

Requiescat, for voice and piano

lyrics by
Oscar Wilde
(1854-1900)
written in 1881

music by
Phyllis Gummer
(1919-2005)
composed 15. May 1937

Tenderly *p*

Allegretto *p*

Tread light - ly, she is near

5

Un - der the snow, speak gent - ly, she can hear

9

the dais - ies grow. All

13

her bright golden hair tarnished with rust,

17

she that was young and fair fallen to

21

dust. Lily-like,

slent. a tempo

25

Whi-te — as snow, she

This system contains measures 25 through 28. The vocal line begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics 'Whi-te — as snow, she'. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand. A fermata is placed over the final note of the vocal line.

29

hard - ly knew she — was a wo - man, so sweet —

This system contains measures 29 through 31. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'hard - ly knew she — was a wo - man, so sweet —'. The piano accompaniment maintains the eighth-note bass line and provides harmonic support with chords. A fermata is placed over the final note of the vocal line.

32

— ly — she grew. — Cof — fin board,

This system contains measures 32 through 35. The vocal line continues with the lyrics '— ly — she grew. — Cof — fin board,'. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is present in both the vocal and piano parts. A fermata is placed over the final note of the vocal line.

37

Heav y stone Lie on her breast,

ff *p*

42

I vex my heart a - lone, She is at

meno f *p* *slent.*

47

a tempo, ma tranquillo

rest. Peace, peace, she can-not hear

pp

51

— Ly-re or sonnet, All my life is bu - ried here,

This system contains measures 51 through 54. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The vocal line begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a melodic line in the left hand. Measure 54 ends with a fermata over the final note.

55

Heap ear - th up - on it.

This system contains measures 55 through 58. The vocal line continues with the lyrics. The piano accompaniment features a more active melodic line in the right hand. Measure 58 ends with a fermata over the final note.

59

pp poco rit.

This system contains measures 59 through 62. The vocal line is silent, indicated by a whole rest. The piano accompaniment begins with a piano (*pp*) dynamic and a *poco rit.* (slightly slower) tempo marking. The right hand plays chords, while the left hand has a melodic line. Measure 62 ends with a fermata over the final note.

Requiescat

Tread lightly, she is near,
Under the snow,
Speak gently, she can hear,
The daisies grow.

All her bright golden hair
Tarnished with rust,
She that was young and fair
Fallen to dust.

Lily-like, white as snow,
She hardly knew
She was a woman, so
Sweetly she grew.

Coffin-board, heavy stone,
Lie on her breast,
I vex my heart alone,
She is at rest.

Peace, peace, she cannot hear
Lyre or sonnet,
All my life's buried here,
Heap earth upon it.

by Oscar Wilde