

Nigel Keay

**The Voice**  
for mixed chorus a cappella

A setting of the poem by Dunstan Ward

**The Voice**

A distant cry stopped me as I followed,  
in the island's afternoon heat, the goat track  
twisting between the thorn bushes and rocks  
around the cliffs above the glittering bay.

Below me, a lone fisherman was singing,  
a high, harsh song, careless yet impassioned,  
that he kept up even while he heaved the bow  
of his turquoise-painted boat against the swell.

I stood there listening, envious and chastened,  
as though this were the sound I had longed to hear  
through tide on tide of silence and self-doubt,  
the voice of one attuned to himself, to life.

*Patmos*

# The Voice

Lyricist: Dunstan Ward

for mixed chorus a cappella

Nigel Keay

Maestoso ♩ = 58

*mf*

Soprano

A dis - tant cry stopped me as I fol - lowed,

*mf*

Alto

cry stopped me as I fol - lowed

*mf*

Tenor

cry stopped me as I fol - lowed,

*mf*

Bass

A dis - tant cry fol - lowed,

*mf*

Piano\*

5

S.

in the is - - land's af - ter - noon af - ter - noon heat, -

A.

in the is - - land's af - ter - noon heat, the goat track

T.

in the is - - land's af - ter - noon heat, the goat track

B.

is - land's af - ter - noon heat, the goat

Pn

\* Piano for rehearsal purposes only.

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## The Voice

3

9

S. *mp* *mf* *mp*  
twis - ting twis - ting be - tween the thorn

A. *mp* *f* *mp*  
twis - ting be - tween the thorn thorn

T. *mp* *mf* *mp*  
twis - ting twis - ting be - tween be - tween the thorn

B. *mp* *mf*  
track twis - ting be - tween the thorn

Pn *mp* *f* *mp*  
twis - ting twis - ting be - tween the thorn

12

S. *f* *mp*  
bush - es and rocks a - round the

A. *f* *mp*  
bush - es and rocks a - round a - round the

T. *f* *mp*  
bush - es and rocks a - round the

B. *f* *mp*  
bush - es and rocks a - round the cliffs a -

Pn *f* *mp*  
bush - es and rocks a - round the cliffs a -

## The Voice

16

**S.** *f* cliffs a - bove the glit - ter - ing bay.

**A.** *f* cliffs a - bove the bay the glit - ter - ing

**T.** *f* cliffs a - bove a - bove the glit - ter ing bay the

**B.** *f* - bove the bay the

**Pn**

19

**S.** *p* Be - low *mf* me, *mp* a lone

**A.** *p* bay. *mf* Be *mp* low a lone

**T.** *p* glit - ter - ing bay. *mf* Be - low *mp* me, a lone

**B.** *p* bay *mf* Be - low *mp* me, a lone

**Pn**

24 *mf* *p* *mf* *f* *mp*

S. fish - er - man was sing - ing, a high, harsh song, care - less

A. fish - er - man was sing - ing, a high, harsh song, care - less

T. fish - er - man was sing - ing, a harsh song,

B. fish - er - man sing - ing care - less

Pn

29 *mf* *f*

S. yet im - pas - sioned, that he kept up kept up kept

A. yet im - pas - sioned, that he kept up kept up

T. yet im - pas - sioned, that he kept up up

B. im - pas - sioned, that he kept up kept up

Pn

32

S. *f*  
up heaved the bow

A. *mf* *f*  
while he heaved the bow

T. *mf*  
e - ven while e - ven while he heaved

B. *mf*  
e - - ven while he heaved the bow

Pn *dim.* *mf*

35

S. *mf* *f*  
of his tur - quoise - paint - ed boat a - - gainst the

A. *mf* *f*  
the bow of his tur - quoise boat a - - gainst the

T. *mf* *f*  
heaved his boat a - gainst a - gainst the

B. *mf* *f*  
of his tur - quoise - paint - ed boat a - gainst a - gainst the

Pn *mf* *f*

39 *p* *f*

S. swell. I stood there list - en - ing,

A. swell. I stood there I stood there *mp*

T. swell. I stood there list - en - *mp*

B. swell. I stood there list - en - ing,

Pn *p* *f*

43 *p* *rfz* *pp*

S. en - vi - ous and chas - tened, chas - tened - as though

A. en - vi - ous chas - tened, chas - tened as though *rfz* *pp*

T. - ing, en - vi - ous and chas - tened, as though *pp*

B. as though this were *p* *rfz* *pp*

Pn *p*

*rallentando*.....*a tempo*

## The Voice

45 *mp* 3 *mf* *rallentando* *p* *a tempo*

S. this were the sound sound I longed longed to

A. this were the sound the sound the sound I longed to

T. this were the sound the sound I longed to

B. the sound I longed to

Pn

49 *f* *f*

S. hear through tide on tide of

A. hear through tide on tide on tide of

T. hear through tide on tide of

B. hear through tide on tide of

Pn



52 *mp* *f* *f*

S. si - - lence self - doubt, the voice of one

A. si - - lence and self - doubt,

T. si - - lence

B. si - - lence and self - doubt, voice of one

Pn *mp* *f* *f*

56 *mp* *p* *p*

S. at - tuned to him - self, to life

A. at - tuned to him - self, to life

T. at - tuned to him - self, to life

B. at - tuned to him - self, to life

Pn *mp* *p*