

DT0103.5 | TRUMBORE  
THE SALLOW HARP | SA CHORUS & PIANO

# THE SALLOW HARP

SA Chorus & Piano  
Text by Julie Kane

The logo for Dale Trumbore, featuring a stylized musical note above the word "daletrumbore" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. Below the name, the word "composer" is written in a smaller, lowercase, sans-serif font, with each letter separated by a space.

daletrumbore  
c o m p o s e r

## THE OLD IRISH HARPERS

Those were not the instruments  
of angels up in clouds  
but of human beings  
blinded by smallpox  
Their hearing grown sharp as a fox's  
Their nails grown long as the talons of eagles  
to pluck strings of brass or silver  
that would cut modern fingertips like razors

The last of them  
Denis Hempson from Magilligan  
Taught by Bridget O'Cahan  
He lived to one hundred and eleven  
Now he's buried in St. Aidan's  
with the bones of my O'Cahans

And his songs are just symbols on a page  
Oh I could steal a sallow harp  
from a glass museum case  
I could sharpen my nails  
to quill-points

But who is left to teach me to play  
those strings that ring like bells  
but cut like knives,  
the music of the old Irish harpers?

Julie Kane

*Note: O'Cahan is pronounced "oh KAH hen."  
Sallow is another word for willow.*

## PROGRAM NOTE

*The Sallow Harp* was commissioned by the Macalester College Chorale, directed by Michael McGaghie.

## PERFORMANCE NOTE

Sopranos may omit the B below middle C if range is an issue.

The final measures of the piano part involve plucking the strings inside the instrument while the pedal is held. Small post-it flags may be placed in advance to identify the strings/pitches without damaging the strings. If the pianist plucks the wrong note by mistake, they should simply let the wrong note(s) be a half note, then continue on with the other note(s).

Commissioned by the Macalester College Chorale  
Michael McGaghie, Conductor

# The Sallow Harp

for SA chorus & piano

Text by Julie Kane

Music by Dale Trumbore

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 100 \text{ or slower}$

SOPRANO

ALTO

Piano

*mf*

Pno.

*mp*

*f*

*mf*

11

S. *mp*

A. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

*mf*

Those were not the in - stru - ments of an - gels up in clouds

Those were not the in - stru - ments of an - gels up in clouds

The Sallow Harp

15

S. *p* not the in - stru - ments of an - gels *mf* but of hu - man

A. *p* not the in - stru - ments of an - gels *mf* but of hu - man

Pno. *mf*

20

S. be - ings blind - ed by small - pox Their hear - ing grown sharp as a fox - 's

A. be - ings blind - ed by small - pox Their hear - ing grown sharp as a fox - 's

Pno. *p* *mf* *mf* *mf*

26

S. Their nails grown long as the tal - ons of

A. Their nails grown long as the tal - ons of

Pno. 5 5

The Sallow Harp

30

S. ea - gles to pluck strings of brass or sil - ver that would

A. ea - gles to pluck strings of brass or sil - ver that would

Pno. *mp*

33

S. cut mod - ern fin - ger-tips like ra - zors.

A. cut mod - ern fin - ger-tips like ra - zors.

Pno. *mf*

38

S. The last of them De - nis Hemp-son from Ma-gil - li-gan

A. The last of them De - nis Hemp-son from Ma-gil - li-gan

Pno. *p* *mf* *p* *p*

## The Sallow Harp

43

S. Taught by Brid-get O - Ca - han He lived to one

A. Taught by Brid-get O - Ca - han He lived to one

Pno. *mf*

48

S. hun-dred and e - lev - en

A. hun-dred and e - lev - en

Pno. *mf* *mp*

52

S. *p* Now he's bur - ied in St. Ai-dan's with the

A. *p* Now he's bur - ied in St. Ai-dan's with the

Pno.

The Sallow Harp

57

S. *p*  
bones of my O' - Ca - hans And his songs are just sym-bols on a

A. *p*  
bones of my O' - Ca - hans And his songs are just sym-bols on a

Pno.

61

S. *f* *rit.*  
page Oh

A. *f* *p*  
page Oh

Pno.

