

E. C.

8606

A Prep-School Boy - Joshua Fishbein

SATB Chorus (*divisi*)

A Prep-School Boy

Music by Joshua Fishbein
Words by Benjamin Britten

SATB Chorus (divisi)

PROJECT ENCORE CHORAL SERIES

Winner, Cantate Chamber Singers' Ninth Young Composers' Contest (2013)
Winner, Chorus Austin's Inaugural Young Composers' Competition (2014)
1st Prize, Fifth Annual Morningside College Choral Composition Contest (2016)

A Prep-School Boy

for SATB Chorus (divisi) unaccompanied

Benjamin Britten
(1913–1976)

Joshua Fishbein

Strolling, with nostalgia ♩ = 54 *p* < > *pp*

Soprano
Once up - on a time mm, *pp*

Alto
Once up - on a time mm, *pp*

Tenor
pp Mm, *p* < > Once up - on a

Bass
pp Mm,

Keyboard
(for rehearsal only)
Strolling, with nostalgia ♩ = 54 *p* *pp*

4 (*pp*) div. *poco* *delicately p* < >

Hmm, *pp* *delicately p* < > Once up - on a

unis. *p* < > *pp* *delicately p* < > Once up - on a

Once up - on a time mm, *poco* *delicately p* < > Once up - on a

time mm, *p* < > Once up - on a

Hmm, *p* < > Once up - on a time, *p*

7

pp *mp* *p*

time mm there_ was a prep-school boy.

pp *unis. mp* *p*

time mm there_ was a prep-school boy.

pp *p* *p*

time mm, a time there_ was a prep-school boy.

delicately (p) *(p)*

Once up-on a time there_ was a prep-school boy.

10

Movendo, with gradual excitement (♩ = 72)

mf *cresc.* *sub. p*

He_ was called Brit - ten, Brit - - - ten

mf *cresc.* *sub. p*

He was called Brit - ten, Brit - - - ten

mf *cresc.* *sub. p*

He was called Brit - ten, Brit - - - ten

mf *cresc.* *sub. p*

He was called Brit - ten, Brit - - - ten

Movendo, with gradual excitement (♩ = 72)

mf *cresc.* *sub. p*

Pulsating briskly ♩ = 92

14

fp (echoing) *song-like mf*

mi - nor, mi - nor, mi - nor, mi - nor, Brit - ten, Brit - ten

fp (echoing) *song-like mf*

mi - nor, mi - nor, mi - nor, mi - nor, Brit - ten, Brit - ten

unis. *fp* > (echoing) *pp* > *ppp* (echoing)

mi - nor, mi - nor, mi - nor mi - nor, mi - nor, mi - nor, mi - nor, mi - nor,

unis. *fp* > *pp* > *ppp* (echoing)

mi - nor, mi - nor, mi - nor, mi - nor, mi - nor, mi - nor, mi - nor, mi - nor,

Pulsating briskly ♩ = 92

fp *pp* *ppp*

17

fp > *pp* unis. *mp* legato

mi - nor, mi - nor, mi - nor, mi - nor, mi - nor, his age,

fp > *pp* *mp* legato

mi - nor, mi - nor, mi - nor, mi - nor, his age,

song-like mf *fp* > *mp* legato

Brit - ten, Brit - ten mi - nor, his

song-like mf unis. *fp* > *mp* legato

Brit - ten, Brit - ten mi - nor, his

fp *mf* *pp* *(mf)* *fp* *mp*

20 *mf* *f excited* *poco rit.* **Relaxed** ♩ = 86 *ff pp*

his age was nine, Brit - - - ten mi - nor,

his age was nine, Brit - - - ten mi - nor,

age, Brit - ten, Brit - ten mi - nor,

age, Brit - ten, Brit - ten, his in -

mf *f excited* *poco rit.* **Relaxed** ♩ = 86 *ff pp* *p*

24 *f pp* *p with wonder*

mi - nor, his age,

mi - nor, his age,

p *ornate* *mp*

his in - i - tials were E. B.,

(p) *ornate* *mp*

i - tials, his in - i - tials were E. B.,

f pp *p* *mp*

28 *mp* *broadening*

boldly mf unis.

his age was nine, his in - i - tials,

mp *boldly mf*

his age was nine, his in - i - tials,

poco cresc. *boldly mf* *cresc.*

E. B., his in - i - tials, his in - i ³ - tials were,

poco cresc. *boldly mf* *cresc.*

E. B., his in - i - tials, his in - i ³ - tials were,

mp *mf* *cresc.* *broadening*

32 *Majestically* $\text{♩} = 76$ *f* *ff* *sfz p* *Tranquil* $\text{♩} = 60$ *pp*

E. B., E. B., Hmm,

f *ff* *sfz p* *pp*

E. B., E. B., Hmm,

f *cresc.* *ff* *sfz p* *chant-like, legato p unis.*

Ah, ah, Oh, and his

f *cresc.* *ff* *sfz p* *chant-like, legato p unis.*

Ah, ah, Oh, and his

Majestically $\text{♩} = 76$ *f* *ff* *sfz p* *Tranquil* $\text{♩} = 60$ *pp*

36

unis. p chant-like, legato

poco

and his lock-er was num - ber
and his lock-er was
lock-er was num - ber sev - en - teen nn, and his
lock-er was num - ber sev - en - teen nn, and his

40

poco rit. Tempo primo (♩ = 54), *stately, with rubato*

sev - en - teen nn, sev - en - teen nn... There was
num - ber sev - en - teen nn, sev - en - teen nn...
lock-er was num - ber sev - en - teen nn...
and his lock-er was num - ber sev - en - teen nn...

