

R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

TEN BLAKE SONGS



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Dedicated to Wilfred Brown and Janet Craxton

TEN BLAKE SONGS

FOR VOICE AND OBOE

WILLIAM BLAKE (1757-1827)

R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

1 INFANT JOY

(Tenor or Soprano)

Andante con moto

VOICE

OBOE

p

"I have no name:— I am but two days

old." What shall I call thee? "I happy am, Joy— is my name." Sweet joy be-

- fall thee! Pret-ty Joy! Sweet Joy, but two days

old. Sweet Joy— I call thee. Thou dost smile, I sing the while,

Sweet joy be - fall thee!

Note: The oboe parts of these songs may, in case of necessity, be played on a violin or (by transposing the songs down a tone) on a B flat clarinet—but neither of these expedients is advisable. R.V.W.

2 A POISON TREE

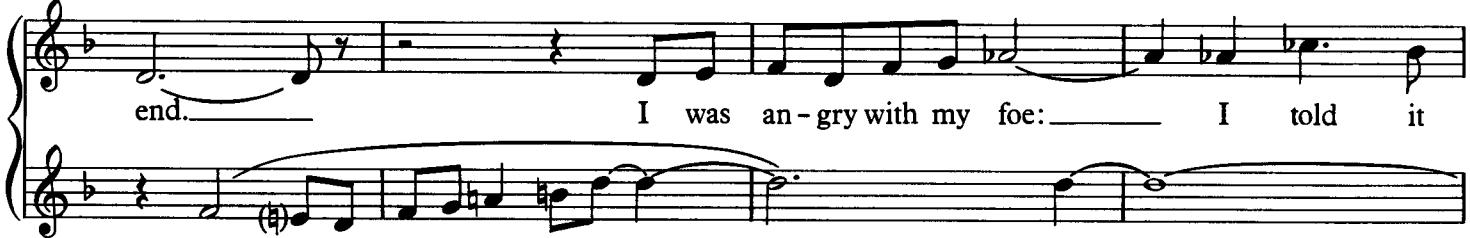
(Tenor)

Lento ma moderato

VOICE  

OBOE   *p* 


 I was an-gry with my friend: _____ I told my wrath, my wrath did
 end. _____ I was an-gry with my foe: _____ I told it


 not, my wrath did grow. _____ And I wa-ter'd it in


 fears, Night and morn-ing with my tears; _____ and I sun-nèd it with

smiles, _____ And with soft de-ceit-ful wiles.
 And it grew both day and night, Till it bore an ap - ple bright;—
 — And my foe be-held it shine, And he knew that it was mine,
 — And in - to my gar-den stole When the night had veil'd the pole: In the
 morn - ing glad I see My foe out - stretch'd be-neath the tree.

rit.

3 THE PIPER

(Tenor or Soprano)

Allegro moderato (♩ = 63)

VOICE { ♮ 8
OBOE { ♮ 8

Pip - ing down the
val - leys wild, Pip - ing songs of plea - sant glee, On a

cloud I saw a child, And he laugh - ing said to me: "Pipe a
song a - bout a Lamb." So I piped with mer - ry

cheer. "Pi - per, pipe that song a - gain;" So I

piped: he wept to hear.

This musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in common time (indicated by a 'C') and has a key signature of one flat. It features a melody line with various note values and dynamics like 'f' (fortissimo) and 'p' (pianissimo). The lyrics 'piped:' and 'he wept to hear.' are written below the notes. The bottom staff continues the melody in common time with a key signature of one flat.

"Drop thy pipe, thy hap - py pipe;

This musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in common time with a key signature of one sharp. It features a melody line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics '"Drop thy pipe, thy hap - py pipe;' are written below the notes. The bottom staff continues the melody in common time with a key signature of one sharp.

Sing thy songs of hap - py cheer:" So I sang the same a -

This musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in common time with a key signature of one sharp. It features a melody line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics "Sing thy songs of hap - py cheer:" and "So I sang the same a -" are written below the notes. The bottom staff continues the melody in common time with a key signature of one sharp.

- gain, While he wept with joy to hear.

This musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in common time with a key signature of one sharp. It features a melody line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics "- gain, While he wept with joy to hear." are written below the notes. The bottom staff continues the melody in common time with a key signature of one sharp.

"Pi - per, sit thee down and write— In a book, that

This musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in common time with a key signature of two sharps. It features a melody line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics "'Pi - per, sit thee down and write— In a book, that" are written below the notes. The bottom staff continues the melody in common time with a key signature of two sharps.

