

Piano/Choral score

Gwyneth Walker

To an Isle in the Water

*musical settings of the poetry of
William Butler Yeats for
SATB Chorus and Chamber Orchestra*

"The Lake Isle of Innisfree"

"Shy One"

"When You Are Old"

"Song of Wandering Aengus"

duration: 16 minutes

*commissioned by the Saginaw Choral Society – Saginaw, Michigan
Robert Sabourin, Music Director
for premiere on February 25, 2006*

*dedicated to the memory of Thomas T. Princing
cherished Patron of the Arts*

Program Notes

The poetry of William Butler Yeats (1865-1939) speaks in a simple and direct language. The imagery is rich and beautiful, providing fertile ground for musical expression. In the first song (“The Lake Isle of Innisfree”), one might hear the “lake water lapping” through arpeggiated accompaniment patterns. Or, one might feel the gentle, slow melodic descent when “peace comes dropping slow.”

Each poem, and each song, has its own central images similarly displayed. The musical language is basically tonal, with an emphasis upon melodic writing in keeping with the lyricism of the poetry.

The four songs in this set progress through time, from the initial setting forth on a journey (“The Lake Isle of Innisfree”), to the newness of young love (“Shy One”), to a reflection on the passing of years (“When You Are Old”) and lastly, to the eternal, transcendent beauty of love (“The Song of Wandering Aengus”). One senses the poet seeking that which is always beyond the limits of the finite world.

*And walk among long dappled grass,
And pluck till time and times are done
the silver apples of the moon,
the golden apples of the sun.*

* * * * *

Dr. Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947) is a graduate of Brown University and the Hartt School of Music. She holds B.A., M.M. and D.M.A. Degrees in Music Composition. A former faculty member of the Oberlin College Conservatory, she resigned from academic employment in 1982 in order to pursue a career as a full-time composer. She now lives on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont. Gwyneth Walker is a proud resident of Vermont. She is the recipient of the Year 2000 “Lifetime Achievement Award” from the Vermont Arts Council.

Walker’s catalog includes over 150 commissioned works for orchestra, band, chorus and chamber ensembles. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published E. C. Schirmer of Boston (choral and vocal music) and MMB Music of St. Louis (orchestral and instrumental music).

To an Isle in the Water

William Butler Yeats
(1865 - 1939)

Introduction

Gwyneth Walker

Gently flowing ♩ = 120

Piano

pp

with much Pedal

4

A

5 5 5 5

7

5 5 5 5

8^{va} -----

10

B

p

Ped.

5 5 5 5

15

Ped. simile

5 5 5 5

19

23

26

29

poco

p

Ped. simile

ritard.

Ped.

Ped.

C

The piano accompaniment consists of four systems of staves. The first system (measures 19-22) features a treble staff with chords and a bass staff with eighth-note patterns and triplets. The second system (measures 23-25) includes a **C** chord marking and a *p* dynamic marking. The third system (measures 26-28) shows a treble staff with five-fingered runs and a bass staff with eighth-note patterns. The fourth system (measures 29-32) includes a *ritard.* marking and a 4/4 time signature change.

1. The Lake Isle of Innisfree

D Same tempo ♩ = 120

p very gently

S. I will a - rise and go now, and go to In - nis -

A. I will a - rise and go now, and go to In - nis -

D Same tempo ♩ = 120

shimmering (p)

Ped.

sim.

The vocal parts (Soprano and Alto) are shown in two systems. The first system (measures 33-36) includes the lyrics and a *p very gently* dynamic marking. The second system (measures 33-36) shows the piano accompaniment for the vocal parts, featuring a treble staff with triplets and a bass staff with chords and a *sim.* marking.

