

THE GRAVES AT ARBOUR HILL

Seán Doherty
2017

Soprano Solo,
SATB a cappella

TEXT

We all die for Ireland in the end,
whether sooner or later. I'll die
myself for Ireland one of these days.
And even though I've lived for Ireland
with every breath of my being,
With each and every beat of my heart,
there'll come a day I'll be dust in the wind,
Irish dust in Irish wind, a hundred
and a hundred million years from now.

Paula Meehan

PROGRAMME NOTE

Arbour Hill Cemetery in Dublin's north inner city is the final resting place of the executed leaders of Ireland's 1916 rebellion, known as the Easter Rising. Their bodies were put into an unmarked pit and covered with quicklime, to prevent the graves becoming a site of pilgrimage for Republican sympathisers. The cemetery is now a place of remembrance for all those who have died for Ireland. In this setting, the military field drums build up until they evaporate into the dust of an eternal Irish wind.

Performance Time: *c.* 3 mins

With the kind permission of poet Paula Meehan and Dedalus Press,
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Paula Meehan

The Graves at Arbour Hill

Seán Doherty

Adagio ♩ = 70

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

p

We all die for Ire - land in the end, whe-ther soon-er or

3

4

la-ter. I'll die my - self for Ire-land

mp

la-ter. I'll die my - self for Ire-land

mp

la-ter. I'll die my - self for Ire-land

mp

like a field drum

cresc.

la-ter, soon-er or la-ter, soon-er or la-ter, soon-er or la-ter, soon-er or la-ter, soon-er or la-ter, soon-er or

3

10

p *3*

one of these days.

p *3*

one of these days.

like a field drum

mp cresc. *3*

p *3*

one of these days, one of these days, one of these days,

mp cresc. *3*

la - ter, soon-er or la - ter, soon-er or la - ter, soon-er or

3

13

mp And e - ven though I've lived for *mf* Ire - land with ev - 'ry breath of my be - ing,

one of these days, one of these days,

la - ter, soon - er or la - ter, soon - er or

15

mf With each and ev - 'ry

like a field drum breath of my be - ing, *cresc.* breath of my be - ing,

mf cresc. one of these days, one of these days,

la - ter, soon - er or la - ter, soon - er or

17

f there'll come a

f beat of my heart, *like a field drum* beat of my heart,

f breath of my be - ing, breath of my be - ing,

f one of these days, one of these days,

la - ter, soon - er or la - ter, soon - er or

19

ff

day I'll be dust in the wind,

Repeat independently, different tempi, *ad lib.*

beat of my heart, I'll be dust in the wind, *pp sempre*

breath of my be - ing, *c.10"*

one of these days, *c.10"*

la - ter, soon - er or... *c.10"*

21

Grave ♩ = 45

mp *mf* *p* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp*

I - rish du(st) s t in I - rish wi(nd), n d a

mp *mf* *p* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp*

I - rish du(st) s t in I - rish wi(nd), n d a

mp *mf* *p* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp*

I - rish du(st) s t in I - rish wi(nd), n d a

24

hun - dred and a hun - dred mil - lion years from now, a

hun - dred and a hun - dred mil - lion years from now, a

hun - dred and a hun - dred mil - lion years from now, a

26

hun - dred and a hun - dred mil - lion years, a

hun - dred and a hun - dred mil - lion years,

hun - dred and a hun - dred mil - lion years,

28

hun - dred and a hun - dred mil - lion years from now, a

a hun - dred and a hun - dred mil - lion years from now,

a hun - dred and a hun - dred mil - lion years from

rit.

30

hun-dred and a hun-dred and a hun-dred and a hun-dred mil - lion year(s). s

a hun-dred and a hun-dred and a hun-dred hun-dred mil - lion year(s). s

now, a hun-dred and a hun-dred and a hund-red mil - lion year(s). s

niente

like the wind
pp

like the wind
pp

like the wind
pp