

DT0082.2 | TRUMBORE
IN THE MIDDLE | TTBB CHORUS & PIANO

IN THE MIDDLE

TTBB Chorus & Piano
Text by Barbara Crooker

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

IN THE MIDDLE

of a life that's as complicated as everyone else's,
struggling for balance, juggling time.
The mantle clock that was my grandfather's
has stopped at 9:20; we haven't had time
to get it repaired. The brass pendulum is still,
the chimes don't ring. One day I look out the window,
green summer, the next, the leaves have already fallen,
and a grey sky lowers the horizon. Our children almost grown,
our parents gone, it happened so fast. Each day, we must learn
again how to love, between morning's quick coffee
and evening's slow return. Steam from a pot of soup rises,
mixing with the yeasty smell of baking bread. Our bodies
twine, and the big black dog pushes his great head between;
his tail, a metronome, $3/4$ time. We'll never get there,
Time is always ahead of us, running down the beach, urging
us on faster, faster, but sometimes we take off our watches,
sometimes we lie in the hammock, caught between the mesh
of rope and the net of stars, suspended, tangled up
in love, running out of time.

—Barbara Crooker, from *Radiance* (Word Press, 2005).

Barbara Crooker's poem “In the Middle” describes our need to connect in the rush of ordinary life. In this setting, the piano serves as an unreliable timekeeper, ebbing and flowing as our perception of time does. The word “time” itself occurs over and over within the piece, serving as a sort of refrain, a reminder to slow down.

It is so easy to forget, in the context of everyday life, that time will ultimately catch up with all of us. There's no antidote, but in the meantime, we should “take off our watches” more often, finding ourselves “tangled up in love” with one another or just with this life, and granting time permission, if not to stop, then to slow.

The TTBB arrangement of *In the Middle* was commissioned by Turtle Creek Chorale (Sean Baugh, Artistic Director). The original SATB voicing was commissioned by the Young New Yorkers' Chorus (Michael Kerschner, Artistic Director).

TTB voicing commissioned and premiered by Turtle Creek Chorale
Sean Baugh, Artistic Director

In the Middle

for TTBB Chorus & Piano

Text by Barbara Crooker

Music by Dale Trumbore

Quickly, almost frantic; ♩ = ca. 138

TENOR
mf
In the mid-dle of a life that's as com-pli-ca - ted_ as ev-'ry one else -'s, _____

BASS
mf
In the mid-dle of a life that's as com-pli-ca - ted_ as ev-'ry one else -'s, _____ strug-gling for

Piano
mf
ped.

T. 1
5 *p* *mf* *poco rit. . . mp*
jug-gl-ing time. time.

T. 2
p *mf* *mp*
jug-gl-ing time. time.

B.
mf *mp*
ba-lance, time. time.

Pno.
5 *mp* *mf* *mp* *poco rit. . .*
ped.

In the Middle

11 **A tempo** *mf*

T. 1 *poco* *p*
The man - tle clock. that was my grand - fa - ther's. has stopped at nine -

T. 2 *poco* *p*
The man - tle clock. that was my grand - fa - ther's. has stopped at nine -

B. *poco* *p*
The man - tle clock. that was my grand - fa - ther's. has stopped at nine -

Pno. *mf* *poco* *p*
Ped.

16 *p* *poco rit.* **Slower; ♩ = ca. 80**

T. 1 *p*
tween - ty; we have-n't had time to get it re - paired. The brass

T. 2 *p*
tween - ty; we have-n't had time to get it re - paired. The brass

B. *p*
tween - ty; we have-n't had time to get it re - paired. The brass

Pno. *p* *mf* *p* *poco rit.* **Slower; ♩ = ca. 80**

21 *mf* *poco* *p* *poco accel.* **Tempo I** *f*

T. 1 pen - du - lum is still, the chimes don't ring.

T. 2 pen - du - lum is still, the chimes don't ring.

B. pen - du - lum is still, the chimes don't ring.

Pno. *mf* *poco accel.* **Tempo I**

molto rit. **Freely, slowly** **Tenderly; freely**
♩ = ca. 60 or slower

Pno. *p* *mf* *p*

29 *mp* *mp* *mp*

T. 1 One day, I look out the win-dow, green sum - mer, the

T. 2 One day, I look out the win-dow, green sum - mer, the

B. One day, I look out the win-dow, green sum - mer, the

Pno. *p* *p*

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Here's the next page:

In the Middle

42 **Slow** *p* **accel.** **Tempo 1** (♩ = ca. 138 or faster)