36

S. free,

A. free,

T. *p very gently*
And a small — cab - in build there, of

B. *p very gently*
And a small — cab - in build there, of

39

S. **E** (*p*)
nine bean - rows will I

A. (*p*)
nine bean - rows will I

T. clay and wat - tles made:

B. clay and wat - tles made:

39 **E**

42

S. have there, and

A. have there, and

T. *(p)* a hive for the hon - ey bee,

B. *(p)* a hive for the hon - ey bee,

45

S. live a - lone in the bee - loud glade.

A. live a - lone in the bee - loud glade.

T. glade

B. glade

45

48 **F** *mf cantabile*

S. And I shall have some peace there,

A. And I shall have some peace there,

T. *mf* *mf cantabile*

B. *mf* *mf cantabile*

for

for

48 **F** *mf*

Red. *sim.*

51 **poco ritard.** **a tempo**

S. Drop - ping from the veils of the mourn - ing to

A. Drop - ping from the veils of the mourn - ing to

T. *p* peace comes drop - ing slow,

B. *p* peace comes drop - ing slow,

51 **poco ritard.** **a tempo**

p

55 **G**

S. where the crick - et sings;

A. where the crick - et sings;

T. *p* There mid-night's all a glim-mer, and noon a pur - ple

B. *p* There mid-night's all a glim-mer, and noon a pur - ple

60 *(p)*

S. And eve - ning full of lin - net's wings.

A. *(p)* And eve - ning full of lin - net's wings.

T. glow,

B. glow,

60 *mf*

64

S.

A.

T.

B.

68

H *(p)*

S. I will a-rise and go now, for al-ways night and day I

A. *(p)*
I will a-rise and go now, for al-ways night and day I

T. *(p)*
I will a-rise and go now, for al-ways night and day I

B. *(p)*
I will a-rise and go now, for al-ways night and day I

73 *cresc.* **ritard.**

S. hear lake wa - ter lap - ping with low sounds by the

A. hear lake wa - ter lap - ping with low sounds by the

T. hear lake wa - ter lap - ping with low sounds by the

B. hear lake wa - ter lap - ping with low sounds by the

73 **ritard.**

cresc.

I More slowly

76 *(cresc.)* *f* *p*

S. shore; while I stand on the road-way, or on the pave-ment's grey,

A. shore; while I stand on the road-way, or on the pave-ment's grey,

T. shore; while I stand on the road-way, or on the pave-ment's grey,

B. shore; while I stand on the road-way, or on the pave-ment's grey, I

76 *(cresc.)* *f* *mf*

I More slowly

81

S.

A.

T. *p*

B. *p*

accel.

J a tempo ♩ = 120

85

S. *mf cantabile*

A. *mf cantabile*

T.

B.

accel.

J a tempo ♩ = 120

85

88 **poco ritard.** **Slightly slower**

S. *unis. p*
 peace there, for peace comes drop - ping slow. I will a-rise, and

A. *mf cantabile*
 peace there, for peace comes drop - ping slow.

T. *mf cantabile*
 I shall have some peace, for peace comes drop - ping slow.

B. *mf cantabile*
 I shall have some peace, for peace comes drop - ping slow.

88 **poco ritard.** **Slightly slower**

Ped. simile

92

S. *unis.*
 I will a-rise, and I will a-rise, and I will a-rise and go.

A. *unis.*
 I will a-rise, and I will a-rise, and I will a-rise and go.

T. *unis.*
 I will a-rise, and I will a-rise and go.

B. *unis.*
 I will a-rise and go.

92

96 **accel.** *f*

S.

A.

T.

B.

96 **accel.** *f*

99 **K** a tempo ♩ = 120 *(f)*

S. I will a - rise and go.

A. I will a - rise and go.

T. I will a - rise and go.

B. *(f) unis.* I will a - rise and go.

99 **K** a tempo ♩ = 120 *f*

102 **accel.**

S. I will a - rise and go. I will a - rise, and

A. I will a - rise and go. I will a - rise, and

T. I will a - rise and go. I will a - rise, and

B. I will a - rise and go. I will a - rise, and

102 **accel.**

(**accel.**) **L** Quickly

S. I will a - rise, and I will a - rise and go, and go, and

A. I will a - rise, and I will a - rise and go, and go, and

T. I will a - rise, and I will a - rise and go, and go, and

B. I will a - rise, and I will a - rise and go, and go, and

105 (**accel.**) **L** Quickly

109

S. go, and go, and go.

A. go, and go, and go.

T. go, and go, and go.

B. go, and go, and go.

109

poco ritard. **M** (free measure—not conducted) *ritard.*

114

S. *p*

A. *p*

T. *p*

B. *p*

poco ritard. **M** (free measure—not conducted) *ritard.*

114

p *mf*

(*ritard.*) *ritard.*

N More slowly, ritard. *p*

S. *p* Mm,

A. *p* Mm,

T. *p* Mm,

B. *p* Mm,

N More slowly, ritard. *p*

116 *p*

Red.

