

# INVOCATIONS

Three poems of Louis MacNeice  
set for voice and violin

1. Invocation

2. The Riddle

3. Apple Blossom

Score in C. Duration c.12 minutes

Dedicated to Sir Michael Tippett for his 85th birthday

# Invocations

## 1. Invocation

### 1. Invocation.

Dolphin plunge, fountain play  
Fetch me far and far away.

Fetch me far my nursery toys  
Fetch me far my mother's hand,  
Fetch me far the painted joys

And when the painted cock shall crow  
Fetch me far my waking day  
That I may dance before I go.

Fetch me far the breeze in the heat,  
Fetch me far the curl of the wave,  
Fetch me far the face in the street.

And when the other faces throng  
Fetch me far a place in the mind  
Where only truthful things belong.

Fetch me far a moon in a tree,  
Fetch me far a phrase of the wind,  
Fetch me far the verb To Be.

And when the last horn burns the hills  
Fetch me far one draught of grace  
To quench my thirst before it kills.

Dolphin plunge, fountain play  
Fetch me far and far away

### 2 The Riddle

'What is it that goes round and round the house?'  
The riddle began. A wolf, we thought, or a ghost?  
Our cold backs turned to the chink in the kitchen  
shutter,  
The range made our small scared faces warm as  
toast.

But now the cook is dead, and the cooking,  
no doubt, electric,  
No room for draught or dream, for child or  
mouse,  
Though we, in another place, still put ourselves  
the question:  
'What *is* it that goes round and round the house?'

### 3. Apple Blossom

The first blossom was the best blossom  
For the child who had never seen an orchard;  
For the youth whom whisky had led astray  
The morning after was the first day.

The first apple was the best apple  
For Adam before he heard the sentence;  
When the flaming sword endorsed the Fall  
The trees were his to plant for all.

The first ocean was the best ocean  
For the child from streets of doubt and litter;  
For the youth for whom the skies unfurled  
His first love was his first world.

But the first verdict seemed the worst verdict  
When Adam and Eve were expelled from Eden'  
Yet when the bitter gates clanged to  
The sky above was just as blue.

For the next ocean is the first ocean  
And the last ocean is the first ocean  
And, however often the sun may rise,  
A new thing dawns upon our eyes.

For the last blossom is the first blossom  
And first blossom is the best blossom  
And when from Eden we take our way  
The morning after is the first day.

**Louis MacNeice.**

Louis MacNeice

# 1. Invocation

Laurence  
Armstrong  
Hughes  
1987

**Larghetto**, improvisatory

♩ = c.60

3 *mp ad lib. (dreamily)*

Voice: Dol - phin plunge, - foun - tain play,

Vln: *colla voce*  
*p mp p*

6 *p* ♩ = c.42

Voice: Fetch me far and far a - way, Far a - way.

Vln: *mp p*

8 *mp cantabile*

Voice: Fetch me far my nur - sery toys Fetch me far my

Vln: *mp legato sempre*

10

Voice: mo - ther's hand Fetch me far the pain - ted joys

Vln: *mp legato sempre*

12

Voice: And when the pain - ted cock shall crow

Vln: *mp legato sempre*

14

Voice

Fetch me far my wak - ing day That I

Vln

16

Voice

may dance be - fore I go May

Vln

18 **Poco accel.**

Voice

dance, may dance be - fore I go,

Vln

20 **Poco accel.**

Voice

be - fore I go

Vln

22 **Poco accel.**

Voice

Vln

$\text{♩} = c.80$

23

Voice

Vln

*mf*

24 *mf*

Voice

Vln

Fetch me far

25

Voice

Vln

the breeze in the heat

26

Voice

Vln

Fetch

27

Voice

Vln

me far the curl

28

Voice

Vln

of the wave

29

Voice

Vln

*mp*

30 *mp*

Voice: Fetch me far the face

Vln

31

Voice: in the street And when the

Vln *p* sul G

33 *poco*

Voice: o - ther voi - ces throng

Vln

34 *mp* *poco* =

Voice: Fetch me far a place in

Vln *mf* *poco f* *mp*

36

Voice: the mind

Vln *mf* *poco f* =

37 *mp* **Rit.**

Voice: Where on - ly truth - ful things be - long

Vln *mp* *p*

39

Voice

Vln

40

Voice

Vln

*mf*

*mp*

7:6

7:6

42

Voice

Vln

*mp*

Fetch me far the moon

8va

43

Voice

Vln

in a tree

8va

44

Voice

Vln

Fetch me

7:6

7:6

45

Voice

far a phrase of the wind

Vln

46

Voice

Fetch me

Vln

*tr*

7:6

47

Voice

far the verb To Be And

Vln

7:6 7:6 7:6

*p*

49

Voice

when the last horn burns the hills

Vln

*mp*

*poco*

51

Voice

Fetch me far one draught of grace To

Vln



Rit.

