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Songs of Achilles

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Songs of Achilles

for Baritone & Chamber Ensemble

(2020)

About

Songs of Achillies is a setting of the text from Madeline Miller's book *Song of Achillies* for baritone and chamber ensemble.

The two songs are from the perspective of Achillies grieving over the loss of his dear friend and beloved, Patroclus in battle.

Instrumentation

Clarinet in Bb (x2)

Horn in F

Crotales

Vibraphone

Marimba

Harp

Piano

Baritone

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

*Marimba player double on Crotales

*Harp and/or Piano

Songs of Achillies

Setting of the text by Madeline Miller (1978)

I. Burial

Perhaps it is,
The greatest grief.
To be left on earth,
When another is gone.

I could recognise him,
By touch alone; by smell,
I would know him in death,
At the end of the world.

When he died,
All things soft and beautiful,
Would be buried with him.

II. Our Joy

In the darkness,
Two shadows,
Reaching through,
Helpless heavy dusk.

Their hands meet,
And light spills,
In a flood,
Like a hundred thousand golden urns,
Pouring out the sun.

We were like gods,
At the dawning of the world,
And our joy was so bright,
We could see nothing else,

Songs of Achilles

Text by Madeline Miller (1978) *for Baritone & Chamber Ensemble*

I. Burial

Composed by Joshua Dowling (1996)

A **Larghetto Espressivo** ♩ = 66

The score is for a chamber ensemble and a baritone. It begins with a section marked 'A' in a box, tempo 'Larghetto Espressivo' (♩ = 66), and key signature of three flats (B-flat major/D-flat minor). The time signature is 6/8. The instruments and their parts are:

- Clarinet in Bb:** Two staves, both silent.
- Horn in F:** One staff, silent until measure 4, then plays a melodic line with dynamics *mf*, *mf*, *mf*, *mf*, *p*.
- Vibraphone:** One staff, plays a rhythmic pattern with dynamics *mf* and *mf*.
- Crotales:** One staff, plays a rhythmic pattern with dynamics *mf* and *mf*.
- Harp:** One staff, plays a rhythmic pattern with dynamics *mf*, *p*, and *mf*.
- Piano:** Two staves, plays a rhythmic pattern with dynamics *mf*, *p*, and *mf*. Includes the instruction *sempre pedal*.
- Baritone:** One staff, silent.
- Violin 1:** One staff, silent until measure 4, then plays with dynamics *pp*, *p flautando*.
- Violin 2:** One staff, silent until measure 4, then plays with dynamics *p flautando*, *mf*, *p flautando*.
- Viola:** One staff, plays a melodic line with dynamics *pp*, *p*, and *con sordino*.
- Violoncello:** One staff, plays a melodic line with dynamics *pp*, *p*, *con sordino*, and *smear*.
- Double Bass:** One staff, plays a melodic line with dynamics *pp*, *p*, and *pp*.

B

7

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

B

Hn.

B

Vib.

Crot.

B

Hp.

Pno.

B

Bar.

mf *solemn*

Per - - haps it is,

B

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

mf *p* *mf* *espr.*

IV

mf *p* *mf* *espr.*

mf *p* *mf* *espr.*

mf *p* *mf* *espr.*

mf *p* *mf* *espr.*

mf *p* *mf* *espr.*

mf *p* *mf* *espr.*

mf *p* *mf* *espr.*

Cl. (Clarinet) - Two staves, both with rests.

Hn. (Horn) - Treble clef, one note with *mf* dynamic and a fermata.

Vib. (Vibraphone) - Treble clef, sustained chords with *p* and *mf* dynamics.

Crot. (Cymbal) - Treble clef, one note with *p* dynamic.

Hp. (Harp) - Grand staff, arpeggiated figures with *p* and *mf* dynamics.

Pno. (Piano) - Grand staff, arpeggiated figures with *p* and *mf* dynamics.

Bar. (Baritone) - Treble clef, vocal line with lyrics: "The great - est grief, To be left on".

Vln. 1 (Violin 1) - Treble clef, sustained notes with *p* dynamic.

Vln. 2 (Violin 2) - Treble clef, notes with *p* dynamic and a *smear* marking.

Vla. (Viola) - Alto clef, sustained notes with *p* dynamic.