Interlude 1

4' 15"

Freely ♩ = ca. 120 *mf* ritard. **a tempo** ♩ = 120 gently flowing

Red.

6 *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.*

10 *Red.*

2. Shy One

13 **A** (♩ = 120)

S. *p*
Shy one, shy one,

A. *p*
Shy one, shy one,

T. *p*
Shy one, shy one,

B. *p*
Shy one, shy one,

17 **ritard.** 'a tempo

S. shy one of my heart,

A. shy one of my heart,

T. shy one of my heart, — she — moves in the

B. shy one of my heart, she — moves in the

17 **ritard.** 'a tempo *pp*

20 *pp as a background*

S. *pp as a background*
la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la,

A. *pp as a background*
la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la,

T. fire - light pen - sive - ly a -

B. fire - light pen - sive - ly a -

20
(*Red.*)

23 **B** *p*

S. la, la, la, la, She car - ries in the dish - es, And

A. *p*
la, la, la, la, She car - ries in the dish - es, And

T. part.

B. part.

23 **B** *pp*

(*Red.*)

26

S. lays them in a row.

A. lays them in a row.

T. *mf cantabile*
To an isle in the wa - - - ter

B. *mf cantabile*
To an isle in the wa - - - ter

26

(*Red.*) *mp* *mp* *sim.*

30

S. [C]

A. [C]

T. with her would I go.

B. with her would I go.

30

[C] *Red.*

33

S. *mf*
She

A. *mf*
She

T. *p*

B. *p*

Red.

36

S. *> p*
car - ries in the can - dles, and lights the cur-tained room,

A. *> p*
car - ries in the can - dles, and lights the cur-tained room,

T. *p*
Shy — in the

B. *p*
Shy — in the

36

sustained

Red.

D

ritard.

41

S. And— shy— as a rab-bit, Help-ful and

A. And— shy— as a rab-bit, Help-ful and

T. door-way And shy— in the gloom; Help-ful and

B. door-way And shy— in the gloom; Help-ful and

D

ritard.

41

(Ped.)

(rit.) 'a tempo

47

S. shy.

A. shy.

T. *mf* shy. To an isle in the wa - ter with—

B. *mf* shy. To an isle in the wa - ter with—

(rit.) 'a tempo

47

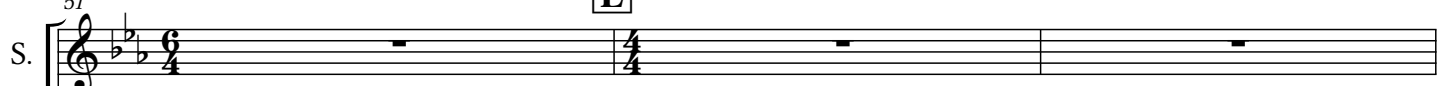
mp


mp


mp

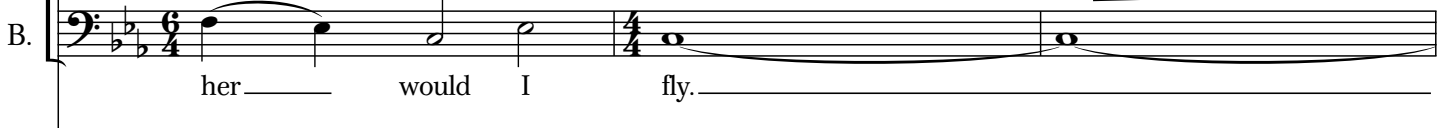
(Ped.)


51 E

S. 

A. 

T.  her ——— would I fly.

B.  her ——— would I fly.

 *Red.*

54 *p*

S.  La, la, la, la, la, la, la, la

A. 

T.  *p*

B.  *p*

 *Red.* *sim.*

57

S. la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, And—

A. *p* La, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, And—

T.

B.

60 **F** *mf* ritard. 'a tempo *mf*

S. shy — as a rab-bit, help-ful and shy. To an

A. *mf* shy — as a rab-bit, help-ful and shy.

T. (*p*) help-ful and shy.

B. (*p*) help-ful and shy. *mf* To an isle in the

60 **F** *mf* ritard. 'a tempo

mf *p*

And. 3 3 3

65

S. isle in the wa - - - ter, to an

A. *mf* To an isle in the wa - ter, to an

T. *mf* To an isle in the wa - ter, to an

B. wa - - - ter, to an

65

Ped. simile

G ritard.

