

Scenes from Shelley's PROMETHEUS UNBOUND

Set to Music
by

## C. Hubert H. Parry

Composed for the Three Choirs Festival (Gloucester) - September 7, 1880

## VOCAL SCORE

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The "renaissance" in English music is generally agreed to have started in the late Victorian period, beginning roughly in 1880, and was most notable for compositions by C.V. Stanford, C. Hubert H. Parry, Edward Elgar, Henry Walford Davies, Harold Darke and others. Public demand for major works in support of the annual choral festivals held throughout England at that time was considerable which led to the creation of many large scale works for orchestra with soloists and chorus. Although a number of those works found their way into print and are regularly performed today, a considerable number of compositions, both large-scale and more intimate works, are not available. These works either were never published or were published but are no longer available in the publishers' catalogues. While the existence of these works is documented in biographies of the composers, the ability to study and, most importantly, to perform these compositions is not possible.

Changes in the International copyright laws in the mid-1970's played a pivotal role in creating this void, opening a significant number of musical compositions to public access. As a result, music publishers lost the ability to generate revenue from the sale/rental of such music. Performance score inventories of these works were eliminated. In addition, for many compositions, the only published material were vocal scores - full scores and orchestra parts were hand notated for the premiere of a work and then were 'recycled' for future performances. While full score autograph manuscripts are now accessible through the major music libraries in the UK, the hand-notated parts have long since been lost. These autograph full score manuscripts along with copies of the published vocal scores are now the only resources available for studying and performing these works.

The English Heritage Music Series has been created to ensure that these compositions are preserved, are accessible for scholarly research and, most importantly, are available for performance by future generations. Its mission is to:

- Source unpublished/out-of-print English composer compositions that are in the U.S. public domain
- Preserve these compositions through the preparation of performance scores using notation software
- Provide open Internet access to the scores to facilitate study, performance and sharing of performance material (program notes, audio, reviews, etc.)

In preparing the English Heritage Music Series editions, every effort has been made to adhere strictly to the notation contained in the manuscripts. Because of the passage of time and its effect on the condition of the manuscript, the absence of clear information often times by the composer in notating divided instruments, and with emendations in the composer and other hands resulting from use of the manuscript in performance, there were numerous circumstances which required interpretation and decisions for notes, accidentals, dynamics, articulations and tempi. Should questions arise in the use of these editions, the composers' autograph manuscripts and the Novello vocal scores should be consulted for clarification.

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## Source Information

[^0]Royal College of Music Library MS 4212
Novello Octavo Edition No. 6075
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## Reference Material and Software

Notation Software: Finale v. 26 Audio Software: Garritan Personal Orchestra 5 Graphic Software: Adobe Photoshop CS5 Document Software: Adobe In Design CS5 Music Notation Reference: Behind Bars by Elaine Gould, Faber Music © 2011

# Excerpts from Shelley's <br> PROMETHEUS UNBOUND 

## Act I

Scene: A ravine of icy rocks in the Indian Caucasus.
Prometheus is discovered bount to the precipiece.
Panthea and Ione are seated at his feet. Time is Night. During the scene morning slowing breaks.

## PROMETHEUS

Monarch of Gods and Demons, and all Spirits But One, who throng those bright and rolling worlds Which Thou and I alone of living things Behold with sleepless eyes! Regard this Earth Made multitudinous with thy slaves, whom thou Bequitest for knee-worship, prayer, and praise, And toil, and hecatombs of broken hearts, With fear and self-contempt and barren hope; Whilst me, who am thy foe, eyeless in hate, Hast thou made reign and triumph, to thy scorn, O'er mine own misery and thy vain revenge.

Ah me! Alas, pain, pain ever, forever! No change, no pause, no hope! Yet I endure. I ask the Earth, have not the mountains felt? I ask yon Heaven, the all-beholding Sun, Has it not seen? The Sea, in storm or calm, Heaven's ever-changing shadow, spread below,
Have its deaf waves not heard my agony?
And yet to me welcome is day and night, Whether one breaks the hoar-frost of the morn, Or starry, dim, and slow, the other climbs The leaden-colored east; for then they lead The wingless, crawling hours, one among whom As some dark Priest hales the reluctant victim Shall drag thee, cruel King, to kiss the blood From these pale feet, which then might trample thee If they disdained not such a prostrate slave.

