

Winner of the Pro Coro Canada National Composition Contest for a cappella choir

# The Cloths of Heaven

for Mixed Chorus,  
a capella

W.B. Yeats  
from his poem  
*He Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven*

Allan Gilliland  
(1994, rev. 2016)

Slow and ethereal ♩ = 56

The musical score is written for a mixed chorus and piano. It consists of six staves. The top five staves are for the vocal parts: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass, and a fifth staff for a second Bass part. The bottom staff is for the Piano (Rehearsal only). The music is in 4/4 time and consists of two measures. The tempo is 'Slow and ethereal' with a quarter note equal to 56 beats per minute. The dynamics range from *pp* (pianissimo) to *f* (forte). The lyrics are 'ah' and 'mm'.

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano (Reh. only)

*pp* *mf* *pp* *f*

\*mm (ah) mm (ah)

\*mm (ah) mm (ah)

\*mm (ah) mm (ah)

\*mm (ah) mm (ah)

The Cloths of Heaven

7

S

A

T

B

Pno.

*pp* *mm* *ff* (ah)

*pp* *mm* *ff* (ah)

*pp* *mm* *ff* (ah)

*pp* *mm* *mf* *ff* (ah)

*mf* *mm* *ff* (ah)

12

S

A

T

B

Pno.

*mp* *pp* (mm)

*mp* *pp* (mm)

*mp* *pp* (mm)

*mp* *pp* (mm)

*mp* *pp* (mm)

*mp* *pp* (mm)

*mp* *pp* (mm)

*mp* *pp* (mm)

more motion ♩ = 66

The Cloths of Heaven

accel.

3

18 Solo  
*mp freely*

S Had I \_\_\_\_\_ the heav-en's \_\_\_\_\_ em - broi - dered cloths. ah

A ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_

T ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_

B ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_

Pno.

Faster, with more insistence ♩ = 88

24 *ff non dim.* *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

S Had I \_\_\_\_\_ the heav - ens' \_\_\_\_\_ Had I \_\_\_\_\_

A *ff non dim.* *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*  
Had I \_\_\_\_\_ the heav - ens' \_\_\_\_\_

T *ff non dim.* *sub. mp* *cresc. poco a poco*  
Had I \_\_\_\_\_ the heav - ens' \_\_\_\_\_ Had I \_\_\_\_\_ the

B *ff non dim.* *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*  
Had I \_\_\_\_\_ the heav - ens' \_\_\_\_\_ Had I \_\_\_\_\_

Pno.

*The Cloths of Heaven*

(29)

S  
the heav - vens' \_\_\_\_\_ em - broi - dered cloths. em -

A  
Had I \_\_\_\_\_ the heav - vens' \_\_\_\_\_ em - broi - dered

T  
heav - ens' \_\_\_\_\_ em - broi - dered cloths. \_\_\_\_\_ em - broi -

B  
\_\_\_\_\_ the heav - ens' \_\_\_\_\_ Had I the heav - ens' \_\_\_\_\_

Pno.

(32)

S  
broi - dered cloths. \_\_\_\_\_ em - broi - dered cloths. em - broi -

A  
cloths. \_\_\_\_\_ em - broi - dered cloths. \_\_\_\_\_ em - broi - dered

T  
- dered cloths. Had I \_\_\_\_\_ the heav - ens' \_\_\_\_\_ em - broi - dered cloths.

B  
\_\_\_\_\_ em - broi - dered cloths. \_\_\_\_\_ em - broi - dered

Pno.

35

S  
- dered cloths. em-broi - dered cloths. em-broi -

A  
cloths. Had I the heav-ens' - em - broi - dered

T  
em-broi - dered cloths. em-broi - dered cloths. em -

B  
cloths. em - broi - dered cloths. em - broi - dered cloths. -

Pno.

rit. **Brilliantly** ♩ = 69

38

S  
- dered cloths. em - broi-dered cloths. En - wrought(!) with gold-en -

A  
cloths. em - broi-dered cloth. En - wrough(!) with gold-en -

T  
broi - dered cloths em - broi-dered cloths. En - wrought(!) with gold-en -

B  
em - broi-dered cloths. En - wrought(!) with gold-en -

Pno.

**ff**

The Cloths of Heaven

more motion ♩ = 84

42

S sil-ver light.

A sil-ver light.

T sil-ver The blue and the dim

B sil-ver The blue and the dim the blue and the

Pno.

49

S

A

T the blue and the dim and the dark cloths and the dim the

B dim and the dark cloths and the dim and the dark cloths

Pno.

56

S

A

T  
8  
blue the blue and the dim and the dark cloths dark cloths dark

B  
and the dim and the dark cloths dark cloths dark cloths dark

Pno.

63

S  
the blue and the

A  
The blue and the dim the

T  
8  
cloths dark cloths of night

B  
cloths

Pno.

The Cloths of Heaven

(70)

S  
dim the blue and the dim and the dark cloths and the dim

A  
*p* the blue and the dim the blue the blue the  
*mf* blue and the dim and the dark cloths and the dim and the dark

T  
*mf* of night

B  
*mp* of light

Pno.

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a vocal ensemble and piano. It is the eighth page of the piece, titled 'The Cloths of Heaven'. The score is numbered 70 at the top left. It features five staves: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), and Piano (Pno.). The Soprano part begins with a 'dim' dynamic and includes lyrics: 'dim the blue and the dim and the dark cloths and the dim'. The Alto part starts with a 'p' dynamic and lyrics: 'the blue and the dim the blue the blue the blue and the dim and the dark cloths and the dim and the dark'. The Tenor part has a 'mf' dynamic and lyrics: 'of night'. The Bass part has an 'mp' dynamic and lyrics: 'of light'. The Piano accompaniment consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with chords and melodic lines. Dynamics like 'mf' and 'mp' are indicated with hairpins. The lyrics are written below the vocal staves, with some words like 'dim' and 'of light' appearing on multiple lines.



77

S  
and the dark cloths and the

A  
and the dark cloths and the dim the blue and the dim and the  
blue and the dark cloths and the dim the blue

T  
of night of

B  
of light of light of

Pno.

*mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *f* *ff* *f* *ff*

The Cloths of Heaven

rit. -----

(83) *ff* *p*

S  
dark cloths dark cloths dark cloths dark cloths

*ff* *p*

S  
dark cloths dark cloths dark cloths dark cloths

A  
*ff* *p*

A  
and the dim and the dim dark cloths

*ff* *p*

A  
cloths dark cloths dark cloths dim dark cloths

T  
*p*

T  
night of light and the half - light

B  
*p*

B  
night of light and the half - light

Pno.