



The World Below the Brine

from Deep Sea Songs (2012)

For Large Chorus (SATB)

Version with piano reduction

Words by Walt Whitman

Music by Nigel Morgan

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Music by Nigel Morgan

About the music

Walt Whitman (1819 – 1892) was a poet whose words about the natural world have continued to enjoy new and novel settings by composers today. No doubt influenced by the descriptive writing of his almost exact contemporary Herman Melville, Whitman's descriptions of the sea contain a richness and wonder. *The World Below the Brine* is no exception containing extravagant lists of fish, mammal and plant life below the waves.

The World Below the Brine is the first of three *Deep Sea Songs* that take their cue from the composer's immersion in the world of the deep oceans during the composition of *Migrations* for orchestra, *Sounding the Deep* for bass voice and orchestra, and *Shoals* for chamber ensembles and electronics. The setting, for a large chorus of at least eighty voices, has been composed for the National Youth Choir of Great Britain and their new music director Ben Parry.

In this setting there is a simplicity of texture combined with a looser approach to word setting than is usually found in Nigel Morgan's choral works, most of which are for smaller forces.

Words by Walt Whitman feature prominently in Nigel Morgan's *Schizophonia*, a work for three ensembles, a co-commission between BBC Wales and the Ilios Festival Norway. Two pieces for large chorus and keyboard under the title *Vocalism* are available as standalone works in the composer's catalogue.

The World Below the Brine

Walt Whitman

The world below the brine,
Forests at the bottom of the sea, the branches and leaves,
Sea-lettuce, vast lichens, strange flowers and seeds, the thick
tangle openings, and pink turf,
Different colors, pale gray and green, purple, white, and gold, the
play of light through the water,
Dumb swimmers there among the rocks, coral, gluten, grass, rushes,
and the aliment of the swimmers,
Sluggish existences grazing there suspended, or slowly crawling
close to the bottom,
The sperm-whale at the surface blowing air and spray, or disporting
with his flukes,
The leaden-eyed shark, the walrus, the turtle, the hairy
sea-leopard, and the sting-ray,
Passions there, wars, pursuits, tribes, sight in those ocean-depths,
breathing that thick-breathing air, as so many do,
The change thence to the sight here, and to the subtle air breathed
by beings like us who walk this sphere,
The change onward from ours to that of beings who walk other spheres.

I. The World Below the Brine

serento ♩ = 70

mf

Soprano

the bran - ches and leaves

Alto

mf

Fo - rests at the bot-tom of the sea Sea

Tenor

mf

the bran - ches and leaves

Bass

mf

Fo - rests at the bot-tom of the sea

Piano

mf

4

S.

p ————— *mf* ————— *f* ————— *mp*

vast li - chens Strange

A.

mp ————— *mf* ————— *f*

le - ttuce vast li - chens

T.

mp ————— *mf* ————— *f* ————— *mp*

vast li - chens Strange

B.

mf ————— *mp* ————— *f*

Sea le - ttuce vast li - chens

P.

