

Adam's Curse

Words by William Butler Yeats
1904

for the Irish People
for Soprano, Alto and Tenor Voices and String Quartet

Music by Nancy Reid Taube
2006

Tempo: ♩ = 90

Soprano

Alto

Baritone

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

8

Sop.

Alto

Bari.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

mf Spoken, begin around the E, not monotone. Stay with the rhythm suggested.

Sung

Sung

Sung

We sat to-ge-ther at one sum-mer's end, That beau-ti-ful mild wo-man, your close friend, And

12

Sop.

Alto

Bari.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

mf

mf

pp

pp

you I, po - e - try.

you I, po - e - try, po - e - try.

you and I, and talked of po - e - try, po - e - try.

Short

Short

15

Sop. *mf* Our stitch-ing

Alto *mf* Our stitch-ing

Bari. *f* Spoken, with loose rhythm, except where indicated. *Sung mf* Our stitch-ing

I said, "A line may take us hours maybe; Yet if it does not seem a moment's thought, Our stitch-ing

Vln. I

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vcl.

20

Sop. *f* *p* and un-stitch-ing has been naught.

Alto *f* *p* and un-stitch-ing has been naught.

Bari. *f* *p* and un-stitch-ing has been naught.

Vln. I *pp*

Vln. II *pp* *p*

Vla. *pp*

Vcl. *mf* *f* *pp subito*

26

Vln. I *ff* *f* *mp*

Vln. II *ff* *f* *mp*

Vla. *ff* *f* *mp*

Vcl. *ff* *f* *mp*

31 **With feeling** ♩ = 90
pp staccato

Sop. To go down go down bones, Bet - ter go down up - on your mar - row bones,
pp staccato

Alto To go down go down bones, Bet - ter go down up - on your mar - row bones,
ff Spoken, unrhythmic except where indicated.

Bari. *mf*
 Bet-ter go down upon your marrow bones And scrub a kitchen pavement, or break stones Like an old pauper,

With feeling ♩ = 90

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *mf* pizz.

Vla. *mf* pizz.

Vcl. *mf*

35

Sop. Bet - ter go down down up - on your mar - row bones.
mf

Alto Bet - ter go down down up - on your mar - row bones.
mf

Bari. *mf*
 in all kinds of weather; For to articulate sweet sounds together, Is to work harder than all these And yet be thought an idler

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vcl. *mf*

39 *f* *mf*

Sop. banks schools cler - gy world.
f *mf*

Alto banks schools cler - gy world.
f *mf*

Bari. *mf*
 by the noisy set of bankers, schoolmasters, and cler - gy - men The martyrs world." call the

Vln. I *f* *mf*

Vln. II *f* *mf*

Vla. *f* *mf*

Vcl. *f* *mf*

Gently, drifting lazily into another world ♩ = 40

43 *f* *p*

Sop. Beau - - - - - ty

Alto Beau - - - - - ty

Bari. Spoken softly *mf*
And thereupon That beautiful mild woman

Gently, drifting lazily into another world ♩ = 40

Vln. I *f* *p*

Vln. II *f* *p*

Vla. *f* *p*

Vcl. *f* *p*

47 *f* *mf* *p* **Slowing**

Sop. sweet low born wo -

Alto sweet low "To be born woman is to know Although they do not talk of it at school

Bari. for whose sake There's many a one shall find out all heartache On finding that her voice is sweet and low Replied, born "wo"

Vln. I **Slowing**

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

51 *mf* *cresc.* *mf* *cresc.* *cresc.* **Slowing**

Sop. -man to be beau - ti - ful.

Alto That we must labor to be beau - ti - ful.

Bari. la - bor to be beau - ti - ful.

Vln. I *mp* *cresc.*

Vln. II *mp* *cresc.*

Vla. *mp* *cresc.*

Vcl. *mp* *cresc.*

56 *Adagio* ♩ = 60 *mf*

Sop. I said, "it's cer - tain there is no fine thing Since Ad - am's fall but needs much la - bor - ing.

Alto

Bari. *Sung f*
I said, "it's cer - tain there is no fine thing Since Ad - am's fall but needs much la - bor - ing.

Adagio ♩ = 60

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vcl. *mf*

60 *mp*

Sop. There have been lov - ers who thought love should be So much com - pound - ed of high - cour - te - sy

Alto *Sung mp*
There have been lov - ers who thought love should be So much com - pound - ed, high

Bari. *mf*
There have been lov - ers who thought love should be So much com - pound - ed of high - cour - te - sy That *mp*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

64 *mf* *ppp*

Sop. Beau - ti - ful books. *ppp*

Alto *mf* Beau - ti - ful books. *ppp*

Bari. *mp* *f* *ppp* Spoken
they would sigh and quote with learn-ed looks Pre - ce - dents out of beau - ti - ful old books; Yet now it seems an idle trade enough."

Vln. I *ppp*

Vln. II *ppp*

Vla. *ppp*

Vcl. *mp* *ppp*

70 **Pensively** ♩ = 92

Sop. *pp* Love.

Alto *mp* Moon *pp* love.

Bari. Sung *mp* Moon *pp* love.

Vln. I *p* *pp*

Vln. II *p* *pp*

Vla. *p* *pp*

Vcl. *p* *pp*

76

Sop.

Alto *p* Love.

Bari. Spoken slowly *mp*
We sat grown quiet at the name of love; We saw the last embers of daylight die,

Vln. I *p*

Vln. II *p*

Vla. *p*

Vcl. *p*

82 *p* Shell

Alto

Bari. And in the trembling blue green of the sky A moon, worn as if it had been a shell Washed by time's waters as they rose and fell

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

88 **Slower**

Sop.

Alto Stars

Bari.

About the stars and broke in days and years. I had a thought for no one's but your ears:

Slower

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

94 **Slower** *p* *f*

Sop. beau - ti - ful

Alto ti - ful

Bari. That you were beau - ti - ful

Slower *p* *f*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

103 *mp* *f*

Sop. Hol - low moon.

Alto Hol - low moon.

Bari. and that I strove To love you in that old high way of love; That it had all seemed happy, and yet we'd grown As weary hearted as that hollow moon.

pp *mf* *p*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.