Vc. (Violoncello) - Bass clef, arpeggiated figures with *p* dynamic, *sul pont* marking, and *con sordino* instruction.

Db. (Double Bass) - Bass clef, sustained notes with *p* and *pp* dynamics.

C

19

Cl.

Cl.

C

Hn.

C

Vib.

Crot.

C

Hp.

Pno.

C

Bar.

C

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

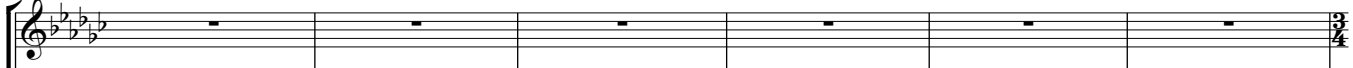
Vla.

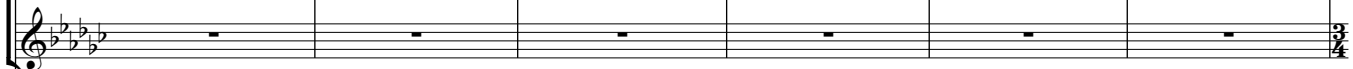
Vc.

Db.

D

25

Cl.  $\frac{3}{4}$

Cl.  $\frac{3}{4}$

D

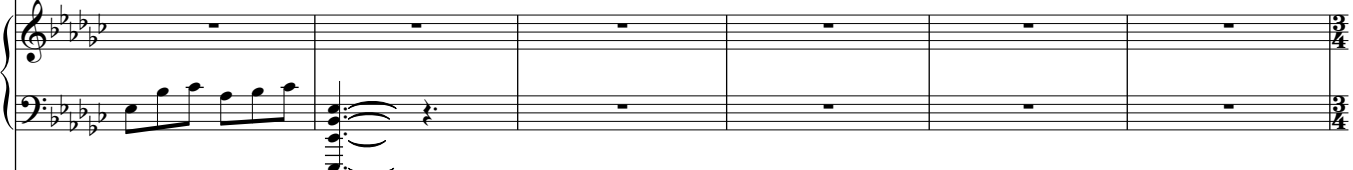
Hn.  $\frac{3}{4}$

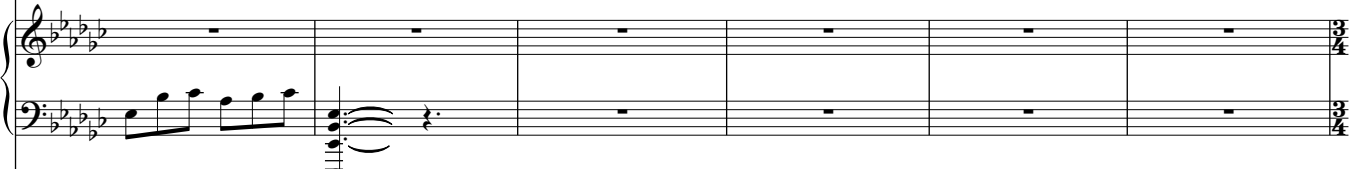
D

Vib.  $\frac{3}{4}$

D

Crot.  $\frac{3}{4}$

Hp.  $\frac{3}{4}$

Pno.  $\frac{3}{4}$

D

Bar. *fp* *f* *f*
no - thers gone. I could
 $\frac{3}{4}$

D

Vln. 1 *mf* *pp*
 $\frac{3}{4}$

Vln. 2 *p* *pp*
 $\frac{3}{4}$

Vla. *p* *mf*
 $\frac{3}{4}$

Vc. *mf* *pizz.* *p*
 $\frac{3}{4}$

Db. *mf* *pp* *p*
 $\frac{3}{4}$

31

Cl.

Hn.

Vib.

Crot.

Hp.

Pno.

Bar.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

E

37

Cl.

Cl.

E

Hn.

E

Vib.

Crot.

E

Hp.

Pno.

E

Bar.

E

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

44

Cl.

Hn.

Vib.

Crot.

Hp.

Pno.