## VOICE FROM THE MOUNTAINS

Thrice three hundred thousand years
O'er the earthquake's couch we stood;
Oft, as men convulsed with fears,
We trembled in our multitude.
But never bowed our snowy crest
As at the voice of thine unrest.

## MERCURY

Awful Sufferer!
To thee unwilling, most unwillingly
I come, by the great Father's will driven down,
To execute a doom of new revenge.
Oh, that we might be spared; I to inflict,
And thou to suffer! Once more answer me.
Thou knowest not the period of Jove's power?

## PROMETHEUS

I know but this, that it must come.

## MERCURY

Alas!
Thou canst not count thy years to come of pain!

## PROMETHEUS

They last while Jove must reign; nor more nor less Do I desire or fear.

## MERCURY

If thou mightst dwell among the Gods the while, Lapped in voluptuous joy?

## PROMETHEUS

I would not quit
This bleak ravine, these unrepentant pains.

## MERCURY

Alas! I wonder at, yet pity thee.

## PROMETHEUS

Pity the self-despising slaves of Heaven, Not me, within whose mind sits peace serene, As light in the sun, throned. How vain is talk! Call up the fiends.

## MERCURY

I must obey his words and thine. Alas!
Most heavily remorse hangs at my heart!

## THREE FURIES

Prometheus!
Imomortal Titan!
Campion of Heaven's slaves!

## CHORUS OF FURIES

From the ends of the earth, from the ends of the earth, Where the night has its grave and the morning its birth, Come, come, come!
O ye who shake hills with the scream of your mirth
When cities sink howling in ruin; and ye
Who wingless footsteps trample the sea,
And close upon Shipwreck and Famine's track
Sit chattering with joy on the foodless wreck; Come, come, come!
Leave the bed, low, cold, and red,
Strewed beneath a nation dead;
Leave the hatred, as in ashes Fire is left for future burning:
It will burst in bloodier flashes When we stir it, soon returning:
Leave the self-contempt implanted
In young spirits, sense-enchanted, Misery's yet unkindled fuel:
Leave Hell's secrets half unchanted
To the maniac dreamer; cruel
More than ye can be with hate
Is he with fear,
Come, come, come!
The pale stars of morn
Shine on a misery, dire to be borne.
Dost thou faint, mighty Titan?
We laugh thee to scorn. Joy, joy, joy!
Past ages crowd on thee, but each one remembers;
And the future is dark, and the present is spread
Like a pillow of thorns for thy slumberless head.

## THE EARTH

I felt thy torture, son, with such mixed joy.
As pain and virtue give.
To cheer thy state
I bid ascend those subtle and fair spirits, Whose homes are the dim caves of human thought,
And who inhabit, as birds wind the wind,
Its world-surrounding ether: they behold
Beyond that twilight realm, as in a glass,
The future: may they speak to comfort thee!

## CHORUS OF SPIRITS

From unremembered ages we
Gentle guides and guardians be
Of heaven-oppressed mortality;
And we breathe, and sicken not,
The atmosphere of human thought:
Be it dim, and dank, and grey,
Like a storm-extinguished day,
Travelled oer with dying gleams;
Be it bright as all between
Cloudless skies and windless streams
Silent, liquid, and serene;
As the birds within the wind,
As the fish within the wave,
As the thoughts of man'sown mind
Float through all above the grave;
We make there our liquid lair,
Voyaging cloudlike and unpent
Through the boundless element:
From thence we bear the prophecy
Which begins and ends in thee!

## PROMETHEUS

How fair these air-born shapes! and yet I feel Most vain all hope but love; and thou art far, Asia! who, when my being overflowed, Wert like a golden chalice to bright wine Which else had sunk into the thirsty dust. All things are still: alas! how heavily This quiet morning weighs upon my heart; Though I should dream I could even sleep with grief, If slumber were denied not. I would fain Be what it is my destiny to be, The saviour and the strength of suffering man, Or sink into the original gulf of things.
There is no agony, no solace left;
Earth can console, Heaven can torment no more.

