

GREG BARTHOLOMEW

To a Locomotive in Winter

A setting of the poem by
Walt Whitman

for unaccompanied mixed choir
with piano reduction for rehearsal only

BURKE & BAGLEY

To a Locomotive in Winter

Walt Whitman (1819–1892)

THEE for my recitative!

Thee in the driving storm, even as now—the snow—the winter-day declining;
Thee in thy panoply, thy measured dual throbbing, and thy beat convulsive;
Thy black cylindrical body, golden brass, and silvery steel;
Thy ponderous side-bars, parallel and connecting rods, gyrating, shuttling at thy sides;
Thy metrical, now swelling pant and roar—now tapering in the distance;
Thy great protruding head-light, fix'd in front;
Thy long, pale, floating vapor-pennants, tinged with delicate purple;
The dense and murky clouds out-belching from thy smoke-stack;
Thy knitted frame—thy springs and valves—the tremulous twinkle of thy wheels;
Thy train of cars behind, obedient, merrily-following,
Through gale or calm, now swift, now slack, yet steadily careering:
Type of the modern! emblem of motion and power! pulse of the continent!
For once, come serve the Muse, and merge in verse, even as here I see thee,
With storm, and buffeting gusts of wind, and falling snow;
By day, thy warning, ringing bell to sound its notes,
By night, thy silent signal lamps to swing.

Fierce-throated beauty!

Roll through my chant, with all thy lawless music! thy swinging lamps at night;
Thy piercing, madly-whistled laughter! thy echoes, rumbling like an earthquake, rousing all!
Law of thyself complete, thine own track firmly holding;
(No sweetness debonair of tearful harp or glib piano thine,)
Thy trills of shrieks by rocks and hills return'd,
Launch'd o'er the prairies wide—across the lakes,
To the free skies, unpent, and glad, and strong.

"To a Locomotive in Winter" was published in "Two Rivulets," 1876, and in "Leaves of Grass," 1900.

For unaccompanied mixed choir
with piano reduction for rehearsal only

Duration: 6 minutes

Premiere performance July 6, 2002, by the Oregon Repertory Singers at the Oregon Bach Festival.
For information about composer Greg Bartholomew, visit www.gregbartholomew.com.

BURKE & BAGLEY

1824 North 53rd Street
Seattle, WA 98103-6116
Tel: 206.632.4487

Email: BurkeAndBagley@comcast.net

A ♩ = 84

10

S. win ter day de clin - ing;

A. win ter day de clin - ing; *mp* Thee!

T. *mp* the win terday de - clin-ing; Thee in thypan-o ply, *cresc.* thy mea sureddu-al thro-bing,

B. *mp cresc.* the win terday de - clin-ing; thy mea sureddu-al thro-bing,

Pno

* Men close the word "and" immediately hold the "N" sound until the last "and," which is sung normally; women hold the vowel open to the end of the note normally.

B

15

S. *mf* and* thy beat con-vul-sive; Thy black cyl - in - dric bo - dy,

A. *mf* and* thy beat con-vul sive; Thy black cyl - in - dric bo - dy,

T. *mf mp mp* and* and and and and and and and and and and gold-en brass, and

B. *mf mp mp* and* and and and and and and and and and and gold-en brass, and

Pno

19

S. *mp* Thy pond 'rous side- bars, par- al- lel and con- nect- ing rods,

A. *mp* Thy pond 'rous side- bars, par- al- lel and con- nect- ing rods,

T. silv - 'ry steel;

B. silv - 'ry steel; *mp* Thy pond 'rous

Pno

22

C ♩ = 78

S. *f* gy rat ing, shutt ling at thysides; now_

A. *mp* gy rat ing, shutt ling at thysides; Thy met-ri- cal_ nowswell-ing pantand roar, *f*

T. *mp* pa ral lel and con nect-ing rods, nowswell-ing pantand roar, *f*

B. side - bars, pa-ra lel and con nect-ing, Thy met-ri- cal_ nowswell-ing pantand roar, *f*

C ♩ = 78

Pno

26

S. *p* ta-per-ing in the dis-tance; *mf* fix'd in front;

A. *p* in the dis-tance; *mf* Thy great pro-tru-ding head light, *mf* fix'd in front;

T. *p* in the dis-tance; *mp* Thy great pro-trud-ing head light, *mp*

B. *p* ta-per-ing in the dis-tance; *mp* Thy great pro-trud-ing head light, *mp*

Pno

31 **D** $\text{♩} = 72$ *mp* Thy long, pale, float - ing va - por - pen - nants, $\text{♩} = 60$ *delicately* tinged with de - li - cate pur - ple;

A. *mp* Thy long, pale, float - ing va - por - pen - nants, tinged with de - li - cate pur - ple;

T. *mp* Thy long, pale, float - ing va - por - pen - nants, tinged with de - li - cate pur - ple; The

B. *mp* Thy long, pale, float - ing va - por - pen - nants, tinged with de - li - cate pur - ple;

Pno