

Ozymandias

For SSAAATBB Choir
5m10s

Music by
DYLAN NEEDLEMAN

Text by
PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY

December 2022

Instrumentation

For unaccompanied SSAATBB Choir



Program Notes

Within the sonnet “Ozymandias,” there are three distinct times: that of the narrator, the traveler, and Ozymandias, as written on the pedestal. To differentiate between them, each time is placed within its own tempo. To finish the framing device, though the poem never circles back to the original narrative, the piece returns to its original motif to imply a shift back to the narrator’s perspective for the end of the piece.

Ozymandias (1818)

by Percy Bysshe Shelley

I met a traveller from an antique land,
Who said—“Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert.... Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;
And on the pedestal, these words appear:
My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings;
Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.”

Ozymandias

Text by Percy Shelley

Dylan Needleman

Dramatic, Mysterious (♩ = 58)

pp *pp* *pp* *mp*

Soprano
Oooh Ah Oooh Ah Oooh Ah Oh

Alto
Oooh Ah Oooh Ah Oooh Ah Oh

Tenor
Ah Ah Ah Oh

Bass
Ah Ah Ah Oh

6

mp *mf* *p*

S. I met a trav'-ler from an an - tique land who said

mp *mf* *p*

A. I met a trav'-ler from an an - tique land who said

p *mf* *p*

T. I met a trav'-ler from an an - tique land who said

p *mf* *p*

B. I met a trav'-ler from an an - tique land

2

With More Motion (♩ = 108)

12

S. *mp* Two vast_____ Near on them

A. *mp* Two vast_____ legs of stone *mp* on the

T. *mp* Two vast and trunk-less

B. *mf* Two vast_____ *mp* Stand in the de - sert near on the

21

S. *f* sand *mf* Half *f* shat - tered vis - age

A. *f* sand *mp* Half *f* shat - tered vis - age

T. *f* sand Half shrunk a shat - tered vis - age

B. *f* sand *mp* Half *f* shat - tered vis - age

29

S. *p* lies *mf* and sneer of cold_____ com -

A. *p* lies *mf* and_____ sneer of cold_____ com -

T. *mf* lies, Whose frown and wrin - kled lip_____ and_____ sneer of cold_____ com -

B. *p* lies *mf* and_____ sneer of cold_____ com -

36

pp *mf* *mp*

S. mand Tell those pas - sions read Which yet sur-vive stamped on these life - less

A. mand Tell those pas - sions read Sur - vive on these

T. mand Tell those pas - sions read Sur - vive on these

B. *mp* *mf* *mp*
mand Tell that its scul - ptor well those pas-sions read Sur - vive on these

44

mp *mf*

S. things Hand Heart

A. things The hand that mocked them and the heart that fed

T. things Hand Heart

B. things Hand Heart

49

mf *mf* *mf* *mf*

S. And on the ped - e - stal these words ap - pear

A. And on the ped - e - stal these words ap - pear

T. And on the ped - e - stal these words ap - pear

B. And on the ped - e - stal these words ap - pear

Small notes optional

Regal, Driving (♩ = 126)

53 *mp*

S. My name is Oz - Oz - y - y -

A. *mp* My name is Oz - y - man - man -

T. *mp* My name is Oz - y -

B. *mp* My name is Oz - Oz - y - y - man - man -

59 *f*

S. man - man - di - di - a - a - s

A. *f* di - di - a - a - s

T. *f* man - di - a - s

B. *f* di - di - a - s

66 *ff* Small notes optional

S. King of kings

A. *ff* King of kings

T. *ff* King of kings

B. *ff* King of kings

70

S.

A. *pp* Look on my works

T.

B. *pp* ye might - y and des - pair

77 **Previous tempo (♩ = 108)**

S. *mp* No - thing be - side re - mains Round the de - cay of _____

A. *mp* No - thing be - side re - mains Round the de - cay of _____

T. *mp* No - thing be - side re - mains Round the de - cay of

B. *mp* No - thing be - side re - mains Round the de - cay of

82

S. that co - los - sal wreck bound - less and bare

A. that co - los - sal wreck bound - less and bare

T. that col - los - sul wreck bound - less and bare

B. that col - los - sul wreck bound - less and bare the

a tempo (♩ = 58)

S. *a tempo* (♩ = 58) *pp* *repeat until you run out of air*
 Ooh Ah Ooh Ah Oh - Ah

A. *pp* *repeat until you run out of air*
 Ooh Ah Ooh Ah Oh - Ah

T. *pp* *repeat until you run out of air*
 Ah Ah Oh - Ah

B. *pp* *repeat until you run out of air*
 lone and le - vel sands stretch far a - way Oh - Ah