## VOICE OF SPIRITS

Life of Life! thy lips enkindle With their love the between them;
And thy smiles before they dwindle Make the cold air fire; then screen them
In those looks, where whoso gazes
Faints, entangled in their mazes.
Child of Light! thy limbs are burning Through the vest that seems to hide them;
As the radiant lines of morning
Through the clouds, ere they divide them;
And this atmosphere divinest
Shrouds thee whereso-er thou shinest.

Fair are others; none beholds thee,
But thy voice sounds low and tender
Like the fairest, for it folds thee
From the sight, that liquid splendour,
And all feel, yet see thee never,
As I feel now, lost for ever!
Lamp of Earth! whereer thou movest Its dim shpaes are clad with brightness,
And the souls of whom thou lovest
Walk upon the winds with lightness,
Till they fail, as I am failing,
Dizzy, lost, yet unbewailing!

## End of Part I

Act III
Scene I: Heaven. Jupiter on his throne;
Thetis and the other Deities assembled.

## JUPITER

Ye congregated powers of heaven, who share The glory and the strength of him ye serve, Rejoice! henceforth I am omnipotent.
All else had been subdued to me; alone
The soul of man, like an unextinguished fire,
Yet burns towards heaven with fierce reproach, and doubt,
Hurling up insurrection, which might make
Our antique empire insecure, though built
On eldest faith, and hell's coeval, fear;
And though my curses through the pendulous air,
Like snow on herbless peaks, fall flake by flake,
And cling to it: though under my wrath's might
It climbs the crags of life, step after step,
It yet remains supreme oer misery,
Aspiring, unrepressed, yet soon to fall:
Even now have I begotten a strange wonder.
That fatal child, the terror of the earth,
Who waits but till the destined hour arrive,
To redescend and trample out the spark.
Pour forth heaven's wine, Idæan Ganymede, And let it fill the Dædal cups like fire, And from the flower-inwoven soil divine Ye all-triumphant harmonies arise. Drink! be the nectar circling through your veins
The soul of joy, ye ever-living Gods,
Till exultation burst in one wide voice
Like music from Elysian winds.
[The Car of the Hour arrives. Demogorgon descends.]
Awful shape, what art thou? Speak!

## DEMOGORGON

Eternity. Demand no direr name.
Descend, and follow me down the abyss.
I am thy child as thou wert Saturn's child;
Mightier than thee: and we must dwell together Henceforth in darkness.

## JUPITER

Mercy! Mercy!
No pity, no release, no respite!
Oh, that thou wouldst make mine enemy my judge,

Even where he hangs, seared by my long revenge,
On Caucasus! he would not doom me thus.
Gentle and just, and dreadless, is he not
The monarch of the world? What then art thou?
No refuge! no appeal! Sink with me then.
Let hell unlock its mounded oceans of tempestuous fire,
And whelm on them into the bottomless void
This desolated world, and thee, and me,
The conqueror and the conquered, and the wreck
Of that for which they combated.
The elements obey me not. I sink
Down, ever, for ever, down.
And mine enemy above
Darkens my fall with victory.

## SPIRIT OF THE HOUR

Soon as the sound had ceased whose thunder filled the sky
There was a change: the impalpable thin air,
And the all-circling sunlight were transformed,
As if the sense of love dissolved in them
Had folded itself round the sphered world.
Dizzy as with delight I floatd to the earth.
It was, as it is still, a pain of bliss
To move, to breathe, to be; I wandering went
Among the haunts and dwellings of mankind.
And behold, thrones were kingless, and men walked
One with another even as spirits do,
None fawned, none trampled, none with eager fear
Gazed on another's eye of cold command;
None wrought his lips with truth-entangling lines
Which smiled the lie his tongue disdained to speak.
Nor pride, nor jealousy, no envy, no ill shame,
Spoilt the sweet taste of the nepenthe, love.