68

S. *f* isle in the wa - - - ter, in the

A. *f* isle in the wa - - - ter, in the

T. *f* isle in the wa - - - ter, in the

B. *f* isle in the wa - - - ter, in the

G ritard.

68

f

Ped.

71 **Slowly** **accel.**

S. wa - ter,

A. *p* wa - ter, with her would I fly, *(p)* fly.

T. wa - ter, fly.

B. *p* wa - ter, with - her - would I fly.

(accel.) **H** a tempo

76 *p* fly. *cresc.*

A. *cresc.*

T. fly.

B. fly.

(accel.) **H** a tempo

76 *cresc.*

Red. *sim.*

ritard to end

79

(cresc.)

mf

S.

A.

T.

B.

ritard to end

79

(cresc.) - - - - -

mf decresc. - - - - -

82

p

**Shh*

p

**Shh*

p

**Shh*

p

**Shh*

S.

A.

T.

B.

82

(decresc.) - - - - -

p

* Tutti Chorus: vocal sound, similar to the start of the word "sky", to approximate a Cymbal roll

Interlude 2

Slightly faster $\text{♩} = 132$

85 *mf*

93 *And.*

3' 45"

3. When You Are Old

Gently flowing $\text{♩} = 132$ ($\text{♩} = 44$)

S.

A.

T.

B.

Gently flowing $\text{♩} = 132$ ($\text{♩} = 44$)

p

9 **A**

S. *p*
When you are old and grey and full of sleep,

A. *p*
When you are old and grey and full of sleep,

T. *p*
When you are old and grey and full of sleep,

B. *p*
When you are old and grey and full of sleep,

16 **B** *poco ritard.*

S. And nod - ding by the fire, take down this

A. And nod - ding by the fire, take down this

T. And nod - ding by the fire, take down this

B. And nod - ding by the fire, take down this

16 **B** *poco ritard.*

(ritard.) Slower

23

S. book and slow - ly read, _____ and dream _____ of the soft

A. book and slow - ly read, _____ and dream _____ of the soft

T. book and slow - ly read, _____ and dream _____ soft_

B. book and slow - ly read, _____ and dream _____ of the soft

23 (ritard.) Slower

30

S. look your eyes had once, and of their sor - rows deep. —

A. look your eyes had once, and of their sor - rows deep. —

T. look_ your eyes_____ had_____ once, and of their sor - rows deep. —

B. look your eyes had once, and of their sor - rows deep. —

30

36 **C** *accel.* **a tempo**

S.

A.

T.

B.

36 **C** *accel.* **a tempo**

(*p*) *mf*

44 **D** *mf*

S.

A.

T.

B.

How man - y loved — your mo - ments of glad grace.

How man - y loved — your mo - ments of glad grace.

44 **D**

p

poco ritard. **Slower** E

S. *p* But one man loved the pil-grim

A. *p* But one man loved the pil-grim

T. *mf* And loved your beau-ty with love false or true.

B. *mf* And loved your beau-ty with love false or true.

51 **poco ritard.** **Slower** E

S. F **accel.** Soul in you,

A. F **accel.** Soul in you,

T. *unis. p* And loved the sor-rows of your chang-ing face.

B. *unis. p* And loved the sor-rows of your chang-ing face.

57 **F accel.**

(accel.) a tempo

G Same tempo ♩ = 132

H

73

S. *p*
And bend - ing down be - side the glow - ing

A. *p*
And bend - ing down be - side the glow - ing

T. *p*
And bend - ing down be - side the glow - ing

B. *p*
And bend - ing down be - side the glow - ing

75

S. bars, Mur - - mur,

A. bars, Mur - - mur,

T. bars, Mur - - - mur,

B. bars, Mur - - - mur,

I **ritard.**

78

S. a lit - tle sad - - - ly how love

A. a lit - tle sad - - - ly how love

T. a lit - tle sad - - - ly how love

B. a lit - tle sad - - - ly how love

I **ritard.**

82 *pp* **Slowly**

S. fled, how love fled

A. fled, how love

T. fled, how love fled And paced up-on the moun-tains o-ver - head

B. fled, how love fled And paced up-on the moun-tains o-ver - head

82 **Slowly**

pp

88 **J accel.** **a tempo** ♩ = 132

S. Mur - - - mur,

A. Mur - - - mur,

T. Mur - - - mur,

B. Mur - - - mur,

88 **J accel.** **a tempo** ♩ = 132

pp

91

S. mur - - - mur,

A. mur - - - mur,

T. Mur - - - mur,

B.