Bar.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

51

F
bisbigliando

Cl. *pp*

F
bisbigliando

Cl. *pp*

F

Hn. *pp* *p* *pp*

F
motor on medium mallets

Vib. *p*

brass beaters

Crot. *pp*

F

Hp. *p* *p*

Pno. *p* *p*

mf **F**

Bar. When he died, All

remove mute **F**

Vln. 1 *mf* *pp* *mp cantabile*

Vln. 2 *mf* *pp* *poco vibrato* *p* *pp*

Vla. *mf* *p* *pp poco vibrato* *p* *pp*

Vc. *mf* *pp* *con arco* *pp* *p poco vibrato* *pp* *pp*

Db. *mf* *pp* *poco vibrato* *p* *pp*

58

Cl. *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

Cl. *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

G

Hn.

G

Vib. *p*

G

Crot. *pp*

Hp. *p*

Pno. *p*

G

Bar. *mf*
 things— soft, And beau - u - ti - ful, Would be

G

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 *p* *pp* *p* *espr.*

Vla. *p* *pp* *p* *espr.*

Vc. *smear* *p* *pp* *p* *espr.*

Db. *p* *pp*

IV

65

Cl. *pp*

Cl. *pp*

Hn. *mf*

Vib. *p*

Crot. *p*

Hp. *p*

Pno. *p*

Bar. *p*
bur - ied, Would be bur - ried, Would be bur - - - ried

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 *sul tasto* *pp*

Vla. *sul tasto* *pp*

Vc. *sul tasto* *pp*

Db. *p poco vibrato*

72

Cl. *mf* *mfp*

Hn. *mf* *mfp*

Vib.

Crot.

Hp. *p*

Pno. *p* *ffp* *f*

Bar. with him.

Vln. 1 *pp*

Vln. 2 *pp*

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *pp*

Db. *pp*

II. Our Joy

H

attacca subito
Movimento ♩ = 92

75

Cl.

Cl.

H

attacca subito

Hn.

H

Vib.

Marimba *attacca subito*
mf

H

Hp.

Pno.

Bar.

H

attacca subito
Movimento ♩ = 92

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 *sul pont.*
mf

Vla. *sul pont.*
mf

Vc. *fast* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.*
f *fierce*

Db. *arco* *fierce*
f *fast*

I

81

Cl. *mf*

Cl. *mf*

I

Hn.

I

Vib.

Marimba *mf*

I

Hp. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

I

Bar. *mf* — *f* — *mf* *mf*

In the dark - - ness, Two sha -

I

sul pont.

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. arco *mf*

Db. pizz. *mf*

84

Cl. *reedy*

Hn.

Vib.

Marimba *f*

Hp.

Pno.

Bar. *f* *mf*
dows, Reach - ing through Help - less hea - vy

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 *mfp*

Vla. *mfp*

Vc. *mfp* *mf*

Db.

J

87

Cl. *mf*

Cl. *mf*

J

Hn. *mf*

J

Vib. *mf*

Marimba

J

Hp.

Pno.

Pno.

J

Bar. *sung-spoken* *sung* *mp* *mf* *mf*

dusk. Their hands meet, And light spills, In a

J

Vln. 1 *mf espr.* III.

Vln. 2 *mf espr.* IV

Vla. *mfp* *mfp* *mf espr.*

Vc. *p* *mf espr.*

Db. *p*

K

93

Cl.

K

Hn.

K

Vib.

Marimba

K

Hp.

Pno.

K

Bar.

K

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

96

Cl. *p* *mf*

Cl. *p* *mf*

Hn. *mf*

Vib.

Marimba

Hp.

Pno.

Bar. *mf*
gold - en urns, Pour - ing out the

Vln. 1 *ord.*

Vln. 2 *ord.*

Vla. *ord.*

Vc. *sul pont.* *mf* *ord.*

Db. *sul pont.* *mf* *ord.*

L

99

Cl. *f*

Cl. *fp* *f* *f*

Musical score for two Clarinets (Cl.). The first staff has a measure of rest followed by a melodic line starting at measure 99 with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second staff has a measure of rest followed by a triplet of eighth notes (*f*) and another triplet (*f*).

L

Hn. *fp* *f*

Musical score for Horn (Hn.). The staff begins with a measure of rest, followed by a melodic line starting at measure 99 with a fortissimo (*fp*) dynamic, then continues with a forte (*f*) dynamic.

