

The North Ship

Philip Larkin (1922-85)

Philip Thicknes (b.1938)

Andante ♩ = 80 *mf*

I saw three ships come sail - ing by,

8

Ov - er the sea, the lif - ting sea, And the wind rose in the mor - ning

15

sky, and one was rigged for a long jour - ney.

A

A

mf

23

The first ship turned to-wards the west, Ov-er the sea, the

p

Detailed description: This system contains measures 23 through 28. The vocal line begins with a whole rest in measure 23, followed by a half note G4, quarter notes A4 and B4, a dotted quarter note C5, and a half note B4. The piano accompaniment starts with a half note G3, quarter notes A3 and B3, a dotted quarter note C4, and a half note B3. A piano (*p*) dynamic marking is placed above the piano staff in measure 24.

29

run - ning_ sea, And by the wind was all pos-sessed_ And car-ried

Detailed description: This system contains measures 29 through 36. The vocal line starts with a half note G4, quarter notes A4 and B4, a dotted quarter note C5, and a half note B4. The piano accompaniment consists of chords: G3-B3-D4, A3-C4-E4, B3-D4-F4, G3-B3-D4, A3-C4-E4, B3-D4-F4, G3-B3-D4, and A3-C4-E4.

37

to_ a rich coun - try. The

B

mf

p

Detailed description: This system contains measures 37 through 42. The vocal line begins with a half note G4, quarter notes A4 and B4, a dotted quarter note C5, and a half note B4. The piano accompaniment starts with a half note G3, quarter notes A3 and B3, a dotted quarter note C4, and a half note B3. A piano (*p*) dynamic marking is placed above the piano staff in measure 37. A box containing the letter 'B' is positioned above the vocal staff in measure 37. A mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking is placed above the piano staff in measure 40. A piano (*p*) dynamic marking is placed above the piano staff in measure 42.

45

sec-ond turned to - wards the east, ov-er the sea, the qua - king sea,

51

And the wind hun-ted it like a beast To an - chor in cap - ti -

59

- vi - ty. The third ship drove to-wards the

mf *p*

66

mp

8 north, Ov-er the sea, the dark' ning sea, But no breath_ of wind came

pp

74

D

8 forth, And the decks shone fros - ti - ly.

D

mf

82

mf

8 The north-ern sky rose high and black Ov-er the proud un-fruit-ful sea,

p

89

East and west the ships came back Hap-pi-ly or un-hap-pi-

98

E Poco meno mosso ♩. = 72

ly: But the third went wide and far

E Poco meno mosso ♩. = 72

mf *p*

105

In-to an un-for-giv-ing sea Un-der a fire-spil-ling star,

112

And it was rigged for a long jour - ney.

rall.

The poem recalls the legend of the Flying Dutchman, a phantom ship that can never go home, but is doomed to sail the oceans for ever. When seen from afar it glows with a ghostly light: the sight of it is a portent of doom.

approx. 3 mins 15 secs
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