

# Two Settings of Anna Akhmatova

poems translated into English by Lyn Coffin

set to music by Sheena Phillips  
for female a cappella voices

1. Where Nothing Is Needed
2. Music

duration c. 4:00

perusal score – not for rehearsal or performance

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## **Where Nothing Is Needed**

Where nothing is needed, I walk like a child,  
My shadow serves as the friend I crave.  
The wind breezes out of a grove gone wild,  
And my foot is on the edge of the grave.

Anna Akhmatova (1964) trans. Lyn Coffin

## **Music**

*dedicated to D.D.S. (Dmitri Shostakovich)*

A flame burns within her, miraculously,  
While you look, her edges crystallize.  
She alone will draw near and speak to me  
When others are afraid to meet my eyes.  
She was with me even in my grave  
When the last of my friends turned away,  
And she sang like the first storm heaven gave,  
Or as if flowers were having their say.

Anna Akhmatova (1958) trans. Lyn Coffin

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# Where nothing is needed

female voices a cappella

text by Anna Akhmatova, trans. Lyn Coffin

music by Sheena Phillips

**Adagio**  $\text{♩} = 48$

solo *p* *semplice*

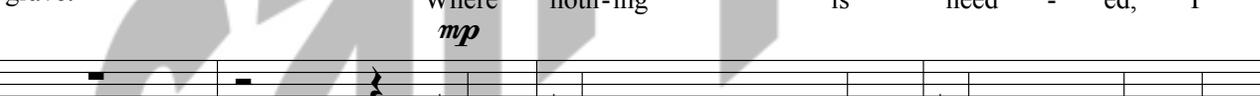
1.   
Where noth - ing is need - ed, I walk like a

5.   
child, My shad - ow serves as the friend I

9.   
crave. The wind breez - es out of a grove gone

13.   
wild, And my foot is on the edge of the

16.   
grave. *mp* Where noth - ing is need - ed, I

2.   
*mp* I walk, I walk like a

20.   
walk like a child, My shad - ow serves as the

2.   
child, My shad - ow serves as the

24

1. friend I crave. The wind breez - es out of a

2. friend I crave. The wind breez - es, breez - es,

28

1. grove gone wild, And my foot is on the edge of the

2. wind breez - es wild, And my foot is on the edge of the

32 *mf pesante, dirge-like*

1. grave. Where noth-ing is need - ed, I walk like a

2. grave. I walk, I walk like a child,

3. *mf pesante, dirge-like*

Where noth-ing is need - ed, I

37

1. child, My shad - ow serves as the friend I

2. My shad-ow serves as the friend I

3. walk like a child, My shad-ow serves as the

where nothing is needed 3

41

1. *crave. The wind breez - es out of a grove gone*

2. *crave. The wind breez - es, breez - es, wind breez - es*

3. *friend I crave. The wind breez - es out of a*

45 opt. solo *pp*

1. *wild, And my foot is on the edge of the grave. Where*

2. *wild, And my foot is on the edge of the grave.*

3. *grove gone wild, On the edge of the grave.*

50

1. *noth - ing is need - ed, I walk like a*

53

1. *child, My shad - ow serves as the friend I*

57

1. *crave. The wind breez - es out of a grove gone*

61 rit.

1. *wild, And my foot is on the edge of the grave.*

# Music

text by Anna Akhmatova  
(dedicated to Dimitri Shostakovich)  
trans. Lyn Coffin

female voices a cappella

music by Sheena Phillips

**Moderato** *freely*

1. *p* A flame, a flame, a flame burns with - in her, mi - *mf*

2. A flame, a flame, a flame burns with - in her, mi - *mf*

5. 1. *mp* ra - cu - lous - ly, While you, while you look,

2. ra - cu - lous - ly, While you, while you look, *mp*

11. 1. *mf* warmly her edg - es cryst - al - lise. She a - lone

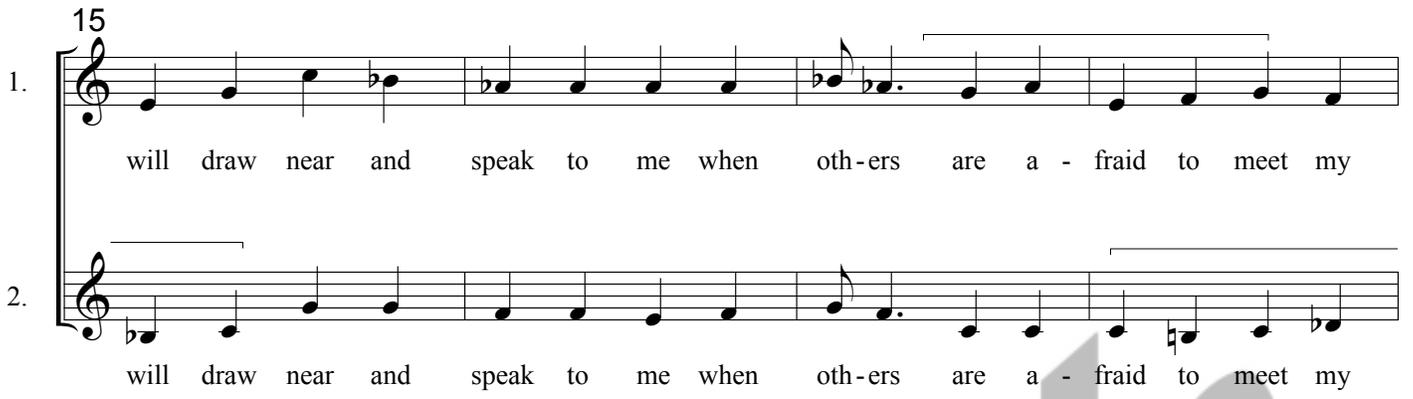
2. her edg - es cryst - al - lise. She a - lone *mf* warmly

