



CHORAL SERIES

Sammy Strent

George Gray

Text by Edgar Lee Masters
Music by Sammy Strent

for SATB Choir with Piano

**This score was distributed at
the ACDA national
convention in 2023. To
purchase scores, please visit
sammystrent.com**

WWW.SAMMYSTRENT.COM

George Gray

for SATB Choir with Piano

Approximate duration: 4 minutes and 30 seconds

George Gray

I have studied many times

The marble which was chiseled for me--

A boat with a furled sail at rest in a harbor.

In truth it pictures not my destination

But my life.

For love was offered me and I shrank from its

disillusionment;

Sorrow knocked at my door, but I was afraid;

Ambition called to me, but I dreaded the chances.

Yet all the while I hungered for meaning in my life.

And now I know that we must lift the sail

And catch the winds of destiny

Wherever they drive the boat.

To put meaning in one's life may end in madness,

But life without meaning is the torture

Of restlessness and vague desire--

It is a boat longing for the sea and yet afraid.

-Edgar Lee Masters

Premiered by Choral Arts Initiative on July 1st, 2022

Text by
Edgar Lee Masters (1868-1950)

George Gray

Music by
Sammy Strent (b. 2002)

$\text{♩} = 90$, Brisk yet reflective

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

mf Pedal throughout

3

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno.

5

S. _____

A. _____

T. _____

B. _____

Pno. *p*

7

S. _____

A. _____

T. _____

B. _____

Pno. *f* *mf*

A

I have stud-ied ma - ny

10

S. _____

A. _____

T. _____

B. _____

Pno.

times the mar - ble... which was chis-eled for me.

13

f

S. I have stud - ied ma - ny times the

A. I have stud - ied ma - ny times the

T. I have stud - ied ma - ny times the

B. I have stud - ied ma - ny times the

Pno.

15

mf **B**

S. mar - ble which was chis-eled for me. A boat with a furled sail at

A. mar - ble which was chis-eled for me. A boat with a furled sail at

T. mar - ble which was chis-eled for me. Ooh

B. mar - ble which was chis-eled for me.

Pno. *mp*

18

S. rest in a har-bor— In

A. rest in a har-bor— In

T. Oh rest in a har - bor

B. Woah— rest in a har - bor

Pno.

21

S. truth in truth in truth

A. truth in truth in truth

T. truth truth truth

B. truth truth truth

Pno.

C

24

S. It pic - tures not my des - ti -

A. It pic - tures not

T. It pic - tures not my des - ti -

B. It pic - tures not

Pno.

26

S. na - tion

A. But my life

T. na - tion But my life

B.

Pno.

29

S. *mf* life

A. *p* life

T. *p* life

B. *p* my life

Pno. *p* Suddenly bright

32

S. *mf*

A. *mf*

T. *mf*

B. *mf* *f* For love was

Pno. *mf* *mp*

D

35

S.

A.

T.

B.

of - fered me and I shrank from its dis-so - lus - sion-ment. Sor-row knocked at my

Pno.

39

S.

A.

T.

B.

door but I was a - fraid Am - bi - tion called to me but I

Pno.

mf

42 **Poco rit...**

S. _____

A. _____

T. _____

B. *3*
dread-ed the chan - ces _____ yet all the while I hun-gered for mean-ing in my life. _____

Pno. _____

45 **E** ♩ = 72

S. _____

A. *mel. mp* ————— *f*
And now I know that we must lift the sail and catch the

T. *mp* ————— *f*
And now I know that we must lift the sail and catch the

B. _____

Pno. *mp* ————— *f*

48 *mp*

S. Ooh I know that we must lift the

A. winds of des - ti - ny

T. winds of des - ti - ny lift the

B. winds of des - ti - ny I

Pno.

51 **Poco accel...**

S. sail and catch the winds of des - ti - ny

A. catch the winds of des - ti - ny

T. sail catch the winds des - ti - ny

B. know that we must lift the sail winds of des - ti - ny

Pno.

F ♩ = 90

sub.p

54

S. Where Ooh

A. Where - ev - er they drive the boat. Where -

T. Where - ev - er they drive the boat. Where -

B. Where Ooh

Pno. *sub.p*

G

♩ = 80, Gently
mp

57

Poco accel...

S. they drive the boat. To put

A. ev - er they drive the boat.

T. ev - er they drive the boat.

B. they drive the boat.

Pno. *f*

60

S. *f*
mean-ing in one's life may end in mad - ness. To put mean-ing in one's life may end in

A. *f*
To put mean-ing in one's life may end in

T. *f*
To put mean-ing in one's life may end in

B. *f*
To put mean-ing in one's life may end in

Pno. *mp*

63

S. *mp*
mad - ness. But

A. *mp*
mad - ness. But life with-out mean-ing is the tor - ture But

T. *mp*
mad - ness. life with-out mean-ing is the tor - ture But

B. *mp*
mad - ness. But

Pno. *Smoothly*

66 **H**

Rubato

S. life with-out mean-ing is the tor - ture and vague de - sire.

A. life with-out mean-ing is the tor - ture *p* Of rest-less-ness and vague de - sire.

T. life with-out mean-ing is the tor - ture *p* Of rest-less-ness and vague de - sire.

B. life with-out mean-ing is the tor - ture de - sire.

Pno.

A Tempo

70 **Rubato**

S. vague de - sire.

A. and vague de - sire.

T. and vague de - sire.

B. vague de - sire.

Pno.

I ♩ = 60, Proudly

74

S. It is a boat long - ing for the

A. It is a boat long - ing for the

T.

B.

Pno.

77

S. sea Hm

A. sea Hm

T. It is a boat long - ing for the

B. It is a boat long - ing for the

Pno.

Molto rit...

79

S. It is a boat long - ing for the sea *ff*

A. It is a boat long - ing for the sea *ff*

T. sea It is a boat long - ing for the sea *ff*

B. sea It is a boat long - ing for the sea *ff*

Pno. *ff*

82

S. and yet a - fraid. a - *p*

A. and yet a - fraid. a - *p*

T. and yet a - fraid. a - *p*

B. and yet a - fraid. a - *p*

Pno. *p*

86 *Stagger breathe until end*

S. *fraid.* a -

A. *fraid.* a -

T. *fraid.* a -

B. *fraid.* a -

Pno. *mp* *mf*

88

S. *fraid.* a -

A. *fraid.* a -

T. *fraid.* a -

B. *fraid.* a -

Pno. *p* *f*

Molto rit...

90

S. *pp*
fraid.

A. *pp*
fraid.

T. *pp*
fraid.

B. *pp*
fraid.

Pno. *pp*