

Gwithian

Composer's Note:

Gwithian was sketched during the winter of 1985/6 at the time of my mother's final illness and death.

The first song reflects my thoughts on Christmas Eve and the second reflects the morning of the day she died. The subsequent three songs express the gradual healing and feeling of hope.

1. Christmas Night

Christmas Night! The flashing light of the buoy - the sea was white that night,
And I could see the surf breaking.
A cloudy moon lit up the road that night.
There was a wind that night and the distant bell across the sea was sounding clear.
There was a wind that night, Christmas night at midnight -
you were so far away and yet so near!

2. Moonlit Sea

January, a dark morning, a cold morning, a dead morning.
My eyes are drawn towards the sea and there in all its glory shone the moon
On rocks and waves as far as I could see,
Away toward the horizon in all its eternity.

3. Storm Force

A wild and stormy day! The sea is grey and green,
And rolling in between the headlands of the bay.
The black-backed gull banks against the wind, the gannet seeks shelter beneath the cliff.
And there I stand and watch, and listen and see and hear
And I am living in the storm today!

4. Rock Pool

A salty tang of ebbing tide, green depths unseen.
Pale green and shallow - then deep and wide.
The mystery, the memory of a thousand million tides!

5. The Crown of the Year

The summer at last will come! Blue infinity! A hazy far off dream! The skylark sings all
day long, the kestrel, gold against the blue, seeks his prey.
The sound, the warmth, the touch of summer.
Endless days of sun, and sand, and surf, and wind and sea, and living!

Judith Bailey

Gwithian

5 Songs for Voice (Tenor or Soprano) and Piano Op.42

Judith Bailey

1. Christmas Night 1985

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Allegro
♩ = 88

Voice *f*
Christ-mas night! — The flash - ing light of the buoy —

Piano *f*

mf
— The sea was white — that night, and I could see the

mf

f
surf break - ing.

f

8 *p* 2 2 *mf*

A cloudy moon lit up the road that night. There was a

p 2 2 *mf*

Ped. Ped.

8 *f*

wind that night and the distant bell

f

Ped.

8

a-cross the sea was sound-ing clear.

mf

Ped. Ped.

8 *p*

There was a wind that night, Christ-mas night at

p

f mid - night; *p* You

were so far a - way And yet so

mf

p

Ped.

Tempo primo

f near!

f

attacca

2. Moonlit Sea

Lento

♩ = 54

p

Jan - ua - ry, a dark morn - ing, a cold morn - ing, a dead

mf

morn - ing. My eyes are drawn to - wards the sea

p *mf*

and there, in all its glo - ry, shone the moon on

p

rocks and waves as far as I could see, _____ a - way to - wards the hor -

p

pp

i - zon, in all its e - ter - ni - ty. _____

pp *ppp*

3. Storm Force

Allegro

$\text{♩} = 100$

f

A wild _____ and storm - y

f

Ped. _____

day! _____ The sea _____ is grey _____ and green, _____

Ped. _____

8 — and roll - ing in be - tween the head - lands.

Ped.

This system contains measures 8 through 11. The vocal line begins with a whole note rest in measure 8, followed by a half note 'and' in measure 9, and continues with a melodic line through measures 10 and 11. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more complex bass line with some chords in the left hand. Pedal points are indicated in measures 9, 10, and 11.

— of the bay.

mf

This system contains measures 12 through 15. The vocal line has a whole note rest in measure 12, followed by a half note 'of' in measure 13, and continues with a melodic line through measures 14 and 15. The piano accompaniment continues with similar patterns, featuring a dynamic marking of *mf* in measure 14.

mf

The black - backed gull banks a - gainst the wind,

p

This system contains measures 16 through 19. The vocal line starts with a dynamic marking of *mf* in measure 16, followed by a melodic line through measures 17, 18, and 19. The piano accompaniment features a dense texture with many chords in the right hand and a moving bass line in the left hand. A dynamic marking of *p* appears in measure 19.

p

The gan - net seeks shel - ter be -

This system contains measures 20 through 23. The vocal line begins with a dynamic marking of *p* in measure 20, followed by a melodic line through measures 21, 22, and 23. The piano accompaniment continues with a similar texture of chords and a moving bass line.

neath the cliff. And there I

f

Ped.

stand and watch, and list - en, and see and

mf

Ped.

hear, and I am liv - ing in the

f

Ped.

storm to - day!

Ped.

senza rit.

ff

Ped.

4. Rock Pool

Lento
♩ = 50

p

molto legato

A sal - ty tang of ebb-ing tide,

green depths un-seen. Pale green and

meno mosso

p

8 shal - low then deep and wide.

mp

p

8 The mys - ter - y, the

mf

8 mem - or - y of a thous - and mill - ion

p

poco rit.

8 tides!

5. The Crown of the Year

Allegro

♩ = 100

The first system of the musical score. It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 3/8. It begins with a whole rest, followed by a half rest, and then a quarter note G4. The piano accompaniment is in grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of one sharp and a time signature of 3/8. It starts with a half note G2, followed by a half note A2, and then a half note B2. The lyrics 'The' are written below the vocal line.

mf

The

The second system of the musical score. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'sum - mer at last will come! Blue in -'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same melody. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

sum - mer at last will come! Blue in -

The third system of the musical score. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'fin - i - ty! A haz - y far -'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same melody. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

fin - i - ty! A haz - y far -

8 - off dream!_____ The sky - lark

mf 2

8 sings_____ all_____ day_____ long,_____ the kes - trel, gold_____

p 2

8 _____ a gainst the blue,_____ seeks his prey._____

mf 2

8 The sound, the warmth, the touch_____ of sum - mer!

p *mf*

f *mf*

End - less days of sun, and

f

sand, and surf, and wind, and sea, and

liv - ing!