

JAMES McCARTHY

A Quoi Bon Dire

for SATB Choir, a cappella

A Quoi Bon Dire

by Charlotte Mew

Seventeen days* ago you said
Something that sounded like goodbye;
And everybody thinks that you are dead,
But I.

So I, as I grow stiff and cold
To this and that say goodbye too;
And everybody sees that I am old
But you.

And one fine morning in a sunny lane
Some boy and girl will meet and kiss and swear
That nobody can love their way again
While over there
You will have smiled, I shall have tossed your hair.

*The original poem reads 'years' rather than 'days'.

A Quoi Bon Dire was originally part of the oratorio *17 Days*, which was commissioned by Crouch End Festival Chorus and is dedicated to their music director David Temple. *17 Days* was premiered at the Barbican, London, on February 5, 2012, by Crouch End Festival Chorus and London Orchestra da Camera, conducted by David Temple.

For more information about this and other works by James McCarthy, visit
www.jamesmccarthy.co.uk

Commissioned by Crouch End Festival Chorus

A Quoi Bon Dire

Poem by
Charlotte Mew

for SATB choir, a cappella

Music by
James McCarthy

$\text{♩} = \text{c.}58$

Soprano
Se - ven-teen days, Se - ven-teen days, Se - ven-teen days a - go you

Alto
Se - ven-teen days, Se - ven-teen days, Se - ven-teen days a - go you

Tenor
Se - ven-teen days, Se - ven-teen days, Se - ven-teen days a - go you

Bass
Se - ven-teen days, Se - ven-teen days, Se - ven-teen days a - go you

Piano
(for practice only)

8
S.
said some-thing that soun-ded like good-bye, you said some-thing that soun-ded like good-bye, you

A.
said some-thing that soun-ded like good-bye, you said some-thing that soun-ded like good-bye, you

T.
said some-thing that soun-ded like good-bye, you said some-thing that soun-ded like good-bye, you

B.
said some-thing that soun-ded like good-bye, you said some-thing that soun-ded like good-bye, you

Pf.

14

S. *ff* *f* *mp*
 said some-thing that soun-ded like good-bye, good - bye, -

A. *ff* *f* *mp*
 said some-thing that soun-ded like good-bye, good - bye, -

T. *ff* *f* *mp*
 said some-thing that soun-ded like good-bye, good - bye, -

B. *ff* *f* *mp*
 said some-thing that soun-ded like good-bye, good - bye, -

Pf.

20

S. *p*
 good - bye. And ev - ry - bo - dy thinks that you are dead, but I.

A. *p*
 good - bye. ev - ry - bo - dy thinks that you are dead, but I.

T. *p*
 good - bye. ev - ry - bo - dy thinks that you are dead, but I.

B. *p* *p*
 good - bye. ev - ry - bo - dy thinks that you are dead, but I. So I,

Pf.

25

S. *f* So I, *f* so I, *p sub.* As I grow stiff and cold to this and that say good-bye

A. *mf* So I, *f* so I, *p sub.* As I grow stiff and cold to this and that say good-bye

T. *mp* So I, *f* so I, *p sub.* As I grow stiff and cold to this and that say good-bye

B. *f* so I, *p sub.* As I grow stiff and cold to this and that say good-bye

Pf.

31

S. too. *mf* And *f* And ev' ry - bo - dy sees that I am

A. too. *mp* And *f* And ev' ry - bo - dy sees that I am

T. too. *mp* And *f* And ev' ry - bo - dy sees that I am

B. *p* too. And *f* And ev' ry - bo - dy sees that I am

Pf.

36

S. *p* old but you. *pp* And one fine mor-ning *p* in a sun-ny lane Some

A. *p* old but you. *pp* And one fine mor-ning *p* in a sun-ny lane Some

T. *p* old but you. *pp* And one fine mor-ning *p* in a sun-ny lane Some

B. *p* old but you. *pp* And one fine mor-ning *p* in a sun-ny lane Some

Pf.

43

S. *mf* boy and girl will meet and kiss and swear *f* Some boy and girl will meet and kiss and swear Some

A. *mf* boy and girl will meet and kiss and swear *f* Some boy and girl will meet and kiss and swear Some

T. *mf* boy and girl will meet and kiss and swear *f* Some boy and girl will meet and kiss and swear Some

B. *mf* boy and girl will meet and kiss and swear *f* Some boy and girl will meet and kiss and swear Some

Pf.

49

S. *ff* *p*
 boy and girl will meet and kiss and swear that no-bo-dy can love their way a -

A. *ff* *p*
 boy and girl will meet and kiss and swear that no-bo-dy can love their way a -

T. *ff* *p*
 boy and girl will meet and kiss and swear that no-bo-dy can love their way a -

B. *ff* *p*
 boy and girl will meet and kiss and swear no-bo-dy can love their way a -

Pf.

54

S. *mf* *f*
 gain That no - bo - dy can love, That no - bo - dy can love, That

A. *mf* *f*
 gain That no - bo - dy can love, That no - bo - dy can love, That

T. *mf* *f*
 gain That no - bo - dy can love, That no - bo - dy can love, That

B. *mf* *f*
 gain That no - bo - dy can love, That no - bo - dy can love, That

Pf.

57

S. *mf* no-bo-dy can love, While o-ver there you would have smiled, *p* I shall have tossed your hair.

A. *mf* no-bo-dy can love, there you would have smiled, *p* I shall have tossed your hair.

T. *mf* no-bo-dy can love, While o-ver there you would have smiled, *p* I shall have tossed your hair.

B. *mf* no-bo-dy can love, there you would have smiled, *p* I shall have tossed your hair.

Pf.

61

S. *pp* Se-ven-teen days, Se-ven-teen days, *ppp* hmmm hmmm

A. *pp* Se-ven-teen days, Se-ven-teen days, *ppp* hmmm hmmm

T. *pp* Se-ven-teen days, Se-ven-teen days, *ppp* hmmm hmmm

B. *pp* Se-ven-teen days, Se-ven-teen days, *ppp* hmmm hmmm

Pf.