$\text{♩} = \text{ca } 88 \text{ or slightly slower}$

65

S. *mp* *mf*  
I could steal a sal-low harp from a glass mu - se - um case

A. *mp* *mf*  
I could steal a sal-low harp from a glass mu - se - um I

Pno.

The Sallow Harp

69

S. I could shar-pen my nails to quill - points I

A. could shar-pen my nails to quill - points I

Pno. *f* *ped.*

73

S. could shar-pen my nails to quill - points But *p*

A. could shar-pen my nails to quill - points But *p*

Pno.

77

S. who is left who is left who is left to

A. who is left? who is left who is left to

Pno. *p* *mp*

*rit.*  $\text{♩} = \text{ca } 72$  *pp*

The Sallow Harp

82 *p* *mf*

S. teach me to play, to play those strings that ring like bells but

A. teach me to play, to play those strings that ring like bells but

Pno. *p* *mf*

87 *f* *mp*

S. cut like knives, the music of the old I - rish

A. cut like knives, the music of the old I - rish

Pno. *ff* *mf* *mp*

92 *mf* *pp* *rit.*  $\text{♩} = \text{ca } 66$

S. har - pers? But who is left?

A. har - pers? But who is left?

Pno. *mf* *pp*

The Sallow Harp

96 *mp*

S. who is left

A. who is left

Pno. *mf* *p* *f* *p*

102 **poco accel.** *mf* ♩ = ca. 72

S. the mu - sic of the old I - rish har - pers?

A. the mu - sic of the old I - rish har - pers?

Pno. *mf* *mf* *mf*

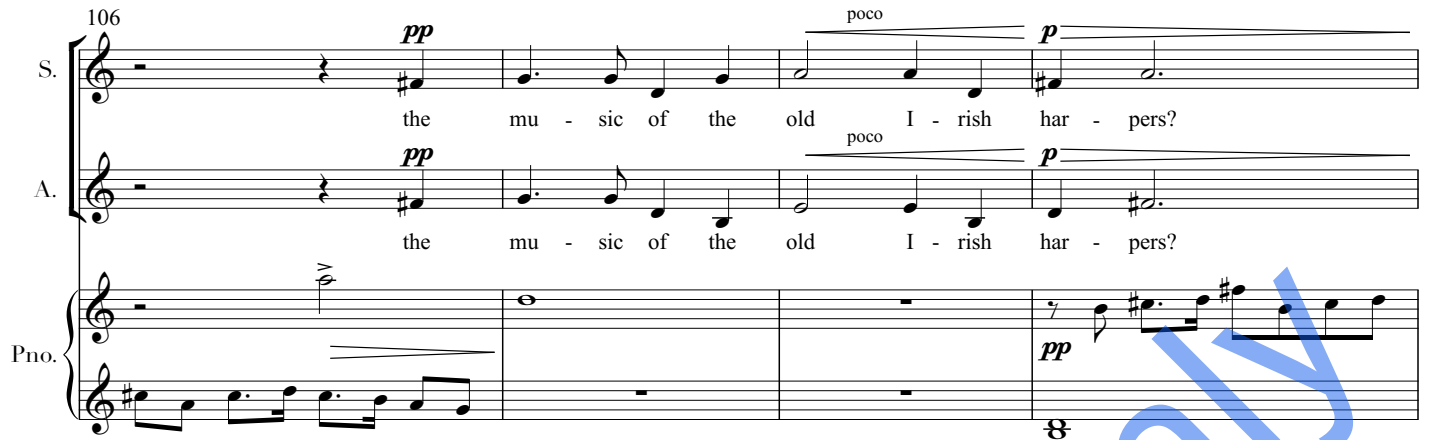
The Sallow Harp

106

S. *pp* *poco* *p*  
the mu - sic of the old I - rish har - pers?

A. *pp* *poco* *p*  
the mu - sic of the old I - rish har - pers?

Pno. *pp*



110

S. *ppp* *rit.* ♩ = ca. 60  
oo

A. *ppp* *rit.* ♩ = ca. 60  
oo

Pno. *mf* *f*  
pizzicato (with fingernail)  
bell-like  
Inside the piano

Ped.