43

one cu-ri-ous thing a-bout this boy, Hmm, Oh boy, Hmm, Oh, There was one cu-ri-ous thing a-bout this Oh, There was one cu-ri-ous thing a-bout this

p *mp cantabile* *p*

46

unis. mp *mf (cantabile)*

Movendo, with gradual excitement ($\text{♩} = 64$)

one cu-ri-ous thing, There was one cu-ri-ous thing a-bout this boy, one cu-ri-ous one cu-ri-ous thing, boy, one cu-ri-ous thing, boy, one cu-ri-ous thing, one cu-ri-ous thing

mp *mf (cantabile)* *mf*

Movendo, with gradual excitement ($\text{♩} = 64$)

driving forward

(♩ = 72)

49

f with power

boy, *cresc.*

sfzp

molto

ff

thing

f with power

cresc.

sfzp

molto

ff

thing

f with power

cresc.

sfzp

molto

ff

f with power

cresc.

sfzp

molto

ff

driving forward

(♩ = 72)

Still faster, declamatory, with rubato ♩ = 86

54

f

ff

sfzp

he wrote mu - sic, he wrote mu - sic,

f

ff

sfzp

he wrote mu - sic, he wrote mu - sic,

f

ff

sfzp

he wrote mu - sic, mu - sic,

f

ff

sfzp

he wrote mu - sic, mu - sic,

Still faster, declamatory, with rubato ♩ = 86

f

ff

59 *molto rit.* *sub. p* *unis.* **Tempo primo** (♩ = 54) *pp*

he wrote mu - sic,

sub. p *unis.* *pp*

he wrote mm mu - sic,

pp *p*

Mm, Once up-on a

p *pp* *p*

Once up-on a time mm, a

molto rit. *sub. p* *pp* **Tempo primo** (♩ = 54) *p*

64 *pp* *ppp*

he wrote mu - sic,

unis. p *pp*

Once up-on a time mm, mm mu - sic,

pp *unis. p* *pp*

time mm, a time mm, mm, Once up-on a

pp *poco* *unis. p* *pp* *unis.*

time mm, Once up-on a time mm, a

pp *ppp* *pp* *p*

68 *mp* *p* *molto rit.*

there_ was a prep-school boy.

unis. mp *p*

there_ was a prep - school boy.

p *molto*

time there_ was a prep-school boy.

p *molto*

time there_ was a prep-school boy.

mp *p* *molto rit.*

71 *a tempo* ($\text{♩} = 54$) *mp* *mf* *rit. poco a poco* *molto*

He wrote, he wrote

mp *mf* *molto*

He wrote, he wrote

mp *mf* *molto*

He wrote, he wrote

mp *mf* *molto*

He wrote, he wrote

a tempo ($\text{♩} = 54$) *mp* *mf* *rit. poco a poco*

75 *p* *molto rit.* *pp*

mu - sic, mu - sic.

mu - sic, mu - sic.

mu - sic, mu - sic.

mu - sic, mu - sic.

mu - sic.

p *molto rit.* *pp*

June 22–28, 2013
rev. December, 2013
Los Angeles, California
c. 5:00

PROGRAM NOTES

A Prep-School Boy sets the following text from the introductory note to Benjamin Britten’s *Simple Symphony*, Op. 4 (1934); 1955.

Once upon a time there was a prep-school boy. He was called Britten mi[nor], his initials were E.B., his age was nine, and his locker was number seventeen... There was one curious thing about this boy: he wrote music.

(Permission granted for use in the context of the Young Composers’ Contest held by Cantate Chamber Singers by the Britten–Pears Foundation, September, 3, 2012.)

I purposefully crafted a very literal musical interpretation of this text. For instance, the word “minor” is set in pulsating minor triads. Also, the initials “E. B.” are sung on the pitches E and B. Less serious than my other secular choral works, this composition shares similarities with music one might hear performed by a cappella groups on college campuses, such as humming and singing on neutral vowels like “Oh” and “Ah.” Elements of this piece also resemble 20th Century English choral music by William Walton and Ralph Vaughan Williams, in addition to Britten himself. Examples include abruptly distant harmonic changes, shocking cross-relations, and slow triplets that match the rhythm of the English language. Overall, I designed *A Prep-School Boy* to be very much in the spirit of the composer that it honors—E. B. Britten. However, with its lush harmonies and intricate counterpoint, this piece is still my own.

—Joshua Fishbein
April 18, 2014

Joshua Fishbein (b. 1984)

For biographical information visit:
www.fishbeinmusic.com