Note: square brackets show phrases quoted (in melodic shape at least) from Shostakovich's 15th string quartet

15

1. will draw near and speak to me when oth-ers are a - fraid to meet my

2. will draw near and speak to me when oth-ers are a - fraid to meet my

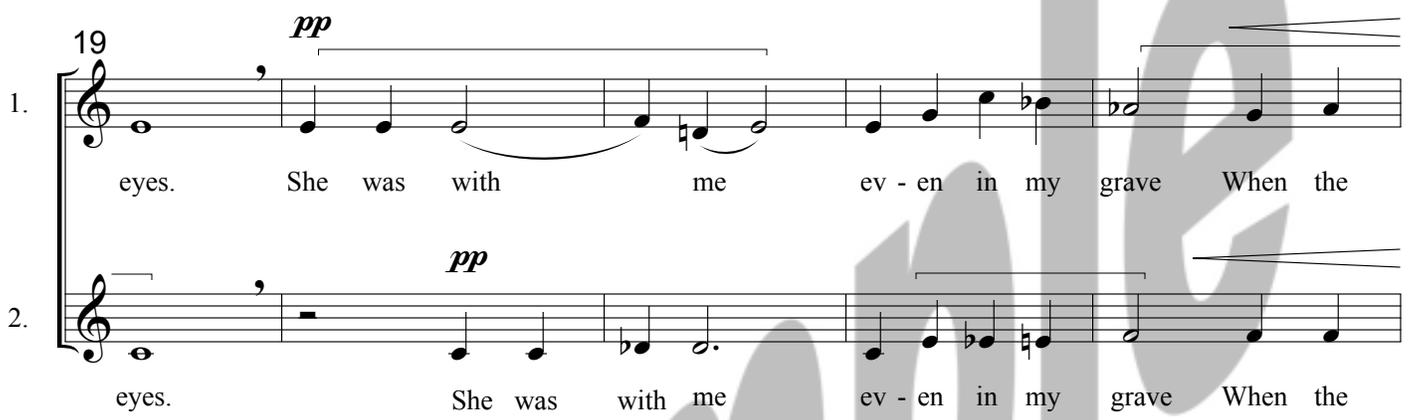


19

1. eyes. She was with me ev - en in my grave When the

2. eyes. She was with me ev - en in my grave When the

*pp*

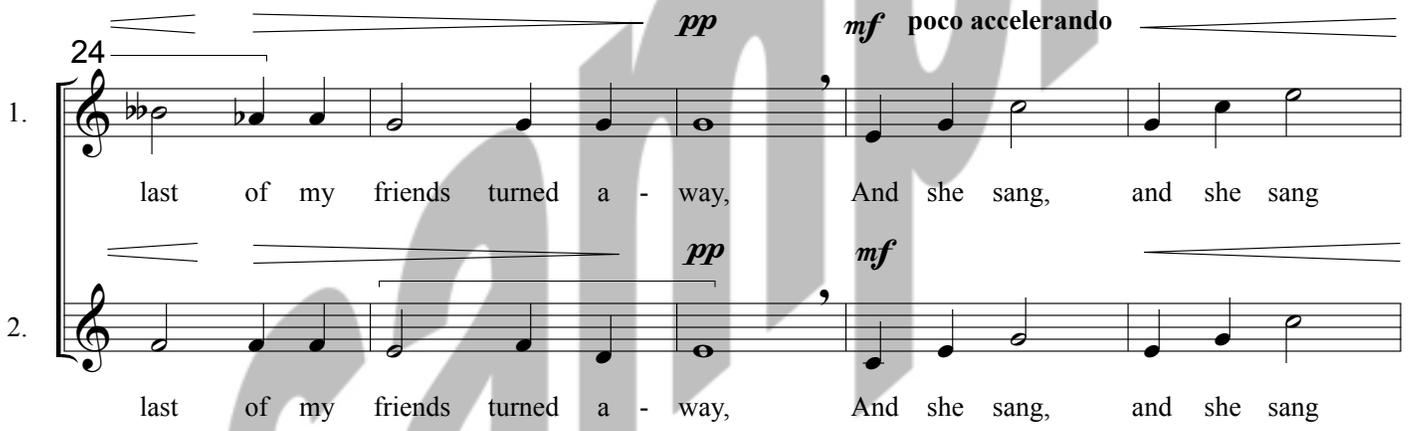


24

1. last of my friends turned a - way, And she sang, and she sang

2. last of my friends turned a - way, And she sang, and she sang

*pp* *mf* poco accelerando



29

1. like the first storm heav - en gave, Or as if flowers were hav - ing their say.

2. like the first storm heav - en gave, Or as if flowers were hav - ing their say.

*f* *mp* rit. e morendo

