

“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

p ♩ = 55

SOPRANO
ALTO

Love_ seek - eth, love_ seek - eth not It - self to

TENOR
BASS

6

S/A

please nor for it - self for it - self hath

T/B

10

S/A

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

T/B

a - ny care. But gives its ease and

14

S/A

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

T/B

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

rit.

19 *faster* $\text{♩} = 80$
f

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
f
 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.

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

T/B

48

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

T/B

54 *faster* $\text{♩} = 80$ *f*

S/A So sung a lit - tle clod of clay

T/B

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

58 *rit.*

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

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

62 $\text{♩} = 55$ *a tempo*

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

T/B Joys loss of ease and

64 *f*

S/A builds and builds a Hell in Hea - ven, in Hea - ven, des - pite

T/B 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 *f* accel.

S/A hea - ven a hea - ven in Hell's des - pair, des - pair, des -

T/B hea - ven a hea - ven 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!