

CHORAL SERIES

Sammy Strent

# Voices of the Air

Text by Katherine Mansfield  
Music by Sammy Strent

for SATB Choir with Piano

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# Voices of the Air

for SATB Choir with Piano

**Approximate duration: 4 minutes and 30 seconds**

## Voices of the Air

But then there comes that moment rare  
When, for no cause that I can find,  
The little voices of the air  
Sound above all the sea and wind.

The sea and wind do then obey  
And sighing, sighing double notes  
Of double basses, content to play  
A droning chord for the little throats—

The little throats that sing and rise  
Up into the light with lovely ease  
And a kind of magical, sweet surprise  
To hear and know themselves for these—

For these little voices: the bee, the fly,  
The leaf that taps, the pod that breaks,  
The breeze on the grass-tops bending by,  
The shrill quick sound that the insect makes.

-Katherine Mansfield

# Voices of the Air

Text by Katherine Mansfield  
(1888-1923)

Music by Sammy Strent  
(b. 2002)

$\text{♩} = 72$ , With drive and intent

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

*Molto Legato*

*p* *f*

3 **A**

S. *p* *f* *p*

But then there comes that mo - ment rare

A. *p* *f* *p*

But then there comes that mo - ment rare

T. *p* *f* *p*

But then there comes that mo - ment rare

B. *p* *f* *p*

But then there comes that mo - ment rare

Pno. *p* *f*

5

S. *mp* When, for no cause that I can find, *f* *no dim.*

A. *mp* When, for no cause that I can find, *f* *no dim.*

T. *mp* When, for no cause that I can find, *f* *no dim.*

B. *mp* When, for no cause that I can find, *f* *no dim.*

Pno. *p* *f*

7

S. *pp* The lit - tle voic-es of the air

A. *pp* The lit - tle voic-es of the air

T. *ppp* *whispered* The lit - tle voic-es of the air

B. *ppp* *whispered* The lit - tle voic-es of the air

Pno. *p* *Delicately*

9

S. *f*  
The lit - tle voic - es of the air

A. *f*  
The lit - tle voic - es of the air

T. (sung) *f*  
The lit - tle voic - es of the air

B. (sung) *f*  
The lit - tle voic - es of the air

Pno. *f*

11

S. Sound a - bove all the sea and wind.

A. Sound a - bove all the sea and wind.

T. *p*  
hmm

B. *p*  
hmm

Pno. *mf*

**B**

13

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno.

15

S. hmm

A. hmm

T. The sea and wind do then o - bey And

B. The sea and wind do then o - bey And

Pno.

17

*f*

S. sigh - ing, sigh - ing dou - ble notes

A. sigh - ing, sigh - ing dou - ble notes

T. sigh - ing, sigh - ing dou - ble notes

B. sigh - ing, sigh - ing dou - ble notes

Pno. (Right hand on top)

19

*mp*

S. A

A. A

T. *mp* Of dou - ble bas-ses, con-tent to play

B. *mp* Of dou - ble bas-ses, con-tent to play

Pno. *mp*

21 C (Sopranos jump to Alto line)

*f*

S. dro - ning chord for the lit - tle throats

A. dro - ning chord for the lit - tle throats

T. dro - ning chord throats

B. dro - ning chord throats

Pno. *f* *mf*

24 Solo

S. The lit - tle throats that sing and rise

A. *p* hmm

T. *p* hmm

B. *p* hmm

Pno. *f*

26

S. Up in - to the light with love - ly ease

A.

T.

B.

Pno. *p* *mp*

28

S. And a kind of mag-i-cal, sweet sur - prise To

A. ooh

T. ooh

B. ooh

Pno.

30

End Solo **D**

S. hear and know them-selves to these

A. ah

T. ah

B. ah

Pno.

*f*

(Sopranos back to Soprano line)

33

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno.

35 E

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno.

38 *Like you have a secret...*

S. *p*  
But then there comes that mo - ment

A. *p*  
But then there comes that mo - ment

T. *p*  
But then there comes that mo - ment

B. *p*  
But then there comes that mo - ment

Pno.