Largamente

all may read." So he van - ish'd from my

a tempo

sight, And I pluck'd a hol - low reed, And I

made a ru - ral pen, And I stain'd the wa - ter clear,

— And I wrote my hap - py songs Ev - e-ry child may

> p

joy to hear.

f p

4 LONDON

OBOE TACET

(Tenor)

In free time

VOICE

I wan - der thro' each chart - er'd street Near where the chart - er'd -

Thames does flow, _____ And mark in ev - e - ry face I meet

Marks of weak - ness, marks of woe. _____ In ev - e - ry cry of ev - e - ry

Man, In ev - e - ry In - fant's cry of fear, In ev - e - ry

voice, in ev - e - ry ban, _____ The mind-forg'd ma - na - cles I hear,

How the chim - ney sweep - er's cry Ev - e - ry black - 'ning church ap -

- pals; _____ And the hap - less sol - dier's sigh Runs in blood down pa - lace

walls. But most thro' mid - night streets I hear How the youth - ful

har - - lot's curse Blasts the new - born In - fant's tear, And

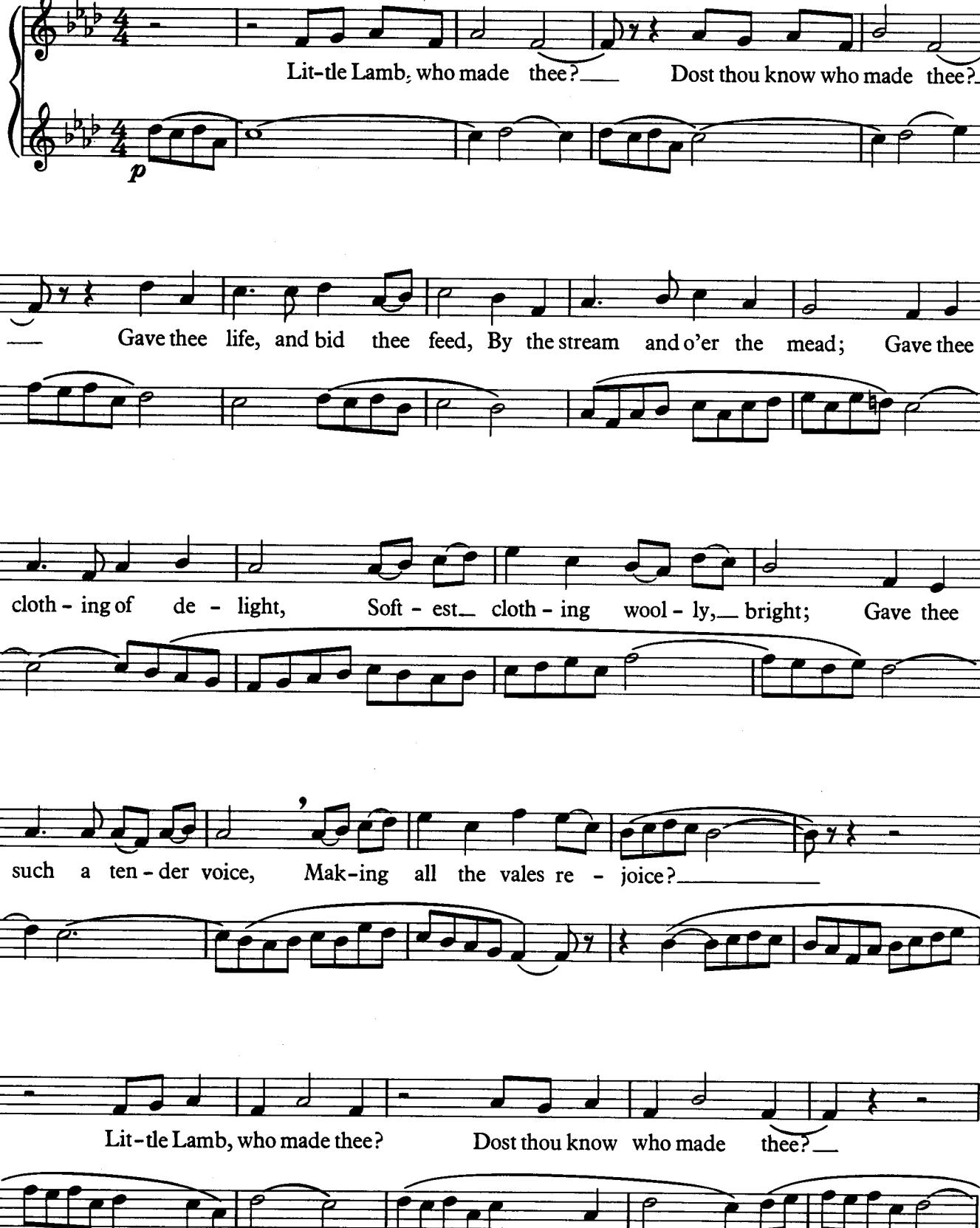
brights with plagues the mar - riage hearse.

Note: This song may be transposed down a semitone or a tone.

5 THE LAMB

(Tenor)

Andante con moto

VOICE 

Lit-tle Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?

Gave thee life, and bid thee feed, By the stream and o'er the mead; Gave thee

cloth-ing of de-light, Soft-est cloth-ing wool-ly, bright; Gave thee

such a ten-der voice, Mak-ing all the vales re-joice?

