

# FIVE AUDEN SONGS

## 1. The Willow-Wren and the Stare

(stare is an old word for a starling)

Words by W. H. Auden

Music by Tom Cunningham

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Very flexible tempo ♩ = 120

rit. . . . . a tempo

rit. . . . .

3 *più mosso*

a tempo

rit. . . . .

♩ = 92

*mf*

6

star - ling and a wil - low - wren

On a may - tree by a weir

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6

10 *più mosso* *a tempo* *rit.*

Saw them meet and

*f* *mf*

*8va*

13 *♩ = 120*  
*romantic and very expressive*  
*mp*

heard him say: "Dear - est of my dear, More live - ly than these

*mp* *sim.*

17

wa - ters born As they leap the can, My sweet - est duck, my

21 *♩ = 80 con rubato*  
*mf*

pre - cious goose, My white las - ci - vious lamb." With a smile she

*mf*

26  $\text{♩} = 120$  rit.

lis-tened to him, Talk-ing to her there:

*mp*

30  $\text{♩} = 92$  *innocent mp* *più mosso* *weely cynical mf*

What does he want? said the wil-low-wren; Much too much, said the

*mf*

33  $\text{♩} = 120$  *mp*

stare. ... ve these loves who dwell in me, These brats of greed and

*mp*

Ped  $\wedge$  *sim.*

37 *mf*

fear, The nonk-ing bot-tom - pinch-ing clown, The sni-velling son - net -

*mf*

41 *mp*

- eer, That so, bet-ween us, e - ven these, Who till the grave are

45

mine, For all they fall so short of may, Dear heart, be still a

49 *con rubato*  
*mf*

sign." With a smile she closed her eyes, Si-lent she lay

54  $\text{♩} = 120$   $\text{♩} = 92$   
*innocent*  
*mp*

there: *rit.* Does he mean what he says? said the wil-low-wren;

più mosso

freely  
cynical  
mf

♩ = 132  
passionate  
mf

9

57

Some of it, said the stare. "Hark! Wild Ro - bin

*mf* *mf*

Ped.

61

the "i" in winds as in pin, not as in pine.

winds his horn And, as his notes re - quire Now our laugh - ter -

*sim.*

65

-lov-ing spirits Must in awe re - tire And let their kind - er

69

part - ners, Speech-less with de - sire, Go in their ho - ly

♩ = 92

*ecstatic*  
*mf*

73 *f*

self - ish - ness, Un - fun - ny to the fire.” Smi - ling,

♩ = 100

*rit.* . . . *innocent*  
*mp*

78 *mp*

si - lent - ly she threw Her arms a - bout him the re: Is it

*più mosso*

*freely*  
*lyrical*  
*mf*

82 *mf*

on - ly that, said the wil - low - wren; It's that as well, said the stare.

86 ♩ = 120

*rit.* . . . *a tempo* . . . *rit.* . . .

*8<sup>va</sup>*

*mp*

più mosso

a tempo rit. . . .

$\text{♩} = 92$

11

88

*mf*

Wa - king in her

92

*mf*

arms he cried, Ut-ter-ly "I have heard the high good

*mf*

Ped

96

noi - ses, Pro - mo - ted for an in - stant, Stood up -

$\wedge$  *sim.*

100

-on the shin - ing out - skirts Of that Joy I thank For you, my dog and

$\text{♩} = 120$   
*joyful*  
**f**

104

eve - ry goo- dy." There on the grass bank She laughed, he laughed, they

$\text{♩} = 120$  rit.  $\text{♩} = 92$   
*innocent*  
**mp**

109 **mf** laughed to-ge- ther, Then they ate and drank: *mp* Did he

**più mosso** *lunga* **freely**  
*cynical*  
**mf**

113 *lunga* know what he nec ... said the wil-low-wren; *lunga* God on-ly knows,  
*lunga*

**presto**

116 said the stare.

*8va*

**f**

## 2. Make this night loveable (Nocturne II)

Words by W. H. Auden

Music by Tom Cunningham

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Very expressive and flexible

$\text{♩} = 60$

Make this night love-a-ble,

6 Moon, and with the single Look-ing down from up there, Bless me, One es-pe-cial

10 And friends eve-ry-where. With a cloud-less bright-ness Sur-round our

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15

*p* 3 *mp*

ab-sen-ces; In-no-cent be our sleeps, Watched by great still spa-ces, White hills, glit-tering

*mp* *p* *mp*

19

*mp*

deeps. Par-ter, by, cir-cu-stance, Grant each

*mf* *mf*

25

*p* 3 *mp*

your in-dul-gence That we may meet in dreams For talk, for dal-liance, By warm hearths, by cool

*p* *mp*

29 *mf*

streams. Shine lest to - night a - ny, In the dark sud - den - ly,

34 *mp*

Wake a-lone in a bed To hear his c fu - ry Wish - ing his love were dead.