T. 1
gone.

T. 2
gone, it hap - pened so fast.

B.
gone, it hap - pened so fast.

Pno.
mf

46 **molto rit.** **Freely; slowly** **Gently;** ♩ = ca. 80

Pno.
p

50 *mp* *f* *mp*

T. 1
Each day, we must learn a - gain how to love. be-tween

T. 2
Each day, we must learn a - gain how to love. be-tween

B.
Each day, we must learn a - gain how to love.

Pno.
mp *p* *mf*

In the Middle

54 *mf* *poco rit.* *mp* *Slower still*

T. 1
morn-ing's quick cof-fee Steam from a pot of soup ri - ses,

T. 2
morn-ing's quick cof-fee Steam from a pot of soup ri - ses,

B.
p and eve-ning's slow re - turn. *mp* Steam from a pot of soup ri - ses,

Pno.
mp *pp* *mf* *pp*

60 *p* *ca. 80*

T. 1
mix-ing with the yeast - y smell_ of ba-king bread. Our bo - dies twine.

T. 2
mix-ing with the yeast - y smell_ of ba-king bread. Our bo - dies twine.

B.
mix-ing with the yeast - y smell_ of ba-king bread. Our bo - dies twine,

Pno.
p *pp* *mp* *ca. 80*

64 *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp cresc.* *3*

accel. Slightly faster

T. 1 Ah,

T. 2 dog push-es his great head be - tween;

B. and the big black dog push-es his great head be - tween; his tail a met - ro - nome. three - four

Pno. *p* *mp* *pp cresc.* *3*

Ped.

70 *mf* *rit.* *p* *mp*

T. 1 time.. time..

T. 2 time.. time..

B. time.. time..

Pno. *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *rit.* *3* *5* *5*

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81 **Expansive and rich; ♩ = ca. 60 or slower**

f *mp* *3*

T. 1
some - times we take off our watch - es, some - times we lie in the

T. 2
some - times we take off our watch - es, some - times we lie in the

B.
some - times we take off our watch - es, some - times we lie in the

Pno.
f *mf* *mp* *3*

85 *mp* *rit.* *3*

T. 1
ham-mock, caught be - tween the mesh of rope and the net of

T. 2
ham-mock, caught be - tween the mesh of rope and the net of

B.
ham-mock, caught be - tween the mesh of rope and the net of

Pno.
p *3* *5* *rit.*

In the Middle

10

Freely, slowly

T. 1
88 *ff* stars, *mp* tan-gled up in

T. 2
88 *ff* stars, *mp* < sus - pen - ded, *mp* tan-gled up in

B.
88 *ff* stars, *mp* tan-gled up in

Pno.
88 *f* *p*

rit. *f* *ff* *p* *mf* *mf*

Tempo I (♩ = ca. 138)

T. 1
92 *f* *ff* love, run-ning out of time, run-ning out of

T. 2
92 *f* *ff* love, time,

B.
92 *f* *ff* love, rit. time,

Tempo I (♩ = ca. 138)

Pno.
92 *f* *mp*

97 *mf* **A little slower** *p* *mf* *mf*

T. 1 time. run-ning out of time, run-ning out of time, run-ning out of time, run-ning

T. 2 *p* *mf* *mf* time, run-ning out of

B. *p* *mf* *mf* time, run-ning out of time, run-ning out of time,

Pno. **A little slower** *mp* *ped.*

102 **poco a poco accel.**

T. 1 out of time, run-ning out of time, run-ning out of time, run-ning run-ning run-ning run-ning run-ning run-ning run-ning

T. 2 *mf* *mf* time, run-ning out of time, run-ning out of time, run-ning out of time, run-ning

B. run-ning out of time, run-ning out of time, run-ning out of time, run-ning out of time, run-ning out of time. *p*

Pno. **poco a poco accel.** *mf*

In the Middle

106 **Tempo I**

T. 1 *p*
run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning

T. 2 *mf* *p*
out of time, run - ning out of time, run - ning out of time, run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning

B. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*
run - ning out of time, run - ning, run - ning, run - ning, run - ning,

Pno. **Tempo I**

109 **accel.**

T. 1 *mf* *fff*
run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning

T. 2 *mf* *fff*
run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning run - ning

B. *mf* *fff*
run - ning, run - ning, run - ning, run - ning, run - ning, run - ning, run - ning, run - ning, run - ning, run - ning, run - ning, run - ning,

Pno. **accel.**