## Scene II: A part of the forest near the cave of Prometheus

## VOICE OF UNSEEN SPIRITS

The pale stars are gone!
For the sun, their swift shepherd,
To the folds them compelling,
In the depths of the dawn,
Hastes, in meteor-eclipsing array, and they flee
Beyond his blue dwelling,
As fawns flee the leopard,
But where are ye?

## A train of dark Forms and Shadows passes by confusedly, singing...

Here, oh! here: we bear the bier
Of the Father of many a cancelled year!
Spectres we of the dead Hours be,
We bear Time to his tomb in eternity.
Strew, oh! strew hair, not yew!
Wet the dusty pall with tears, not dew!
Be the faded flowers of Death's bare bowers
Spread on th corpse of the King of Hours!
Haste, oh, haste! as shades are chased,
Trembling, by day, from heaven's blue waste.
We melt away like dissolving spray,
From the children of a diviner day,
With the lullaby of the winds that die
On the bosom of their own harmony!

## VOICE OF UNSEEN SPIRITS

The pine boughs are singing
Old songs with new glaess,
The billows and fountains
Fresh music are flinging,
Like the notes of a spirit from land and from sea:
The storms mock the mountains
With thunder of gladness
Bet where are ye?

## SEMICHORUS OF HOURS

The voice of the spirits of Air and of Earth
Have drawn back the figured curtain of sleep,
Which covered our being and darkened our birth
In the deep. Oh, below the deep.
We have heard the lute of Hope in slepp,
We have known the voice of love in dreams,
We have felt the wand of Power, and leap -
As the billows leap in the morning beams!

## CHORUS OF SPIRITS

Weave the dance on the floor of the breeze,
Pierce with song heaven's silent light,
Encant the day that too swiftly flees,
To check its flight ere the cave of night. Once the hungry Hours were hounds Which chased the day like a bleeding deer, And it limped and stumbled with many wounds
Through the nightly dells of the desert year.
But now, oh! weave the mystic measure Of music, and dance, and shapes of light, Let the clouds and sunbeams, unite.

## CHORUS OF HOURS

Whence come ye, so wild and so fleet, For sandals of lightning are on your feet, And your wings are soft and swift as thought, And your eyes are as love that is veiled not?

## SPIRITS

We come from the mind of human kind Which was late so dusk, and obscene, and blind; Now 'tis an ocean of cear emotion, A heaven of serene and mighty motion. Years after years, through blood and tears, And a thick hell of hatreds, and hopes, and fears; We waded and flew, and the islets were few Where the bud-blighted flowers of happiness grew. Our feet now, every palm, are sandalled with calm, And the dew of our wings is a rain of balm; And, beyond our eyes, the human love lies Which makes all it gazes on, Paradise.

## CHORUS OF SPIRITS AND HOURS

Then weave the web of mystic measure;
From the depths of the sky and the ends of the earth, Come, swift Spirits of might and of pleasure, Fill the dance and the music of mirth, As the waves of a thousand streams rush by
To an ocean of splendour and harmony!

## PROMETHEUS UNBOUND.

## INTRODUCTION.

Scene. A Ravine of icy rocks in the Indian Caucasus. Prometheus is discovered bound to the precipice.





87





Adagio.


Voice from the mountains.





MII $\ln$ now but this, that it must come.



Molto sostenuto.





ye who shake hills with the scream of your mirth, When ci-ties sink howling in ru-in; and ye Who with











Ped.









## $\mathbf{P}$ Andante con moto moderato.











End of Part 1.

## PART II.

Scene I. Heaven. Jupiter on his Throne. Thetis and the other Deities assembled.
№ 3.


631


635


639


643


647




687










Andante.






Scene. A part of the forest near the Cave of Prometheus.


1 A train of dark forms and shadows passes by confusedly, singing: CHORUS BASSI.






SEMICHORUS OF HOURS.










CHORUS OF HOURS.
$\mathbf{P}$
Allegro moderato. $\quad d=d$






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mu - sic of mirth,









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Catalog Number
1．1／02


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    Vocal Score:
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    Manuscript Transcription \& Score Preparation

