

# THE SONG OF FIONNUALA

FOUR PART SONG (Unaccompanied)

Poem by Thomas Moore

SET TO MUSIC BY

Granville Bantock

(1909)

VOCAL SCORE

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#### COVER IMAGE

"The Swan Maidens" by Walter Crane, 1894



The "renaissance" in English music is generally agreed to have started in the late Victorian period, beginning roughly in 1880. 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 were engraved, printed and are regularly performed today, performance scores for a considerable number of compositions, both large-scale and more intimate works, are not available. These works were either never engraved or were engraved and printed 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, coupled with changing musical tastes, played a pivotal role in creating this void. As a result, music publishers lost the ability to generate revenue from the sale/rental of such music. In 1964, holograph and copyist scores from both Novello and from publishers it represented were offered to the British Library and the Royal College of Music Library (see The RCM Novello Library – The Musical Times, Feb. 1983 by Jeremy Dibble ).

These autograph full score manuscripts along with copies of engraved vocal scores, widely available through various online library sources, 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 non-engraved/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.

Matthew W. Mehaffey Editor Professor of Music

University of Minnesota - School of Music Minneapolis, Minnesota USA

#### Source Information

Full Score Manuscript Vocal Score Manuscript Transcription & Score Preparation n.a. The Musical Times, Vol. 51, no. 803, Jan. 1910 David Fielding - dhcfielding@charter.net

#### **Reference Material and Software**

Notation Software: Dorico Pro 4.3.30.1132 Audio Software: NotePerformer 3 Graphic Software: Adobe Photoshop CS5 Document Software: Affinity Serif Publisher Music Notation Reference: Behind Bars by Elaine Gould, Faber Music © 2011

### THE SONG OF FIONNUALA

by Thomas Moore

Silent, oh Moyle, be the roar of thy water, Break not, ye breezes, your chain of repose, While, murmuring mournfully, Lir's lonely daughter Tell's to the night-star her tale of woes. When shall the swan, her death-note singing, Sleep, with wings in darkness furl'd? When will heaven, its sweet bell ringing, Call my spirit from this stormy world?

Sadly, oh Moyle, to thy winter-wave weeping, Fate bids me languish long ages away; Yet still in her darkness doth Erin lie sleeping, Still doth the pure light its dawning delay. When will that day-star, mildly springing, Warm our isle with peace and love? When will heaven, its sweet bell ringing, Call my spirit to the fields above?

## The Song of Fionnuala

Thomas Moore





N.B. - Fionnuala, the daughter of Lir, was transformed by enchantment into a swan and condemned to wander over the lakes and rivers of Ireland till the advent of Christianity. The signal of her release was to be the first sound of the Mass-bell.











#### The Song of Fionnuala





Unearthing from the Past - Preserving for the Future st



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