40

S. *f* *p* *mp*  
rare When, for no cause that I can

A. *f* *p* *mp*  
rare When, for no cause that I can

T. *f* *p* *mp*  
rare When, for no cause that I can

B. *f* *p* *mp*  
rare When, for no cause that I can

Pno. *f* *p*

42

S. *f no dim.* *pp*  
find, The lit - tle voic-es of the

A. *f no dim.* *pp*  
find, The lit - tle voic-es of the

T. *f no dim.* *whispered ppp*  
find, The lit - tle voic-es of the

B. *f no dim.* *whispered ppp*  
find, The lit - tle voic-es of the

Pno. *f* *delicately p*

44

S. *f* air The lit - tle voic - es of the

A. *f* air The lit - tle voic - es of the

T. (sung) *f* The lit - tle voic - es of the The lit - tle voic - es of the

B. (sung) *f* air The lit - tle voic - es of the

Pno. *f*

46

S. air Sound a - bove all the sea and

A. air Sound a - bove all the sea and

T. *p* air hmm

B. *p* air hmm

Pno. *p*

48

S. wind.

A. wind.

T.

B.

Pno.

50

**F**

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno. *f* With curiosity Poco rit...

52

S. *mp* *mf*  
hmm

A. *mp* *mf*  
hmm

T. *mp* *mf*  
hmm

B. *mp* *mf*  
hmm

Pno. **Building**  
*p* *mp*

54

S. *mp* *mf*  
ah

A. *mp* *mf*  
ah

T. *mp* *mf*  
ah

B. *mp* *mf*  
ah

Pno. *mf* *f*

56 *f* *ff* Poco rit...

S. *f* *ff*

A. ah *f* *ff*

T. ah *f* *ff*

B. ahh *f* *ff*

Pno. *ff* Poco rit...

**G**  
 58  $\text{♩} = 72$ , With energy!  
 Mel.

S. For these lit - tle voic-es: the bee, the fly, \_\_\_\_\_ The leaf that taps the pod that breaks, \_\_\_\_\_

A. For these lit - tle voic-es: the bee, the fly, \_\_\_\_\_ The leaf that taps the pod that breaks, \_\_\_\_\_

T. For these lit - tle voic-es: the bee, the fly, \_\_\_\_\_ The leaf that taps the pod that breaks, \_\_\_\_\_

B. For these lit - tle voic-es: the bee, the fly, \_\_\_\_\_ The leaf that taps the pod that breaks, \_\_\_\_\_

Pno. *ff* (Precise)

Suddenly sweet

♩ = 80

♩ = ♩. Not dragging, with determination!

62

S. *mf* The breeze \_\_\_\_\_

A. *mf* The breeze \_\_\_\_\_ *p* The shrill quick sound that the in - sect

T. *Mel. f* The breeze on the grass-tops bend-ing by, *p* The shrill quick sound that the in - sect

B. *f* The breeze on the grass-tops bend-ing by,

Pno. *mp* *p*

65

S. *mf* ah \_\_\_\_\_ *ff* The lit - tle voic - es of the

A. *f* makes. \_\_\_\_\_ *ff* The li - tle voic - es of the

T. *f* makes. \_\_\_\_\_ *ff* The lit - tle voic - es of the

B. *mf* ah \_\_\_\_\_ *ff* The lit - tle voic - es of the

Pno. *mf* *f* **Rhythmic**

67

S. air The lit - tle voic - es of the

A. air The lit - tle voic - es of the

T. air The lit - tle voic - es of the air voic - es of the

B. air The lit - tle voic - es of the

Pno.

69

S. air The lit - tle voic - es of the

A. air The lit - tle voic - es of the

T. air The lit - tle voic - es of the

B. air The lit - tle voic - es of the

Pno.



77

S. *f* *p*  
wind.

A. *f* *p*  
wind.

T. *f* *p*  
wind.

B. *f* *p*  
wind.

Pno. *p* *f* *pp*