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THE TWO COFFINS

(2011)

FOR TENOR & GRAND PIANO

KYLE GULLINGS



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The Two Coffins

(2011)

*This composition is dedicated to my friend and colleague
Dr. Timothy Marshall Ballard, who gave its premiere in 2011.*

Text from: *Songs and Other Verse* (1896)

"The Two Coffins"

by Eugene Field

Accessed at Project Gutenberg, 06/06/2011

<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/9889>

In yonder old cathedral
Two lovely coffins lie;
In one, the head of the state lies dead,
And a singer sleeps hard by.

The castle walls are falling
And war distracts the land,
But the sword leaps not from that mildewed spot
There in that dead king's hand.

Once had that King great power
And proudly ruled the land--
His crown e'en now is on his brow
And his sword is in his hand.

But with every grace of nature
There seems to float along--
To cheer again the hearts of men
The singer's deathless song.

How sweetly sleeps the singer
With calmly folded eyes,
And on the breast of the bard at rest
The harp that he sounded lies.

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Those interested in performing and/or recording this work should contact the composer directly:
gullings@gmail.com

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While this project ends October 15, 2011, future performances of this and other CC21 works are encouraged!

~Kyle Gullings, 2011

The Two Coffins

Eugene Field

(2011)

Kyle Gullings

Harp Music

Slow and Free

The musical score is divided into three systems. The first system is for Harp Music, featuring a Tenor voice and a Piano accompaniment. The Tenor part is in treble clef with a soprano 8. The Piano part is in treble and bass clefs with a soprano 8. The tempo is 'Slow and Free'. The harp part is marked '(plucked)' and has dynamics of *ff* and *mf*. The piano part has dynamics of *ff* and *mf*. There are two 'Ped.' markings with a box 'D' indicating no change until that point. The second system is for Piano, featuring a Treble clef and a Bass clef. The tempo is 'Bells ringing (normal, not plucked)'. The dynamics range from *ff* to *mp*. The tempo is marked 'poco a poco accell.'. The third system is for Piano, featuring a Treble clef and a Bass clef. The tempo is 'Larghetto' with a quarter note equal to 66. The dynamics are marked *mp*. A box labeled 'Repeat until B.' contains a repeat sign and a box 'B.'.

Tenor

Piano

(plucked)

ff *mf* *ff* *mf*

even slower

Ped. (no change until **D**.)

Bells ringing
(normal, not plucked) *poco a poco accell.*

ff *mp*

Pno.

Pno.

(*accell.*)

Repeat until **B**.
Larghetto ♩ = 66
mp

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The Two Coffins

Adagio ♩ = 76

Not in time with piano

A rubato, distant

mp

In yon-der old ca - thed - ral _____ Two lov'-ly cof-fins lie; _____

A (Continue repeating)

Not in time with voice

Pno.

molto rit. -----

In one, the_ head of the state lies dead, _____ And a sing-er sleeps hard

Pno.

by.

B

♩ = 66 *accel.* -----

B

8va -----

Pno.

Andante, heavy ♩ = 88

In time with voice

mf (♩=♪)

4

Once had that king great pow - er _____ And

Andante, heavy ♩ = 88

In time with piano

(♩=♪)

Pno.

4

mf

8

proud - ly ruled the land. _____ His

Pno.

8

R.H. *pp* *mf*

12

crown ev'n now is on his brow _____ And his sword, _____ his

Pno.

12

16 (♩=♩)

sword, _____ is in his hand. _____

Pno.

pp

Harp Music

20 *non rit.* C Slow and Free

Pno.

ff

f

8vb

legatissimo

8

How sweet - ly sleeps the sing - er With calm - ly fold - ed eyes,

Repeat as needed,
2-5 times.

mp

Repeat sim.

f

mp

8vb

8

And on the breast of the bard at rest The harp that he

Pno.

f *mp* *f* *mp*

Repeat sim. Repeat sim.

8vb - -'

8

sound-ed lies. _____ Ah _____

Pno.

f *mp*

Repeat sim.

(let ring)

8vb - -'

Ped. off!

D **Frenetic, Violent** ♩ = 132
In time with piano *f*

22

8

The cas - tle walls are fall - - -

D **Frenetic, Violent** ♩ = 132
In time with voice (normal, not plucked)

Pno.

f *staccatissimo* *sim.*

26

ing _____ And war dis -

Pno.

30

tracts the land, _____

Pno.

34

But the sword, _____ the _____

Pno.

The Two Coffins

38 *ff*

8 sword, the sword

Pno.

42

8 — leaps not from that mil - - - dew'd

Pno.

46

8 spot

Pno.

Harp Music Slow and Free

E **Freely** half-spoken *mp*

There in that dead king's hand.

E *ff* *mp* *ff* (plucked)

Ped. (no change through end.)

But with ev' - ry grace of na - ture

There seems to float a-long,

Repeat as needed, 2-5 times. *mp*

Repeat sim. *f* *mp*

Ped. *8vb*

To cheer a-gain the hearts of men The sing-er's death - less song.

Piano accompaniment includes two boxed sections labeled "Repeat sim." with dynamics *f* and *mp*. A *8vb* marking is present in the bass line.

Ah _____ Ah _____

Piano accompaniment includes two boxed sections labeled "Repeat sim." with dynamics *f* and *mp*. A *8vb* marking is present in the bass line.

Ah _____

Piano accompaniment includes a boxed section labeled "Repeat sim." with dynamics *f*, *mp*, and *pp*. A *(let ring)* instruction is present.

Let Ped. ring for some time. END.