

OXFORD

Cecilia McDowall

If I Touched the Earth

Baritone and piano

OXFORD

Cecilia McDowall

If I Touched the Earth

Baritone and piano

Commissioned by Jeremy Huw Williams in association with the Ralph Vaughan Williams Trust
to mark the centenary of the poet Dylan Thomas

If I Touched the Earth

1. Clown in the moon

Dylan Thomas
(1914–53)

CECILIA McDOWALL

Always flowing, unhurried ♩. = c. 40

BARITONE

PIANO

mf *espress.* *LH ad lib.* *f* *always resonant* *con molto Ped.* *8^{vb}*

mf My

5 *intense* *mf*

tears are like the quiet drift Of pe-tals from some ma-gic rose; And

mp dolce *mf intense* *2* *(8)*

9 *f*

all my grief flows from the rift Of un-re-mem-bered skies

mp delicatamente *f* *loco* *8^{vb}*

First performed by Jeremy Huw Williams (baritone) and Nigel Foster (piano) on 7 October 2014 in the St David's Hall, Cardiff.

Music © Oxford University Press 2016. Text © The Trustees for the Copyrights of Dylan Thomas.

Printed in Great Britain

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, MUSIC DEPARTMENT, GREAT CLARENDON STREET, OXFORD OX2 6DP
The Moral Rights of the Composer have been asserted. Photocopying this copyright material is ILLEGAL

13

and _____ snows.

p *dolciss.*

(8) *loco* *8vb*

17

I think that if I

mf *f*

8vb

19

touched the earth, I think that it would

RH *8vb*

21

crum - ble. It is so sad and

LH *8vb*

23

beau - - - ti - ful, So

RH

RH 8^{va}

24

tre - mu - lous - ly like a dream,

RH 8^{va}

RH 8^{va} Ped.

8^{va}

26

like a dream.

(8) loco

29

p dolce

mm

8^{va}

pp

Ped.

32

mm *mp* It

(8)

mf

35

is so sad and beau - ti - ful, So tre - mu-lous-ly like a

p

38

dream, like a dream.

mp

8^{va}

(8)

41

poco rit.

mf *f* *mf*

(8)

2. Being but men

Walking pace, in mystery ♩ = c.108

BARITONE

PIANO

*legatissimo**mf**leggiero**con Ped.*

5

mp

Be - ing but

*f**mf**mp*

9

*mf**mp*

men, we walked in-to the trees. A - fraid, a - fraid,

*mf**mp*

13 *p* 3 *mp* *mf*

let - ting our syl - la - bles be soft For fear of wak - ing the

17 *mf* 3 *mp* 3

rooks, For fear of com - ing Noise - less - ly in - to a world of wings and

21 *mf*

cries.

25 *mf dolce* 3 *mp* *mf*

If we were chil - dren we might climb,

29

mp

Catch the rooks sleep - ing, and break no twig,

mf

33

mp

And, af - ter the soft as - cent,

mp *f*

(head voice)

37

mf *f*

Thrust out our heads a - bove the bran - ches To won - der at un - fail - ing stars.

mf *f*

poco rit. *a tempo*

molto Ped.

41

pochiss. rit. *a tempo*

mp dolce

44 *mf*

Out of con - fu - sion, as the way is, And the won - der that man knows,

mf

47 *f*

Out of the cha - os would come bliss.

f

50 *mf*

That, then, is love - li - ness, we said, Chil - dren in

mp

53 *mf*

won - der watch - ing the stars, Is the aim and the

mp

mp *dolciss.*

sempre molto Ped.

56

poco rit.

end.

59

a tempo

legatissimo

p *mf*

leggero

con Ped.

63

mp *3*

Be - ing but

f *mp*

rit.

66

mp *3*

men, we walked in-to the trees.

pp

3. Here in this spring

Joyous ♩ = 66

BARITONE

PIANO

mf *sempre leggiero*

con Ped.

5 *mf* *mp* *leggiero*

Here in this spring, _____ stars float a - long the void; _____

sim. *mp*

9 *mp* *mf*

Here in this spring; _____

13 *mp*

Here in this or - na - men - tal win - ter Down pelts the na - ked wea - ther;

mp

17 *mp dolce* *mf*

This sum - mer bu - ries a spring bird.

dolce

21 *mf*

Sym - bols are se - lect - ed from the

mf

24 *mf* *mp*

years' Slow round - ing of four sea - sons' coasts, sea - sons' coasts,

mp

28 *mp*

In au - tumn teach three sea - sons' fires,

mf *mp*

32 *mf* *mp dolce*

teach three — sea - sons' fires — And four ² birds', —

36 *f*

four birds' — notes. — I should tell sum-mer

f resonant

40

from the trees, the worms Tell, — if at all, — the win - ter's storms — Or the

44

fu - ne - ral of the sun;

47

mf

I should learn spring by the cuc - koo - ing And the

50

slug should teach me de - struc - tion.

f *mf* *sim.*

54

f *mf* *f* *mf*

f

62

mf

A

66

worm— tells sum - mer bet - ter, sum - mer bet - ter than— the clock,—

mf

70

mf

Here in this spring;

The

f

74

slug's a liv - ing ca - len-dar of days; What shall it tell me if a time - less in - sect

mf

78

mp dolce Says ² the world wears a - way, *mf*

mp

82

mp Says ² the world wears a - way, *mf*

mp

86

p wears a - way. *f* Here in this spring.

p *mf* *f*