

Travis Reynolds

Hobbes, the Cat

For SATB and Piano

Text by William Wallis

About the work

Hobbes, the Cat was written for First Unitarian Universalist of Los Angeles, where the composer is music director and pianist, and the poet of the text a member of the tenor section. Written in the winter of 2020, its premiere was postponed due to COVID-19; it received a virtual in April of 2021.

As is typical of the composer's work, the piece is written almost as a folk song or improvisation. The choir takes on the role of the poet, while the pianist represents the cat or son - at times sympathetic to the proceedings, but often indifferently skirting about with its own character and personality.

Hobbes, the Cat

Melancholy $\text{♩} = 80$

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

Piano

This section of the musical score consists of five staves. The top four staves represent vocal parts: SOPRANO, ALTO, TENOR, and BASS. The bottom staff represents the PIANO. The key signature is three flats, and the time signature is common time (indicated by a '3'). The piano part features sustained notes and chords, while the vocal parts remain silent throughout this section.

5

S. p up on you; mm

A. p Fi - nal - ly, we gave up; mm

T.

B.

Pno. p

This section begins at measure 5. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) sing the lyrics "up on you; mm" and "Fi - nal - ly, we gave up; mm". The piano part provides harmonic support with sustained notes and chords. The vocal entries are marked with dynamic p .

II

S. **A** *p* af - ter your e - chapp - er bell - e

A. Eight days af - ter your e - chapp - er bell - e

T.

B.

Pno. **A** *p cresc.* *legato* *p*

15 S. — *p* But

A. — *p* But

T.

B.

Pno. *mp playful* *poco cresc.* *p*

B

22

S. then, one day, rail - thin_ and You_ slipped back in _____, *mf* *mp* *poco cresc.*

A. then, one day; thin_ and fil - thy, You_ slipped back in _____, *mf*, *mp* *poco cresc.*

T. then, one day, rail - thin_ and fil - thy, You_ slipped back in _____, *p*, *mf* *mp* *poco cresc.*

B. one day; thin_ and fil - thy, You_ slipped back in _____, *p*, *mf*, *mp* *poco cresc.*

Pno. *mp* *mf*

27

S. —

A. — *mp* — *p* —

as the door_ closed un - an nounced;—

T. — *mp* — — —

as the door_ closed — — —

B. — — — — —

Pno. *pp*

31 *p*

S. un - a - nled; *pp* ma - lice

A. and free; *pp* ma - lice

T. of ma - lice

B. free;— ma - lice

Pno.

C

36 *f*

S. My old heart leapt up; You were af - ter all an

A. My old heart leapt up; You were af - ter all an

T. My old heart leapt up; You were af - ter all

B. My old heart leapt up; You were af - ter all

Pno.

39

S. er - rant gift

A. er - rant gift From my ra - scal son;

T. 8 er - rant gift; ra - scal son; Who e -

B. er - rant gift Who e -

Pno. *poco rit.*

D a Tempo

45

S. Leav - ing be - hind him; Leaving be - hind him____ lean;____

A. time be- fore you, Leav - ing be - hind him; Leaving be - hind him;____ lean me-mo- ries;

T. 8 scaped some time____ be - fore you, Leaving be - hind him____ lean me-mo- ries;

B. scaped some time;____ be - fore you, Leaving be - hind him____ lean;____

D a Tempo

Pno. *p still and soft through the end*

52

S. *mp* —————— [E]

A. *mp* —————— *p*
rich pro - mi-ses to re turn;

T. *mp* ——————
rich pro - mi-ses

B. *mp* ——————
and rich pro - mi-ses

Pno.

59

S. *p* —————— [F] *p* ——————
to re turn; to re- turn;

A. —————— *p* ——————
to re- turn;

T. —————— *p* ——————
to re - turn;

B. —————— *p* ——————
to re- turn;

Pno.

65

S. *mp* to re - turn. *n.*

A. *mp* to re - turn. *n.*

T. *p* to; *n.*

B. *p* to re - turn. *n.*

Pno. *pp* *p*

69

S. *n.*

A. *n.*

T. *p* *espr.* to re - turn. *n.*

B. *n.*

Pno. *pp* *n.*