p ————— *cresc.* ————— *f* ————— *mp* ————— *cresc.*

7 *mf* *mp* *poco allargando* ♩ = 65 *mp*

S. *mp* *mf* *mp* *mp*

A. *mp* *mf* *mp* *mp*

T. *mf* *mp* *mp*

B. *mp* *mf* *mp*

Strange flo-wers and seeds the thick

P. *mf* *mp*

10 *mf* *< f* *mf > p*

S. *mf* *< f* *mf > p*

A. *mf* *< f* *mf > p*

T. *mf* *< f* *mf > p*

B. *mf* *< f* *mf > p*

thick ta-n-gle thick ta-n-gle o-pe-nings and pink turf

P. *mf* *f* *mf > p*

risonare e serio ♩ = 70

14

f

S. *f*
the world the world be - low the world be - low

A. *f*
the world the world be - low the world be - low

T. *f*
the world the world be - low the world be - low

B. *f*
the world the world be - low the world be - low

P. *f*

17

mp

S. *mp*
the brine grey and green

A. *mf*
the brine pale grey pale grey and green

T. *mf*
the brine pale grey pale grey and green

B. *mf*
the brine

P. *mf*

20

S. *f* *mf* *f* *mp*
 pur - ple white gold the play of light through the wa - ter

A. *f* *mf* *f* *mp*
 pur - ple white gold the play of light through the wa - ter

T. *mf* *f* *mp*
 pur - ple white and gold the play of light through the

B. *mf* *f* *mp*
 pur - ple white and gold the play of light through the

P. *f* *mf* *cresc.* *f* *mp* *cresc. (r.h. only)*

23

S. *f* *mp* *mf*
 di - ffe - rent di - ffe - rent co - lours

A. *f* *mp* *mf*
 di - ffe - rent di - ffe - rent co - lours

T. *f* *p* *mf*
 wa - ter di - ffe - rent di - ffe - rent co - lours

B. *f* *p* *mf*
 wa - ter di - ffe - rent di - ffe - rent co - lours

P. *f* *mp* *p* *mf*

25 *mp* *f deliberamente* *mf*

S. *di-ffe-rent* *di-ff'rent co-lours* *There a-*

A. *di-ffe-rent* *di-ff'rent co-lours* *there*

T. *di-ffe-rent* *di-ff'rent co-lours* *there*

B. *di-ff'rent* *di-ff'rent co-lours*

P. *mp* *f (all voices)* *mp* *mf*

28

S. *mong the rocks* *glu-ten ru-shes*

A. *co-ral* *the a-li-ment of the*

T. *co-ral* *and the a-li-ment of the*

B. *There a-mong the rocks* *grass* *and the a-li-ment of the*

P. *mf (all voices)* *mp*

31 *mf*

S. *Dumb swi-mmers dumb swi-mmers slu -*

A. *swi mmers dumb swi mmers slu - ggish e*

T. *swi - mmers gra - zing gra - zing* *poco a poco cresc.*

B. *swi - mmers gra - zing gra - zing* *poco a poco cresc.*

P. *mf*

33 $\text{♩} = 65$

S. *ggish e - xi - sten - ces su - spen - ded there su -* *sub. mp* *mf*

A. *- xi - sten - ces su - spen - ded there su -* *sub. mp* *mf*

T. *gra - - zing there su - spen - ded there su -* *mf* *f* *sub. mp* *mf*

B. *gra - - zing there su - spen - ded there -* *mf* *f* *sub. mp* *mf*

P. *mf* *f* *mp* *mf*

36 *calando* $\text{♩} = 60$ *p*

S. *spen - ded slow - ly* *craw - ling close to the* *bo - ttom*

A. *spen - ded slow - ly* *craw - ling close to the* *bo - ttom*

T. *spen - ded slow - ly* *craw - ling* *close to the* *bo - ttom*

B. *spen - ded or slow - ly* *craw - ling close to the* *bo - ttom*

P.

39 *animato* $\text{♩} = 60$ *mf* *f*

S. *the* *sperm whale* *the*

A. *at the sur - face* *blow - ing air and spray* *dis - por - ting*

T. *at the sur - face* *blow - ing air and* *spray* *dis - por - ting*

B. *the* *sperm whale* *the*

P.

42

S. *mp*
 sperm whale at the sur - - face

A. *mf*
 his flukes the lea - den eyed shark, the

T. *mf*
 his flukes the lea - den eyed shark, the

B. *mp*
 sperm whale blow - ing

P. *mp*

45

S. blow - - ing blow - ing air and spray

A. wal - - rus the hai - ry sea leo - pard the sting ray

T. tur - tle, the hai - ry sea leo - pard the sting ray

B. blow - ing blow - ing air and spray

P.

48

S. *mf* *f*
 the sperm whale the

A. *mf* *mf*
 at the sur-face blow-ing air and spray dis -

T. *mf* *mf*
 at the sur-face blow-ing air and spray dis -

B. *mf* *f*
 the sperm whale the

P. *mf* *f*

51

S. *ff*
 sperm whale Pa - ssions pa - ssions

A. *f* *ff*
 - por ting his flukes pa - ssions pa - ssions

T. *f* *ff*
 - por - ting his flukes pa - ssions pa - ssions

B. *ff*
 sperm whale pa - - - ssions pa -

P. *cresc.* *ff*

56

sotto voce subito
p

S. wars, pur - suits, tribes sight in those

A. wars, pur - suits, tribes sight in those

T. wars, pur - suits, tribes sight in those

B. ssions wars, pur - suits, tribes sight in

P.

60

$\text{♩} = 110$

S. o - cean depths brea - thing that thick brea - thing air

A. o - cean depths brea - thing that thick brea - thing air

T. o - cean depths brea - thing that thick brea - thing air

B. those o - cean depths brea - thing that thick brea - thing air

P.

semplice ♩ = 100

normale mf

64

S. *normale mf*

A. *normale mf*

T.

B.

P. *mf*

as so ma - ny do The change thence to the sight

The change thence to the sight

68

S.

A.

T. *normale mf*

B. *normale mf*

P.

here here

and to the sub - - tle air brea - - thed by beings

and to the sub - - tle air brea - - thed by beings

S. *The change on-ward to*

A. *The change on-ward from*

T. *like us who walk this sphere The change on-ward from ours*

B. *like us who walk this sphere The change*

P.

S. *that of be-ings who walk o-ther spheres*

A. *ours to that of be-ings who walk o-ther spheres*

T. *to that of be-ings who walk o-ther spheres*

B. *on-ward to that of be-ings who walk o-ther spheres*

P.