

# THE ETERNAL REBEL

---

---

Seán Doherty  
2021  
SSAA and Piano

TEXT

The Eternal Rebel

The phantoms flit before our dazzled eyes,  
Glory and honour, wrath and righteousness,  
The aged phantoms in their bloodstained dress,  
Vultures that fill the world with ravenous cries,

Swarming about the rock where, chained apart,  
In age-long pain Prometheus finds no rest  
From the divine flame burning in his breast,  
And vultures tearing at a human heart.

Not yet the blessed hours on golden wings  
Bring to the crucified their sure relief,  
Deeper and deeper grows the ancient grief,  
Blackest of all intolerable things.

Eternal Rebel, sad, and old, and blind,  
Bound with a chain enslaved by every one  
Of the dark gods who hide the summer sun,  
Yet art thou still the saviour of mankind.

Free soul of fire, break down their chains and bars,  
Drive out those unclean phantoms of the brain,  
Till every living thing be friends again,  
And our lost earth true comrade to the stars.

Eva Gore-Booth (1870–1926)

PROGRAMME NOTE

The Irish poet and dramatist Eva Gore-Booth was a committed suffragist, pacifist, social worker, and labour activist. She was born at Lissadell House, County Sligo, the younger sister of Constance Gore-Booth, a revolutionary later known as Countess Markievicz. In Greek mythology Prometheus, the eternal rebel, creates humanity from clay and steals fire from the gods and gives it to humanity as civilisation. He is sentenced to perpetual torment as punishment, bound to a rock with a bird-of-prey eating his liver, which grew back each day. Prometheus represents the struggle of those who attempt to improve human existence, as did Eva Gore-Booth and her partner Esther Roper in their tireless activism. *Cantigas Women's Choir thank the anonymous donor who funded this commission.*

Duration: c. 8 minutes

Seán Doherty Music

[seandohertymusic.com](http://seandohertymusic.com)

# The Eternal Rebel

Eva Gore-Booth

SEÁN DOHERTY

**Maestoso**  
*ff con forza*

Soprano  
E - ter - nal Re - bel,

Alto  
E - ter - nal Re - bel,

Piano  
*ff con forza*

6  
E - ter - nal, E - ter - nal,  
Re - bel, Re - bel,

10  
E - ter - nal Re - bel,  
E - ter - nal Re - bel,

Allegro

14

21

The phan-toms flit be-fore our daz-zled eyes,

The phan-toms flit be-fore our daz-zled eyes,

26

Glo-ry and hon-our, wrath and right-eous-ness, The

Glo-ry and hon-our, wrath and right-eous-ness, The

30

ag-ed phan-toms in their blood-stained dress, Vul-tures that fill the

ag-ed phan-toms in their blood-stained dress, Vul-tures that fill the

35

world with rav-'enous cries. \_\_\_\_\_

world with rav-'enous cries. \_\_\_\_\_

41

*f* The phan-toms flit be-fore our daz-zled eyes, \_\_\_\_\_

*f* The phan-toms flit be-fore our daz-zled eyes, \_\_\_\_\_

*f* The phan-toms flit be-fore our daz-zled eyes, \_\_\_\_\_

*f* The phan-toms flit be-fore our daz-zled eyes, \_\_\_\_\_

46

Glo-ry and hon-our, wrath and right-eous-ness, The ag-èd

Glo-ry and hon-our, wrath and right-eous-ness, The

Glo-ry and hon-our, wrath and right-eous-ness, The ag-

Glo-ry and hon-our, wrath and right-eous-ness,

pho - to - graphs of the

51

phan-toms in their blood-stained dress, Vul-tures that fill the

ag-èd phan-toms in their blood-stained dress,

- èd phan-toms in their blood-stained dress, Vul-tures that

The ag-èd phan-toms in their blood-stained dress,

pho - to - graphs of the

55

world with rav - 'enous cries.

Vul-tures that fill the world with rav - 'enous cries.

fill the world with rav - 'enous cries.

Vul-tures that fill the world with rav - 'enous cries.

