

***There is a morn by men unseen* (2003) for baritone and piano**

There is a morn by men unseen was commissioned by William Lyne CBE, AM in memory of Jonathan Webb. It was premiere by Gerald Finley (baritone) and Julius Drake (piano) in the Director's Festival Gala concert, at Wigmore Hall on the 10th May 2003.

The song sets a poignant poem by Emily Dickinson that gently and tenderly muses on the hereafter. The poetic thread is matched by a slowly unfolding vocal line that takes in an evocation of a starry night and finally, the "far fantastic bells" that Dickinson imagines calling us away to a mystery beyond a living present.

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Preview File Only

There is a morn by men unseen

There is a morn by men unseen –
Whose maids upon remoter green
Keep their Seraphic May –
And all day long, with dance and game,
And gambol I may never name –
Employ their holiday.

Here to light measure, move the feet
Which walk no more the village street –
Nor by the wood are found –
Here are the birds that sought the sun
When last year's distaff idle hung
And summer's brows were bound.

Ne'er saw I such a wondrous scene –
Ne'er such a ring on such a green –
Nor so serene array –
As if the stars some summer night
Should swing their cups of Chrysolite –
And revel till the day –

Like thee to dance – like thee to sing –
People upon the mystic green –
I ask, each new May Morn.
I wait thy far, fantastic bells –
Announcing me in other dells –
Unto the different dawn!

Emily Dickinson (1858)

To William Lyne, in memory of Jonathan Webb

There is a morn by men unseen

Emily Dickinson (1858)

Julian Philips (2003)

Gentle and tender*

q = 48

Bar. *p* There is a morn by men un - seen Whose *sotto voce*

Piano *p*

Una corda (but still use sustaining pedal to support the harmony)



4 *p* maids u - pon re - mo - ter green Keep their Se - ra - phic May And *(.)* *poco rit.*

Piano



7 *poco rit.* all day long, with dance and game, and gam - bol I may ne - ver name Em - ploy their ho - li - *(.)*

Piano

* This song should gradually open out through each stanza of the poem, gaining in speed and dynamic right up to the main climax in bar 29 (letter C), then slow and soften to the end.

2

A tempo primo

(q = 48)

A

Poco piu mosso

q = 56

slightly fuller sound

10

day. _____ mp Here to light mea - sure, move the feet Which

mp

Tre corda, using light sustaining pedal to support harmony



13

walk no more the vil - lage street Nor by the wood are found _____ Here



16

are the birds that sought the sun When last years dis - taff i - dle hung And sum - mer's brows were bound.