L

Vib.

Musical score for Vibraphone (Vib.). The staff contains a measure of rest for the duration of the page.

Marimba

L

Hp. *pp*

Musical score for Harp (Hp.). The staff contains a measure of rest for the duration of the page.

Pno.

L

Pno. *pp*

Musical score for Piano (Pno.). The staff contains a measure of rest for the duration of the page.

Bar.

L

Bar. *f* sun.

Musical score for Baritone (Bar.). The staff contains a measure of rest for the duration of the page.

Vln. 1

L

Vln. 1 *f flautando*

Musical score for Violin 1 (Vln. 1). The staff begins with a measure of rest, followed by a melodic line starting at measure 99 with a forte (*f*) *flautando* dynamic. The staff concludes with a 12-measure rest.

Vln. 2

Vln. 2 *f flautando*

Musical score for Violin 2 (Vln. 2). The staff begins with a measure of rest, followed by a melodic line starting at measure 99 with a forte (*f*) *flautando* dynamic. The staff concludes with a 12-measure rest.

Vla.

Vla. *f flautando*

Musical score for Viola (Vla.). The staff begins with a measure of rest, followed by a melodic line starting at measure 99 with a forte (*f*) *flautando* dynamic. The staff concludes with a 7-measure rest.

Vc.

Vc. *fast* *f* *flautando*

Musical score for Violoncello (Vc.). The staff begins with a measure of rest, followed by a melodic line starting at measure 99 with a forte (*f*) *fast* dynamic, then continues with a forte (*f*) *flautando* dynamic.

Db.

Db. *f* *arco* *mf* *f*

Musical score for Double Bass (Db.). The staff begins with a measure of rest, followed by a melodic line starting at measure 99 with a forte (*f*) dynamic, then continues with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) *arco* dynamic, and ends with a forte (*f*) dynamic.

103

Cl. *p*

Cl. *p*

Hn. *mf*

Vib.

Marimba

Hp. *f* 6

Pno. *f* 6

Bar.

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Db. *mf*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 103 and 104. The music is in a key with four flats and a 4/4 time signature. The score includes parts for Clarinet (Cl.), Horn (Hn.), Vibraphone (Vib.), Marimba, Harp (Hp.), Piano (Pno.), Baritone Saxophone (Bar.), Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.). In measure 103, the Clarinet parts play a half note G3. The Horn plays a half note G2. The Harp and Piano play a sixteenth-note triplet in the right hand and a half note G2 in the left hand. The Violin 1 part has a half note G3 with a tremolo. The Violin 2 and Viola parts play a half note G2. The Violoncello and Double Bass parts play a half note G2. In measure 104, the Clarinet and Horn parts are silent. The Harp and Piano continue with the sixteenth-note triplet and half note G2. The Violin 1 part has a half note G3 with a tremolo. The Violin 2 and Viola parts play a half note G2. The Violoncello and Double Bass parts play a half note G2.

M

105

Cl.

M

Hn.

M

Vib. *(motor on)*
mf

Marimba *mf*

M

Hp. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

M

Bar. *mf* *f* *mf* *f*
We were like gods, At the dawn - ing of the world, _____

M

Vln. 1 *con sordino* *p* *mf*
Vln. 2 *con sordino* *p* *mf*
Vla. *con sordino* *p* *mf*
Vc. *con sordino* *p* *pizz.*
Db. *p*

N

111

solo with baritone

Cl. *mp*

Cl. *pp* *p* *pp*

N

Hn.

N

(motor off)

Vib.

Marimba *pp*

N

Hp.

Pno.

N

Bar. *mf* *f*

And out joy was so bright, We could

N

Vln. 1 *p* *mf* *p*

Vln. 2 *p* *mf* *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc.

Db.

114

Cl. *ppp*

Hn.

Vib. *p*

Marimba *to crotales* *crotales* *p*

Hp.

Pno.

Bar. *mf* *f* *p*
see noth - ing else, But each o - - - ther.

Vln. 1 *mf* *p* *mf* *ppp*

Vln. 2 *mf* *p* *mf* *ppp*

Vla. *arco.* *ff*

Vc. *arco.* *ff*

Db. *arco.* *ff*