

“The Clod & The Pebble”

“The Clod & The Pebble”, is a poem from the famous English romantic poet William Blake’s (1757-1827) “Songs of Experience”. The poem is a discussion of whether love, as a humble clod of clay at the bottom of a brook states, “seeketh not itself to please, but for another gives its ease”. This contrasts with a pebble in the same brook as the clod that takes the opposite view that “love seeketh only self to please”.

Arnold Harris’ acapella SATB setting of this poem also has contrasting music to mirror the context of the different aspects of the text.

The Clod & The Pebble

(from "Songs of Innocence & Experience")

William Blake (1757-1827)

music by Arnie Harris ©2021

SOPRANO ALTO

TENOR BASS

S/A

T/B

S/A

T/B

S/A

T/B

rit.

S/A

T/B

Love seek - eth, love seek - eth not It - self to

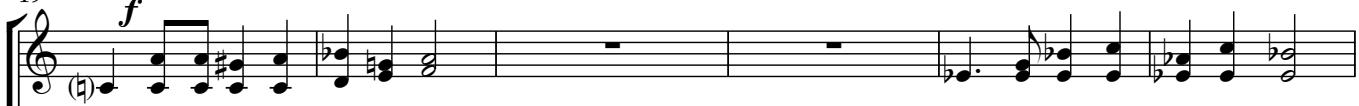
please nor for it - self for it - self hath

a - ny care. But for a - no - ther gives its ease and

builds and builds a hea - ven a hea - ven in Hell's des - pair

2

19 faster $\text{♩} = 80$

S/A 
So sung a lit - tle clod of clay but a peb - ble of the brook

T/B

T/B unison
Trod-den with the cat-tle's feet the cat - tles feet

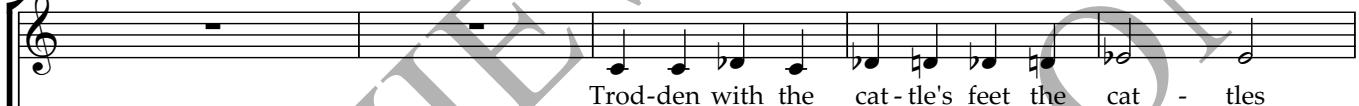
25

S/A 
war - bled out these me - tres meet. So sung a lit - tle clod of clay

T/B

war - bled out these me - tres meet.

29

S/A 
Trod-den with the cat-tle's feet the cat - tles

T/B

So sung a lit - tle clod of clay but a peb - ble

34

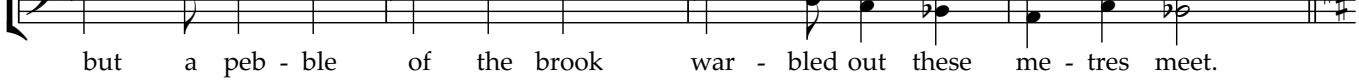
S/A 
feet war - bled out these me - tres meet. So sung a lit - tle clod of clay

T/B

of the brook war - bled out these me - tres meet.

rit.

S/A 
but a peb - ble of the brook war - bled out these me - tres meet.

T/B 
but a peb - ble of the brook war - bled out these me - tres meet.

43 **p** $\text{♩} = 55$

S/A 

T/B 

Love seek - eth, love seek - eth on - ly self to

48

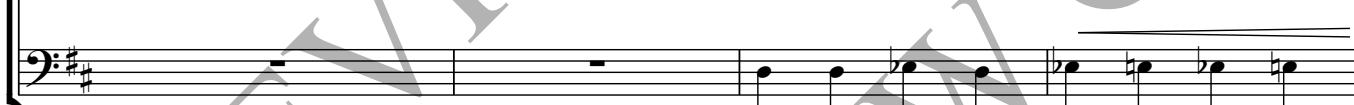
S/A 

T/B 

please, to bind a - no - ther to its de - light, de - light.

54 faster **f** $\text{♩} = 80$

S/A 

T/B 

So sung a lit - tle clod of clay

Trod - den with the cat - tle's feet the

58 rit.

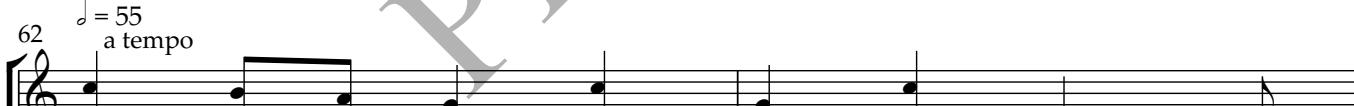
S/A 

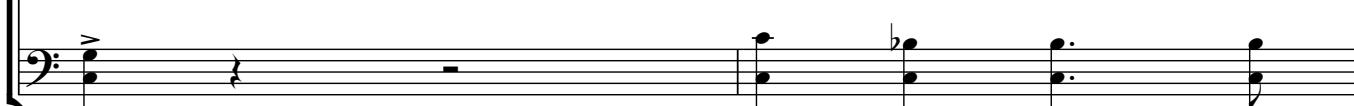
T/B 

but a peb - ble of the brook war - bled out these me - tres meet.

cat - tles feet war - bled out these me - tres meet.

62 $\text{♩} = 55$ a tempo

S/A 

T/B 

Joys in a - no - ther's loss of ease and

Joys loss of ease and

64

S/A **f**

builds and builds a Hell in Hea - ven, in Hea - ven, des - pite

T/B **f**

builds a Hell in Hea - ven, in Hea - ven, des - pite

69

S/A

But for a - no - ther gives its ease and builds and builds a

T/B

But gives its ease and builds a

72

S/A **f** accel.

heav - en a heav - en in Hell's des - pair, des - pair, des -

T/B

heav - en a heav - en in Hell's des - pair des - pair, des -

76

S/A

pair, des - pair, des - pair, a hea - ven!

T/B

pair des - pair, des - pair a hea - ven!