

DT0103.4 | TRUMBORE
THE SALLOW HARP | SATB CHORUS & PIANO

THE SALLOW HARP

SATB Chorus & Piano

Text by Julie Kane

The logo for Dale Trumbore, featuring a stylized musical note above the letter 'd' in the word 'daletrumbore'. Below the main name, the word 'composer' is written in a smaller, lowercase font, with each letter spaced out.
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 SATB chorus & piano

Text by Julie Kane

Music by Dale Trumbore

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. 100 or slower}$

Piano

mf

Pno.

mp

f

mf

11 *mp*

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

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

T.

B.

Pno.

mp

mf

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

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

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

Pno. *mf*

20

S. be - ings

A. be - ings

T. be - ings blind - ed by small - pox Their hear - ing grown sharp as a

B. be - ings blind - ed by small - pox Their hear - ing grown sharp as a

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

The Sallow Harp

25

S. Their nails grown long as the

A. Their nails grown long as the

T. fox - 's Their nails grown long as the

B. fox - 's Their nails grown long as the

Pno.

29

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

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

T. tal - ons of ea - gles

B. tal - ons of ea - gles

Pno.

The Sallow Harp

33

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

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

Pno. *f*

38

S. *pp*
mm

A. *pp*
mm

T. *p* *mf*
The last of them De - nis Hemp-son from Ma-gil - li-gan

B. *p* *mf*
The last of them De - nis Hemp-son from Ma-gil - li-gan

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

The Sallow Harp

43

S. *mm.* He lived to one

A. He lived to one

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

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

Pno. *mf*

48

S. *mf* hun-dred and e - lev - en

A. *mf* hun-dred and e - lev - en

T. *mf* hun-dred and e - lev - en

B. *mf* hun-dred and e - lev - en

Pno. *mp*

The Sallow Harp

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

T. *p* oh

B. *p* oh

Pno.

57

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

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

T. *p* And his songs are just sym-bols on a

B. *mp* his songs are just sym-bols on a

Pno.

The Sallow Harp

61 *f* *rit.* *p*

S. *f* *p*
page Oh

A. *f* *p*
page Oh

T. *f* *p*
page Oh

B. *f* *p*
page Oh

Pno. *f* *mp*

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

65 *mp* *mf*

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 case

T. *mp* *mf*
ah oo I

B. *mp* *mf*
ah oo

Pno. *p* *mf*

The Sallow Harp

69

S. ah

A. ah

T. could shar-pen my nails to quill - points

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

Pno. *f*

Red

73

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

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

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

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

Pno.

The Sallow Harp

77

rit. $\text{♩} = \text{ca } 72$
pp

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

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

T. who is left? who is left who is left to

B. who is left? who is left who is left to

Pno. *p* *mp*

82

p *mf*

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

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

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

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

Pno. *p*

The Sallow Harp

87

S. *f* cut like knives, *mp* the mu - sic of the old I - rish

A. *f* cut like knives, *mp* the mu - sic of the old I - rish

T. *f* cut like knives, *mp* the mu - sic of the old I - rish

B. *f* cut like knives, *mp* the mu - sic of the old I - rish

Pno. *ff* *mf* *mp*

92

S. *mf* har - pers? *rit.* *pp* But who is left? $\text{♩} = \text{ca } 66$

A. *mf* har - pers? *pp* But who is left?

T. *mf* har - pers? *pp* But who is left?

B. *mf* har - pers? *pp* But who is left?

Pno. *mf* *pp*

96 *mp*

S. who is left

A. who is left

T. who is left

B. 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?

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

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

Pno. *mf* *mf*

The Sallow Harp

106

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

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

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

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

Pno. *pp*

110

S. *ppp* *rit.* ♩ = ca. 60

A. *ppp*

T. *ppp*

B. *ppp*

Pno. *mf* *f*

Inside the piano

pizzicato (with fingernail)
bell-like

mf *f*

Leg.