

sweet wandering soul

flute, horn, cello, mezzo soprano, piano

words by Nigel Phillips, based on the last words of the Emperor Hadrian

music by Sheena Phillips

The Roman Emperor Hadrian (76 – 138) was a great patron of the arts and wrote poetry himself, both in Greek and in Latin. This song is based on an English translation of the short Latin poem *Animula, vagula, blandula* that Hadrian is said to have composed shortly before his death. It's a beautiful and enigmatic poem, addressed affectionately to his soul. Many people have had a crack at translating it; the translation used here is by my elderly father, who studied Classics as a young man.

In this setting, four solo instruments wander sweetly yet poignantly, playfully yet nakedly, around a solo voice that sings the poet's words of parting from life.

duration c. 3:40

perusal score
not for rehearsal or performance

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sweet wandering soul

Sweet wandering soul,
My body's guest and friend,
Where will you wander now?
Pale, stiff and naked thing,
And will you joke no more?

Nigel Phillips

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The lyrics are a translation of the following Latin poem:

Animula, vagula, blandula
Hospes comesque corporis
Quae nunc abibis in loca
Pallidula, rigida, nudula,
Nec, ut soles, dabis iocos

P. Aelius Hadrianus, Emperor, 138 A.D.

sweet wandering soul

based on the words of the dying Emperor Hadrian

words: Nigel Phillips

music: Sheena Phillips

Larghetto grazioso c. ♩ = 54

The musical score is presented in two systems. The first system includes staves for Flute, Horn in F, Cello, Mezzo Soprano, and Piano. The second system includes staves for Flute (Fl.), Horn (Hn.), Cello (Vc.), Soprano (S), and Piano. The score is in 6/8 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo is marked 'Larghetto grazioso' with a tempo indicator of approximately 54 beats per minute. The Cello part features a prominent melodic line with 'pizz.' (pizzicato) and 'mp' (mezzo-piano) markings. The Horn in F part has a 'dolce' (sweet) marking and a 'mp' marking. The Mezzo Soprano and Soprano parts are currently silent, indicated by rests. The Piano part is also silent, indicated by rests. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading 'sample' is overlaid diagonally across the entire score.

12

Fl.

Hn.

Vc.

S.

18

Fl.

Hn.

Vc.

S.

mp

p

18

p

senza Ped.

sweet wandering soul

24

Fl.

Hn.

Vc.

S.

mp

leggiero

mp

28

Fl.

Hn.

Vc.

S.

mf

mp

mf

mf

28

mf

4

sweet wandering soul

33

Fl.

Hn.

Vc.

mp

mp

p

arco

S

Sweet wan - d'ring soul, _____ My bo-dy's guest and

33

mp

Pedal every bar unless otherwise marked

38

Fl.

Hn.

Vc.

mp

p

mp

S

friend, _____ Where will you wan - der now, _____

38

44

Fl.

Hn.

Vc.

mp

S

mf

where will you wan - der?

44

mf

mp

49

Fl.

Hn.

Vc.

p

mp

p

mp

p

mp

S

mp

Pale, stiff and na - ked thing,

49

p

sweet wandering soul

6

55

Fl.

Hn.

Vc.

S

And will you joke no more, And will you joke no

55

60

Fl.

Hn.

Vc.

S

more..... Sweet wan - d'ring

60

mp

mf

p

65

Fl.

Hn.

Vc.

p *mp* *mf*

S

soul, _____ Where will you wan-der, _____ wan - der

71

Fl.

Hn.

Vc.

mp *mf*

S

now? _____ Sweet wan - d'ring soul, _____ My bod-y's guest and friend... _____

77

Fl.

Hn.

Vc.

S

p *mp* *mf*

And will you joke no more, And will you joke no more.....

p *cresc.*

82

Fl.

Hn.

Vc.

S

mp *mf*

mf *p*

82

mf *p*

88

Fl.

Hn.

Vc.

S

pizz.

p

p

p

Sweet wan - d'ring soul, My bo - dy's guest and friend,

88

senza Ped.

poco rit.

93

Fl.

Hn.

Vc.

S

mp

Guest, and friend.

93

L.V.