39 *rit.* . . . . .

### 3. Dear, though the night is gone

Words by W. H. Auden

Music by Tom Cunningham

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$\text{♩} = 120$

*mf* *mp*

5 *mf*

Dear, though the night is gone The dream still haunts to-day That brought us to a

9

room, Ca-vern-ous, lof-ty as A rail-way ter - mi-nus,

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14 *mp* *mf*

And crowd-ed in that gloom Were beds, and we in one In a far cor-ner

19 *p*

lay. Our whis-per woke no

24 *mp* *mf*

clocks, and I was glad. At eve-ry-thing you

27 *mp*

did, In-dif-fer-ent to those Who sat with hos-tile eyes In pairs on eve-ry bed,

31 *mf* Arms round each oth-er's necks, *p* In - ert and vague - ly

34 sad.

38 *mf* O be that worm of guilt — Or vna-ta-na-lient doubt — Am I the vic-tim

42 of; That you — then, — *f* un - a - bashed, *mf* Did what I ne - ver wished,

46

*f* *mf*

Con - fessed a - no - ther love; And

50

*mp* *mf* *p*

I, sub - mis-sive, felt Un - wan-ted and went out

55

*rit.* *mp* *pp*

## 4. If I Could Tell You (But I Can't)

Words by W. H. Auden

Music by Tom Cunningham

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$\text{♩} = 80$

*mp*

Time will say he but I told you so,

*mp*

5 Time on-ly knows the price we have to pay; If I could tell you I would let you

9 know. *mf* If we should weep when clowns put on their show,

*mf*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 80. The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 1-4) shows the vocal line starting with 'Time will say he but I told you so,' and the piano accompaniment. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the vocal line with 'Time on-ly knows the price we have to pay; If I could tell you I would let you' and the piano accompaniment. The third system (measures 9-12) continues with 'know. If we should weep when clowns put on their show,' and the piano accompaniment. Dynamics include mezzo-piano (mp) and mezzo-forte (mf). A large pink watermark 'SAMPLE COPY' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

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13

*mp*

If we should stum-ble when mu-si-cians play, Time will say noth-ing but I told you

16

*mf* *mp*

so. men-ces for-tunes to be told, al-though,

20

Be-cause I love you more than I can say, If I could tell you—

23

I would let you know.

*mf*

26 *mf*

The winds must come from some-where when they blow, There must be rea-sons

29 *mp*

why the leaves de-cay; Time will say nothing but I told you so.

32 *f*

Per-haps the ro-ses really want to grow, The vi-sion se-rious-

36

-ly in-tends to stay; If I could tell you I would let you

39 *mf*

know. Sup- pose the li - ons all get up and go,

43 *mp*

And all the brooks and soldiers run a- way; Will Time say noth - ing but I to'd you so?

47 *p* *rit.*

If I could tell you I would let you know.

# 5. The Love Feast

Words by W. H. Auden

Music by Tom Cunningham

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$\text{♩} = 100$

*mp*  
In up-per room at mid-night

*mp* *f* *mp*

4 *mf* *mp*  
See us ga-thered on be-half of love ac-cord-ing to the gos-pel Of the ra-dio-pho - no -

*mf* *mp*

7 *mp* *mf*  
-graph. Lou is tell-ing Anne what Mol-ly Said to Mark be-hind her back;

*mp* *mf*

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10 *f*

Jack likes Jill who wor - ships George Who has the hots for Jack.

12 *mp*

Ca - te - chu - mens make their en - trance; Steep en - thu - si - as - tic eyes

14 *mf* *f*

Flick - er af - ter tits and bas - kets; Some - one vo - mits; some - one cries.

17 *mp* Wil - ly can-not bear his fa-ther, Li-lian is a-fraid of kids; *mf* The Love that rules the sun and

20 stars Per-mits what He for - bids. A-drian's plea-sure-lov-ing dachs-hund

23 *mf* In a sin-ner's curl; Drun-ken ab-sen-ted-ed fin-gers Pat a sin-less world.

26 *mp* Who is Jen-ny ly-ing to In her call, Col-lect, to Rome? The Love that made her out of

29 *f* *mf*  
noth-ing Tells me to go home. But that Miss Num-ber in the cor-ner

32 *f*  
Play-ing hard to get. I am sor-ry I'm not sor-ry

35 *mf* *f*  
Make me chaste, Lord, but not yet.