60

*p* E - ter - nal Re - bel E - ter - nal Re - bel

*p* E - ter - nal Re - bel E - ter - nal Re - bel

*p* E - ter - nal Re - bel E - ter - nal Re - bel

*p* E - ter - nal Re - bel E - ter - nal Re - bel

66 *mp*  
Swarm-ing a-bout the rock where, chained \_\_\_\_\_ a - part, In

*p*  
mmm → ah →

*mp*

70  
age - long pain. Pro - me - the - us finds no \_\_\_\_\_ rest from the di -

*p*  
mmm → ah →

74 *mf*  
vine\_ flame\_ burn - ing\_ in his breast, And vul-tures tear - ing at a hu - man

*p*  
mmm → ah → mmm →



80 *f*

heart. \_\_\_\_\_

ah → mmm → ah → mmm

*f* *mp*

86 *mp*

Swarm-ing a-bout the rock where, chained \_\_\_\_\_ a - part, In

*mp*

Swarm-ing a - bout the rock where, chained \_\_\_\_\_ a -

*mp*

Swarm-ing a - bout the rock where, chained \_\_\_\_\_ a - part,

*mp*

Swarm-ing a - bout the rock where, chained \_\_\_\_\_

90

age - long pain. Pro - me - the - us finds no rest from the di -  
 part, In age - long pain Pro - me - the - us finds no  
 In age - long pain Pro - me - the - us finds no rest  
 a - part, In age - long pain Pro - me - the - us finds

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 90 through 93. It features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in G major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 'age - long pain. Pro - me - the - us finds no rest from the di - part, In age - long pain Pro - me - the - us finds no In age - long pain Pro - me - the - us finds no rest a - part, In age - long pain Pro - me - the - us finds'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a moving bass line in the left hand.

94

vine flame burn - ing in his breast, And  
 rest from the di - vine flame burn - ing in his  
 from the di - vine flame burn - ing in his breast,  
 no rest from the di - vine flame burn - ing in

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 94 through 97. It features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in G major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 'vine flame burn - ing in his breast, And rest from the di - vine flame burn - ing in his from the di - vine flame burn - ing in his breast, no rest from the di - vine flame burn - ing in'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line. Dynamic markings of *mf* (mezzo-forte) are present above the vocal lines in measures 94, 95, 96, and 97.

98

vul-tures tear - ing at a hu - man\_ heart.

breast, And vul-tures tear - ing at a hu - man\_

And vul-tures tear - ing at a hu - man\_ heart.

his breast, And vul-tures tear - ing at a

101

heart.

hu - man heart. E - E -

106 *rit.*  
*p*

E - ter - nal Re - bel\_ E - ter - nal Re - bel\_

ter - nal Re - bel\_ E - ter - nal Re - bel\_ *mp*  
Not

110 *Andante*

yet the bless - ed hours on gold - en wings

*mf*

*mp* *mf*

114 *mp*

Bring — to the cru - ci - fied their sure re - lief,

Bring — to the cru - ci - fied their sure re - lief,

118

Deep - er and deep - er grows the an - cient grief,

122

Black-est\_ of all in-tol-'ra-ble things\_

128

Not yet the bless - ed hours on gold - en\_

Not yet the bless - ed hours on gold - en\_

Deep - er and deep - er and deep - er and deep - er and

Deep - er and deep - er and deep - er and deep -

132 *mf* *mp*

wings \_\_\_\_\_ Bring to the cru - ci - fied their

wings \_\_\_\_\_ Bring to the cru - ci - fied their

deep - er and deep - er and deep - er and deep - er and

-er and deep - er and deep - er and deep - er and deep -

*mf* *mp*

136

sure re - lief, Deep - er and deep - er grows the

sure re - lief, Deep - er and deep - er grows the

deep - er and deep - er and deep - er and deep - er and

-er and deep - er and deep - er and deep - er and deep -

140

*f* *mp*

an - cient grief, Black - est of all in - tol - 'ra - ble things.