53

Voice

quench my thirst be - fore it kills

Vln

*p*

56 *mp ad lib. (dreamily)*

Voice

Dol - phin plunge, foun - tain play,

Vln

*mp*

*colla voce*

58 *p* *pp*

Voice

Fetch me far and far a - way,

Vln

*poco* *ppp*

Louis MacNeice

Laurence  
Armstrong  
Hughes  
1987

## 2. The Riddle

Moderato

$\text{♩} = \text{c.}72$

60 *mp (breathless)*

Voice

What is it? what is it? that goes

Vln

*mp* *p*

65 *mf* *mp*

Voice

round and round the house? The rid - dle be - gan A wolf,

Vln

*mf* *p*

70 *poco fp*

Voice  
a wolf, we thought, or a ghost?

Vln  
*mp poco sul pont.*

75 *mp*

Voice  
Our

Vln  
*p* *mf* *p* *mp*

79 *poco*

Voice  
cold backs turned to the chink in the kit - chen shut - ter\_\_

Vln  
*p*

83 *p*

Voice  
The range made our small scared fac - es warm as toast

Vln  
*p*

88 *mf espress.*

Voice  
But now the cook is dead

Vln  
*mf espress.*

93

Voice  
and the cook - ing, no doubt, e - lec - tric No room for draught or

Vln  
*mp*

98

Voice

dream, for child or mouse                      Though we in an - oth - er place

Vln

*poco*

103

Voice

ask\_ our- selves                      What is it?                      what is it?

Vln

*mp*                      *p*

109

Voice

that goes round                      and round                      the house?

Vln

*pp*                      *pizz.*

Louis MacNeice

Laurence  
Armstrong  
Hughes  
1987

## 3. Apple Blossom

114

**Moderato**  
♩ = c.70

Voice

*mp simply*

The first blos- som\_                      was the best                      blos- som

Vln

*pizz.*  
*mf*                      *mp*

120

Voice

For the child who ne - ver had seen an                      or - chard

Vln

126

Voice

For the youth whom whi - sky had led a - stray the

Vln

131

Voice

mor - ning af - ter was the first day

Vln

*mp*

137

Voice

The first ap - ple was the best ap - ple for

Vln

*arco*  
*mp*

143

Voice

A - dam be - fore he heard the sen - tence When the flam

Vln

*mf*

148

Voice

- ingsword en - dorsed the Fall Then trees were his

Vln

*mp*

154

Voice

to plant for all

Vln

*mf* *espress.*

159

Voice

The

Vln

*mp*

162

Voice

first oc - ean was the best oc - ean for the child from

Vln

165

Voice

streets of doubt and lit - ter

Vln

168

Voice

For the youth for whom the

Vln

*mf* *espress.*

171  
Voice  
skies un - furled

Vln  
*mf*

173  
Voice  
*mp*  
His first love was his

Vln  
*mp*

175  
Voice  
first world

Vln

177  
Voice  
*f*  
But the first ver - dict seemed the worst

Vln  
*f*

181  
Voice  
— ver - dict When Ad - am and Eve were ex - pelled from Ed - en

Vln  
*mf*

186 *mp*

Voice

Yet when the bit-ter gates clanged to \_\_\_\_\_

Vln

*espress.* *mp*

191

Voice

the sky a bove\_\_\_\_\_ was just as blue

Vln

196 *mp*

Voice

For the next oc-ean\_\_\_\_\_ is the first oc -

Vln

*p*

202

Voice

- ean and the last\_\_\_\_\_ oc-ean\_\_\_\_\_ is the first oc - cean

Vln

208 *Poco rit.*

Voice

And how-ev-er af-ter\_\_\_\_\_ the sun may rise\_\_\_\_\_ A new thing

Vln

A tempo  
♩ = c.70

214

Voice

dawns up - on our eyes — For the

Vln

*p* *mp* pizz.

221

Voice

last blos- som — is the first blos- som — and the first blos- som — is the

Vln

227

Voice

best blos- som — And when from Ed - en we

Vln

233

Voice

take our way — the mor - ning af - ter —

Vln

236

Voice

— is the first — day.

Vln

*mp* arco