94

S. *cresc.* mur - - - mur, a lit - tle sad - - -

A. *cresc.* mur - - - mur, a lit - tle sad - - -

T. *cresc.* mur - - - mur, a lit - tle sad - - -

B. *cresc.* mur - - - mur, a lit - tle sad - - -

ritard.

97 *(cresc.)*

S. ly, how love fled, how love

A. ly, how love fled, how love

T. ly, how love fled, how love

B. ly, how love fled, how love

Slower

101 *f, p*

S. fled And paced up - on the moun - tains o - ver

A. fled And paced up - on the moun - tains o - ver

T. fled

B. fled

101 *f* *pp*

Slower

And.

104

S. *a few voices pp*
head _____ Ah, _____

A. *a few voices pp*
head _____ Ah, _____

T. *p*
And hid his face a - mid a crowd of

B. *p*
And hid his face a - mid a crowd of

104

(*Red.*)

ritard.

107 *tutti p*

S. a crowd of stars. _____

A. *tutti p*
a crowd of stars. _____

T. stars. _____

B. stars. _____

107 **ritard.**

(*Red.*)

Interlude 3

Moderato ♩ = 108

p

with Ped.

6 *ritard.*

p

4. The Song of Wandering Aengus

a tempo ♩ = 108

(p)

(with Ped.)

5 **A** *p cantabile*

S. I went out to the ha-zel wood, _____ be - cause a fire was in my head, -

A. *p cantabile*

A. I went out to the ha-zel wood, _____ be - cause a fire was in my head, -

5 **A**

10

S. And cut and peeled a ha-zel wand, and hooked a ber-ry

A. And cut and peeled a ha-zel wand, and hooked a ber-ry

T.

B.

10

16

S. to a thread:

A. to a thread:

T. *p cantabile* And

B. *p cantabile* And

16

mf

21 **B**

S. _____

A. _____

T. *8* when white moths were on the wing, _____ And moth-like stars were flick-er-ing out, _____

B. when white moths were on the wing, _____ And moth-like stars were flick-er-ing out, _____

21 **B**

p

26

S. _____

A. _____

T. *8* I dropped the ber - ry in a stream _____ And

B. I dropped the ber - ry in a stream _____ And

26

31

S. _____

A. _____

T. *8* caught a lit-tle sil - ver trout _____

B. caught a lit-tle sil - ver trout _____

mf

36

S. _____

A. *solo, or a few voices*
p
Ah, _____ ah, _____

T. *(p)*
When I had laid it on the floor _____ I went to blow the fire a - flame,

B. *(p)*
When I had laid it on the floor _____ I went to blow the fire a - flame,

36

p

solo, or a few voices

42 *p*

S. Ah,

A. ah,

T. but some-thing rus-tled on the floor, And some one called me

B. but some-thing rus-tled on the floor, And some one called me

47 *tutti p* *mf* **D**

S. by my name: It had be-come a glim-mering girl

A. *tutti p* by my name: It had be-come a glim-mering girl

T. by my name: It had be-come a glim-mering girl

B. by my name: It had be-come a glim-mering girl

47 *mf* *p*

52

S. — with ap - ple blos - som in her hair —

A. — with ap - ple blos - som in her hair —

T. — with ap - ple blos - som in her hair — Who

B. — with ap - ple blos - som in her hair — Who

56

S. — Ah, — and fad - ed through the bright - ening air. — *ritard.*

A. — Ah, — and fad - ed through the bright - ening air. —

T. called me by my name and ran — *(mf)* Though

B. called me by my name and ran — *(mf)* Though

56

ritard.

62 **E** Slower, more freely

S. 

A. 

