but it is so faded now
Scarcely anything is left because it lies far off, in the years of my early youth.
A skin as if made of jasmine that night in August, was it August?
That night I can just remember the eyes, they were, I think blue,
Ah, yes, blue, sapphire blue.*

4. WHEN THEY ARE ROUSED

*Try to guard them, poet, however few there are that can be kept,
The visions of your loving. The visions of your loving.
Set them half-hidden in your phrases,
Try to sustain them, poet,
When they are roused in your mind at night, or in the glare of noon,
Try to guard them, poet,
The visions of your loving.*

VOICES is a cycle of choral settings of poems by Constantine Cavafy (1863-1933), the most distinguished Greek poet of the 20th century. His four lyric poems chronicle his life and clandestine loves in Istanbul and Alexandria in the early years of the 20th century.

VOICES is also available for SATB or TTBB Chorus and piano.

I. Voices

Poem by Constantin Cavafy (1863-1933)

Bruce Trinkley

Andante con moto ♩ = 96

mp legato

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Alto 1, 2

p

Piano

I - deal and be - lov - ed

I - deal and be - lov - ed

I - deal and be - lov - ed

I - deal and be - lov - ed

7

voi - ces _____ of those who are dead, or of those who are lost to us

7

voi - ces _____ of those who are dead, or of those who are lost to us

7

voi - ces _____ of those who are dead, or of those who are lost to us

13 *poco rit.* *a tempo*

like the dead. _____ Some-times they

like the dead. _____ Some-times they

like the dead. _____ Some-times they

like the dead. _____ Some-times they

13 *poco rit.* *a tempo*

19 *p subito*

Speak to us in our dreams; _____ some-times in thought the mind

Speak to us in our dreams; _____ some-times in thought the mind

Speak to us in our dreams; _____ some-times in thought the mind

Speak to us in our dreams; _____ some-times in thought the mind

19 *p subito*