*f* *mp*

an - cient grief, Black - est of all in - tol - 'ra - ble things.

deep - er and deep - er and deep - er and deep - er and deep - er and

-er and deep - er and deep - er and deep - er and deep - er and deep - er and deep -

145

*p* *p*

E -

deep - er and deep - er and deep - er.

-er and deep - er and deep - er.

*mp*

150 *rit.*

ter - nal Re - bel\_ E - ter - nal Re - bel\_ E -

ter - nal Re - bel\_ E - ter - nal Re - bel\_ E -

E - ter - nal Re - bel\_ E - ter - nal Re - bel\_ E -

E - ter - nal Re - bel\_ E - ter - nal Re - bel\_ E -

*p*

154 *Lento*

ter - nal Re - bel\_ sad, and old, and blind, Bound\_ with a chain en - slaved\_ by

ter - nal Re - bel\_ sad, and old, en - slaved\_ by

ter - nal Re - bel\_ sad, and old, and blind, en - slaved\_ by

ter - nal Re - bel\_ sad, en - slaved\_ by

*mf*



160

ev - 'ry one Of the dark \_\_\_\_\_ gods who hide the sum - mer sun, Yet art

ev - 'ry one Of the dark \_\_\_\_\_ gods who hide the sum - mer sun, Yet art

ev - 'ry one Of the dark \_\_\_\_\_ gods who hide the sum - mer sun, Yet art

ev - 'ry one Of the dark \_\_\_\_\_ gods who hide the sum - mer sun, Yet art

166

thou the sa - viour of man - kind.

thou the sa - viour of man - kind.

thou the sa - viour of man - kind.

thou the sa - viour of man - kind.

172

*p*  
E - ter - nal Re - bel\_ E - ter - nal Re - bel\_

*p*  
E - ter - nal Re - bel\_ E -

*p*  
E - ter - nal Re - bel\_ E - ter - nal

*p*  
E - ter - nal Re - bel\_

177

*pcresc.*  
Free Free, Free

*pcresc.*  
ter - nal Re - bel\_ Free Free, Free

*p*  
Re - bel\_ Free Free, Free, Free

*f*  
E - ter - nal Re - bel\_ Free, Free, Free, Free

(8)

182 **Allegro**

soul of fire, Break down their chains\_and bars, Drive

soul of fire, Break down their chains\_and bars, Drive

186

out those un - clean phan - toms of the brain Till

out those un - clean phan - toms of the brain Till

190

e - v'ry liv - ing thing be friends a - gain, And our\_\_

e - v'ry liv - ing thing be friends a - gain, And our\_\_

194

lost earth true com - rade to the stars.

lost earth true com - rade to the stars.

200

*f* Free soul of fire, Break down their chains\_ and\_ bars,

*f* Free soul of fire, Break down their chains\_ and\_

*f* Free soul of fire, Break down their chains\_ and bars,

*f* Free soul of fire, Break down their

205

Drive out those un - clean phan - toms of the brain

bars, Drive out those un - clean phan - toms of the

— Drive out those un - clean phan - toms of the brain

chains and bars, Drive out those un - clean phan - toms

209

Till e - v'ry liv - ing thing be friends a - gain, And our

brain Till e - v'ry liv - ing thing be friends a -

Till e - v'ry liv - ing thing be friends a - gain,

of the brain Till e - v'ry liv - ing thing be friends

214

lost earth true com - rade to the stars.  
 gain, And our lost earth true com - rade to the  
 And our lost earth true com - rade to the stars.  
 a - gain, And our lost earth true com - rade

217

*molto rit.* *ff con forza*

stars. E -  
 stars. E -  
 E -  
 E -  
 to the stars. E -

222 **Maestoso**

ter - nal Re - bel, E - ter - nal,

ter - nal Re - bel, Re - bel,

*ff con forza*

228

E - ter - nal, E - ter - nal Re - bel,

Re - bel, E - ter - nal Re - bel,

233

*ff mp sub. ff mf sub. fff*

Re - bel, Re - bel,

*ff mp sub. ff mf sub. fff*

Re - bel, Re - bel,

*fff*