Lit-tle Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?

Lit-tle Lamb, I'll tell thee, _____ Lit-tle Lamb I'll

tell thee: _____ He is call - èd by_ thy_ name, For He

calls Him - self_ a_ Lamb. He is meek, and He is mild:— He be -

- came a lit - tle_ child. I a child, and thou a_ lamb, We_ are_

call - èd by His name.

Lit-tle Lamb, God bless thee!

Lit-tle Lamb, God bless thee!

pp

6 THE SHEPHERD

OBOE TACET

(Tenor or Soprano)

Allegretto ($\text{d} = 132$)

VOICE

The musical score consists of six staves of music for voice and piano. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature (indicated by '3'). The lyrics begin with 'How sweet is the Shep-herd's sweet lot! From the morn to the'. Subsequent staves continue the lyrics: 'eve - ning he strays; He shall fol - low his sheep all the day, And his tongue shall be fill - - - - - ed with praise.' For he hears the lamb's in - no - cent call, And he hears the ewe's ten - der re - ply; He is watch - ful while they are in peace, For they know when their Shep - - - - - herd is nigh.'

Note: This song may be transposed down a semitone, a tone, or a minor third.

7 AH! SUN-FLOWER

(Tenor)

Moderato

VOICE

senza misura

OBOE

Ah, Sun-flower! wea-ry of time,—

— Who coun-test the steps of the sun; Seek-ing af-ter that
 3

sweet gol-den clime, Where the trav-el-ler's jour - ney is
 3

done; Where the Youth pined a-way with de-
senza misura 3 3

- sire, And the pale Vir-gin shroud-ed in snow,
 3

— A-rise from their graves, and as-pire Where my Sun-flower
 3 3 | 24

wish - es to go.
senza misura 3

8 CRUELTY HAS A HUMAN HEART

(Tenor or Soprano)

Moderato

VOICE { *Cru - - el - ty has a*

OBOE { *f* *hu - man heart,* *And Jeal - - lou-sy a hu - man face;*

{ *f* *Ter - - ror the hu - man form di - vine,* *And*

{ *p* *f* *3* *Se - cre - cy the hu - man dress.* *The hu - man dress is forg - èd iron, The*

{ *f* *hu - man form a fie - ry forge, The hu - man face a fur - nace seal'd,*

{ *f* *3* *The hu - man heart its hun - gry gorge.*

{ *p*

9 THE DIVINE IMAGE

(Tenor or Soprano)

Semplice

The musical score consists of ten staves of music for Tenor or Soprano voice. The key signature is mostly B-flat major (two flats), indicated by a treble clef and two flats in the key signature. The time signature varies throughout the piece, including measures in 4/4, 2/4, and 3/4. The lyrics are as follows:

To Mer - cy, Pi - ty, — Peace, and Love All pray in their dis - tress;

And to these vir - tues of de - light Re - turn. their thank - ful - ness.

For Mer - cy, Pi - ty, Peace, and Love Is God, our Fa - ther dear,

And Mer - cy, Pi - ty, — Peace, and Love Is man, His child and care.

For Mer - cy has a hu - man heart, Pi - ty a hu - man face,

And Love, the hu - man form di - vine, And Peace, the hu - man dress.

Then e - ve - ry man, of e - ve - ry clime, That prays in his dis - tress,

Prays to the hu - man form di - vine, — Love, Mer - cy, — Pi - ty, Peace. And

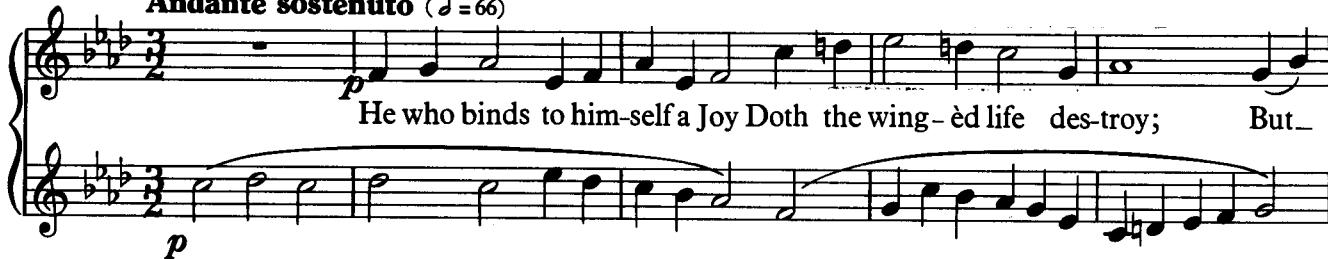
all must love the hu - man form, In hea - then, Turk, — or Jew; —

Where Mer - cy, Love, and Pi - ty dwell There God is dwel - ling too.

10 ETERNITY

(Tenor or Soprano)

Andante sostenuto ($\text{d} = 66$)

VOICE 

OBOE 