

PROGRAM NOTES

Author's Note: Tennyson's poem, *Ulysses*, is a literary gem worth reading in its entirety. As Ulysses looks back on his life and contemplates the years he has left, he is inspired to head out for one more grand adventure. The particular inspiration for this composition comes from the latter portion of the poem—some of it quoted here exactly and some paraphrased, with a few bits of original text spliced in. The result is a fresh challenge to all of us, inspired by the spirit of Ulysses, to pursue the noble work that is yet to be done, and together, seek a better world. Come, my friends, it's not too late!

—Mark Patterson

TEXT

Come, my friends,
it's not too late to seek a better world.
Ere the end
some work of noble note may yet be done.

The lights begin to twinkle,
the slow moon climbs above,
and the deep cries out with so many voices:
“Come, my friends, set sail. My friends, it's not too late!”

Though much is taken, much still abides.
And though some may long
for the strength of our younger days, that which we are, we are:
One equal temper of heroic hearts
made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield!

Come, my friends,
it's not too late to seek a better world.
Ere the end
some work of noble note may yet be done.

The lights begin to twinkle,
The slow moon climbs above,
And the deep cries out, “Set sail!”

Let us seek a better world.
Come, my friends, it's not too late!

—Mark Patterson,
inspired by and incorporating lines from *Ulysses*
by Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809–1892)

CURRICULUM GUIDE

COMPLIMENTARY



Mark Patterson (b. 1969)

For biographical information visit: www.ecspublishing.com

Ode to Ulysses

for SAB Chorus and Piano

Mark Patterson
based on *Ulysses*
by Alfred Lord Tennyson

Mark Patterson
(ASCAP)

With strength and determination ($\text{d} = 64$)

The musical score consists of five systems of music. System 1 (measures 1-4) shows the piano part in 6/8 time, dynamic *f*, with bass clef. The vocal parts (Soprano A, Alto, Bass) enter in measure 5 in 9/8 time, dynamic *f*. The lyrics "Come, my friends, it's not too late to seek a bet-ter world." are repeated. System 2 (measures 5-8) continues with the vocal parts. System 3 (measures 9-12) begins with a piano solo. The lyrics "Ere the end some work of no - ble note may" are repeated. System 4 (measures 13-16) continues with the piano solo. The lyrics "Ere the end some work of no - ble note may" are repeated.

Words: Inspired by and incorporating lines from *Ulysses* by Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809–1982) (PD).

13 *unis.* *mf*

yet be done. The lights be - gin to twin-kle,
yet be done. the

17 ($\text{♪} = \text{♪}$)

and the deep cries out, the
slow moon climbs a - bove, and the deep cries out, the

($\text{♪} = \text{♪}$)

deep cries out with so man - y voic - es:

21 *f*

deep cries out with so man - y voic - es:

f

v

The musical score is a page from a vocal score. It features two staves: a soprano staff (treble clef) and a basso staff (bass clef). The vocal line begins at measure 13 with a sustained note followed by eighth-note chords. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with eighth-note chords. The vocal line continues through measures 17 and 21, with dynamic markings 'mf' and 'f' indicating increasing intensity. The lyrics describe a scene of nightfall with twinkling lights and a rising moon, punctuated by deep voices crying out.

24 Come, my friends, set sail, set

Musical score for measures 24-26. The vocal line consists of three staves. The top staff has lyrics "Come, my friends, set sail, set". The middle staff has lyrics "Come, my friends, come, my friends, come, my". The bottom staff has lyrics "Come, my friends, come, my". Measure 24 starts with a piano dynamic *mp*. Measures 25 and 26 continue the vocal line with piano dynamics *mp* and *mf*.

27 sail, my

Musical score for measures 27-30. The vocal line continues with lyrics "sail, my", "come my friends, friends it's not too late!", and "friends, my friends it's not too late!". The piano part includes dynamics *mf*, *f*, and *mf*. Measure 29 ends with a fermata over the piano part.

31 Though much is tak - en,

Musical score for measures 31-34. The vocal line continues with "Though much is tak - en," and "much is tak - en,". The piano part includes dynamics *mp* and *mf*. Measure 34 ends with a fermata over the piano part. The key signature changes to $\frac{3}{4}$ time at the end.

35

much still a - bides.

mp

And_ though some may long_ for the

39

cresc.

strength of our young-er days,_ that which we are,

43

mf

One e - qual tem - per of he -

mf

we are: One e - qual tem - per of he -

mf

47

ro - ic hearts made weak by time and fate, but
ro - ic hearts made weak by time and fate, but

51

rall. **Slightly broader**

strong in will to strive, to
strong in will to strive, to
rall. **Slightly broader**

55

f

seek, to find, and not to yield!
seek, to find, and not to yield!

f

59 *a tempo*

Desc. Descant (*a few sopranos*)

f

Come, my friends, it's not too

S **f**

A

Come, my friends, _____ it's not too

B **f**

Come, my friends, _____ it's not too

a tempo

f

62

late, come my friends.

late to seek a bet - ter world.____

late to seek a bet - ter world.____

65

End Descant

Ere the end some work of note can be done.

Ere the end some work of no - ble note may yet be done.

Ere the end some work of no - ble note may yet be done.

69

S *unis. mf*

A

B

The lights be - gin to twin - kle,

the slow moon climbs a -

73

and the deep cries out, the

bove, and the deep cries out, the

76 *f*

deep cries out: set sail, set

deep cries out: let us seek a bet-ter world,

80 *ff cresc.*

sail. Come, my friends, it's

let us seek a bet-ter world. Come, my friends, it's

83 *fff*

not, it's not too late!

not, it's not too late!

fff

fff

fff

This musical score page contains three systems of music. The top system starts at measure 76 with a forte dynamic (f). The lyrics "deep cries out: set sail, set" are followed by "deep cries out: let us seek a bet-ter world,". The middle system begins at measure 80 with a dynamic of ff cresc. The lyrics "sail. Come, my friends, it's" are followed by "let us seek a bet-ter world. Come, my friends, it's". The bottom system begins at measure 83 with a dynamic of fff. The lyrics "not, it's not too late!" are repeated twice. The piano part consists of two staves, with the right hand primarily handling the harmonic structure and the left hand providing bass support. Various dynamics such as f, ff cresc., and fff are indicated throughout the piece.