

# **Of The Ages**

*for SATB Chorus unaccompanied*

**Music by Joshua Fishbein**

**Words by Elizabeth Hart Pennell,  
Laurence Alma-Tadema, and William Butler Yeats**

I.

*Youth and Age* (1921) by Elizabeth Hart Pennell

Youth has music on his lips  
And in his hurrying feet,  
Rhythm in his finger-tips  
And in his laughter sweet.

Age has silence on his tongue-  
Never a note or sound;  
But his heart is often wrung  
By music all around.

Youth has tongue, but lacks an ear-  
He whistles, pipes and sings.  
Age is still, but he can hear  
Silence and growing things.

From *Poetry: A Magazine of Verse* (1912-1922)

II.

*Playgrounds* (1903) by Laurence Alma-Tadema

In summer I am very glad  
We children are so small,  
For we can see a thousand things  
That men can't see at all.

They don't know much about the moss  
And all the stones they pass:  
They never lie and play among  
The forests in the grass.

They walk about a long way off;  
And, when we're at the sea,  
Let father stoop as best he can  
He can't find things like me.

But, when the snow is on the ground  
And all the puddles freeze,  
I wish that I were very tall,  
High up above the trees.

From *Songs of Womanhood* (1903)

III.

*The Old Men Admiring Themselves in the Water* (1903) by William Butler Yeats

I heard the old, old men say,  
'Everything alters,  
And one by one we drop away.'  
They had hands like claws, and their knees  
Were twisted like the old thorn-trees  
By the waters.  
'All that's beautiful drifts away  
Like the waters.'

From *In the Seven Woods* (1903)

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# Of The Ages

for SATB Chorus unaccompanied  
I. Youth and Age

Elizabeth Hart Pennell

Joshua Fishbein

Andante, spritely ♩ = 69

Soprano

Alto *mf*  
Youth has mu - sic on his lips And in his hur-ry-ing - feet, Rhy-thm in his fin-ger-tips, *sub. p cresc.*

Tenor

Bass *mf*  
Youth has mu - sic on his lips And in his hur-ry-ing -

Andante, spritely ♩ = 69

Keyboard  
(for rehearsal only)

4

S

A *mf legato cresc.*  
rhy-thm in his fin-ger-tips, fin-ger-tips And in his laugh - ter - sweet, laugh - ter - sweet,

T

B *sub. mp cresc. mf legato cresc.*  
feet, Rhy-thm in his fin-ger-tips And in his laugh - ter, laugh - ter - sweet, laugh - ter -

7

**f**

S Age has\_ si - lence on his tongue,

A sweet. \_\_\_\_\_ **f** Age has\_ si - lence on his\_

T **f** Age has\_ si - lence on his

B sweet. \_\_\_\_\_ **f** Age has\_ si - lence on his tongue,

10

**sfz p** **mp** *poco rit.* **mf legato** *a tempo*

S age has\_ si - lence on his tongue- Nev-er a note, But his

A tongue, age has\_ si - lence on his tongue- **sfz p** **mp** **pp** **mf legato** Nev-er a note \_\_\_\_\_ or sound; But his

T tongue, age has\_ si - lence on his tongue- **sfz p** **pp** **mf legato** nev-er a note\_ or sound; But his

B age has\_ si - lence, **mp** **p** **pp** **mf legato** Nev-er a note or sound, nev-er a note\_ or sound; But his

*poco rit.* *a tempo*

14

S heart, his heart, his heart is of - ten wrung by mu - sic, mu -

A heart, his heart is of - ten wrung By mu - sic, mu - sic,

T heart, his heart, his heart is of - ten wrung By mu - sic,

B heart, his heart is of - ten wrung By mu - sic, mu -

*cresc. poco a poco*

*cresc. poco a poco*

*cresc. poco a poco*

*cresc. poco a poco*

18

S - sic, mu - sic, mu - sic all a - round.

A mu - sic, mu - sic all a - round.

T mu - sic, mu - sic all a - round.

B - sic, mu - sic, mu - sic all a - round.

*rit.*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*rit.*

*a tempo*  
*p leggiero*

22

S Youth has tongue, but lacks an ear, youth has tongue, but lacks an ear,

A Youth has tongue, but lacks an ear, youth has tongue, but lacks an ear,

T *p leggiero*  
8 Age is still, but he can hear, age is still, but he can

B *p leggiero*  
Age is still, but he can hear, age is still, but he can

*a tempo*

25

S *mp* youth has tongue, but lacks an ear- *mf* whis - tles, pipes and sings,

A *mp* youth has tongue, but lacks an ear- *mf* He whis - tles, pipes and sings,

T *mp* hear, age is still, but he can hear, *mf* whis - tles, pipes and

B *mp* hear, age is still, but he can hear, *mf* whis - tles, pipes and sings,

28 *cresc.* *poco rit.* *f*

S whis - tles, whis - tles, pipes \_\_\_\_\_ and sings.

A *cresc.* *f*  
whis - tles, whis - tles, whis - tles, whis - tles, pipes and sings.

T *cresc.* *f*  
sings, whis - tles, whis - tles, pipes \_\_\_\_\_ and sings.

B *cresc.* *f*  
whis - tles, whis - tles, whis - tles, pipes and sings.

**Meno mosso, subdued** ♩ = 60

31 *mp*

S Age is \_\_\_ still, age is \_\_\_ still, but he can \_\_\_ hear

A *mp*  
Age is still, age is still, \_\_\_ but he can, \_\_\_ he can hear

T *mp*  
Age is still, age is still, \_\_\_ but he can, he can hear

B *mp*  
Age is \_\_\_ still, age is \_\_\_ still, but he can \_\_\_ hear

**Meno mosso, subdued** ♩ = 60

*poco movendo*

34

S *p* *cresc. poco a poco* *mp*  
 Si - lence, si - lence, and grow - - - ing things, grow -

A *p* *cresc. poco a poco* *mp*  
 Si - lence, si - lence, and grow - - - ing, grow - ing things,

T *p* *cresc. poco a poco* *mp*  
 Si - lence, si - lence, and grow - ing, grow - ing things, grow - ing

B *p* *cresc. poco a poco* *mp*  
 Si - lence, si - lence, and grow - - - ing things, grow - - -

*poco movendo*

*molto rit. al fine*

37

S *mf* *mp* *p*  
 - - - ing, grow - ing, grow - ing things.

A *mf* *mp* *p*  
 grow - - - ing things, grow - ing things.

T *mf* *mp* *p*  
 things, grow - - - ing, grow - ing things.

B *mf* *mp* *p*  
 - ing things, and grow - ing, grow - ing things.

*molto rit. al fine*