T. 
I am old with wan-der-ing through hol-low lands and hil - ly lands, I will find out where she has

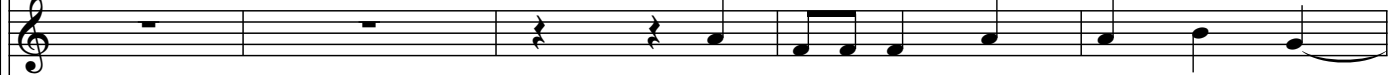
B. 
I am old with wan-der-ing through hol-low lands and hil - ly lands, I will find out where she has


62 **E** Slower, more freely


mf *p*

67 ritard. *p* a tempo **F**

S. 
And walk a-mong long dap - pled grass,—

A. 
And walk a-mong long dap - pled grass,—

T. 
gone, And kiss her lips and take her hands;

B. 
gone, And kiss her lips and take her hands;

67 ritard. *p* a tempo **F**


(p)

72

S. — And pluck till time and times are done — The sil-ver ap-ples of the

A. — And pluck till time and times are done — The sil-ver ap-ples of the

T. —

B. —

72

77

S. moon,

A. moon,

T. moon, — the gol-den ap-ples of the sun. —

B. moon, — the gol-den ap-ples of the sun. —

G

G

77

83

S. 


A. 


T. 

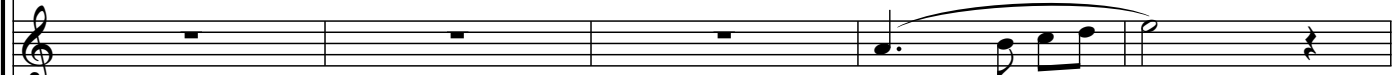
B. 

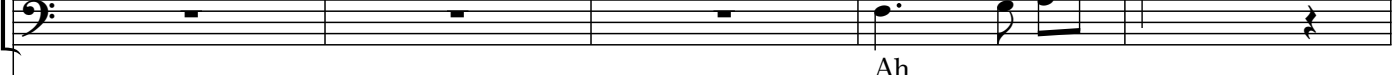


88 *mf* **H**

S.  *mf* And walk a-mong long dap - pled grass, — And pluck till time and

A.  *mf* And walk a-mong long dap - pled grass, — And pluck till time and

T.  *p* Ah, *mf*

B.  *p* Ah, *mf*

88 **H**



ritard. **f** **Slower** *mf*

S. times are done — The sil-ver ap-ples of the moon, The gol-den ap-ples of the

A. times are done — The sil-ver ap-ples of the moon,

T. times are done — The sil - ver moon,

B. times are done — The sil-ver ap-ples of the moon, The gol-den ap-ples of

ritard. **f** **Slower** *mf* *p*

I a tempo ♩ = 108 *p*

S. sun.

A.

T.

B.

I a tempo ♩ = 108 *p*

Red. _____

sung in a smooth and sustained manner
p

S. *p* *sung in a smooth and sustained manner*
The sil - ver

A. *p* *sung in a smooth and sustained manner*
The sil - ver ap - ples of the moon, The gol - den

T. *p* *sung in a smooth and sustained manner*
The sil - ver ap - ples of the moon,

B. *p* *sung in a smooth and sustained manner*

102

(Red.)

S. *cresc.*
ap - ples of the moon, the gol - den ap - ples of the sun,

A. *cresc.*
ap - ples of the sun, the sil - ver ap - ples of the moon, the gol - den ap - ples of the

T. *cresc.*
The gol - den ap - ples of the sun, the sil - ver ap - ples of the

B. *sung in a smooth and sustained manner*
p *cresc.*
The sil - ver ap - ples of the moon, the gol - den

105

(Red.)

108 **J** *(cresc.)* - - - - -

S. the sil-ver ap-ples of the moon, the gol-den ap-ples of the sun, the sil-ver ap - ples

A. sun, the sil-ver ap-ples of the moon, the gol-den ap-ples of the sun, the gol - den

T. moon, the gol-den ap-ples of the sun, the sil-ver ap-ples of the moon, the gol-den ap - ples

B. ap-ples of the sun, the sil - ver ap-ples of the moon, the gol-den

108 **J** *(cresc.)* - - - - -

(Red.)

111 *(cresc.)* - - - - - **ritard.** *f*

S. of the sun.

A. ap - ples of the sun.

T. of the sun.

B. ap - ples of the sun.

111 *(cresc.)* - - - - - **ritard.** *f*

(Red.) *Red.*