

Nigel Keay

Beyond Puketapu for mixed chorus a cappella

A setting of the poem by Dunstan Ward

Beyond Puketapu

The wind, hissing through dry stalks,
small, thorny bushes that from a distance
might have been manuka, matagouri,
persisted, chill as the easterly tearing
over the tussocked Back Block ridges,
the farm's highest, farthest from the house,
that we climbed till we could just make out,
in a gap between the hills, beyond Puketapu,
a deeper blue: the sea

and even though there was wild thyme, sage, in this wind,
the sprinkle of small bells,
and the sea below me glowed with an older name

I thought, I have come so far only to be as near,
perhaps in this place I will find what we looked for there
like something we had lost, yet never known

and climbing the steep, rock-scarred side of the hill
I saw a sudden snake:

gold, slender,
it watched me, coiled,
next instant lost in the rustling grass ...

Beyond Puketapu

for mixed chorus a cappella

Lyricist: Dunstan Ward

Nigel Keay

Largo ♩ = 56

Soprano
p The wind, the wind, the wind, his - sing through dry stalks,
mp

Alto
p The wind, the wind, the wind, his - sing through dry stalks,
mp

Tenor
p The wind, the wind, the wind, his - sing through dry stalks,
mp

Bass
p The wind, the wind, the wind, his - sing through dry stalks,
mp

Piano*
p *mp*

7 *mf* *mp*

S. small, thor - ny bush - es that from a dis - tance might have
A. small, thor - ny bush - es that from a dis - tance might have
T. small, small, bush - es that might have been from a dis - tance might have
B. small, small, bush - es that from a dis - tance might

Pno

* Piano for rehearsal purposes only.

12 *mf*

S. might have been ma - ta - gou - ri, per - sis - ted, chill as the

A. been ma - nu - ka, ma - ta gou - ri, per - sis - ted, chill as the

T. been ma - nu - ka, might have been per - sis - ted, chill

B. *mp* have been ma - ta - gou - ri per - sis - ted, chill chill as the east - er - ly

Pno

16 *f* *mp*

S. east - er - ly__ tear - ing o - ver the tus - socked Back Block rid - ges, the farm's

A. *f* east - er - ly__ tear - ing ov - er Back Block rid - ges, the farm's

T. *f* east - er - ly tear - ing the farm's

B. *f* tear - ing ov - er ov - er tear - ing tear - ing ov - er the farm's

Pno

Beyond Puketapu

21 *p* *mp* *mf*

S. high - est, far - thest from the house, that we climbed climbed till

A. high - - est, far - thest from the house, that we climbed till

T. the farm's high - - est, we climbed

B. that we climbed climbed climbed till

Pno *p* *mp* *mf*

25 *f* *f* *f*

S. we could just make out, the hills be - yond be -

A. we in a gap be - tween the hills be - yond be -

T. we could just make out, be - yond be -

B. we could just make out, hills be - yond be -

Pno *f*

29

S. *mf* *mf*
 - yond Pu - ke - ta - pu a deep - er blue: the sea and e - ven though there was

A. *mf* *mf*
 - yond be - yond blue: the sea and e - ven though there was

T. *mf* *mf*
 - yond be - yond a deep - er blue: the sea and e - ven though there was

B. *mf*
 - yond e - ven though there was

Pno *mf*

34

S. *f* *mp*
 wild thyme, sage, in this wind, the sprin - kle of small bells, and the sea

A. *f* *mp* *p*
 thyme, sage, in this wind the sprin kle of small bells be -

T. *f* *mf* *mp* *p*
 thyme, sage, in this wind, bells, and the sea be -

B. *f* *mp* *mp* *p*
 thyme, sage, in this wind, the sprin - kle of small bells, and the sea be -

Pno *f* *mp* *mp* *p*

39

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno

44

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno

48

S. *f* near, per - haps *mf* in this place I will find what we looked for

A. *f* per - haps *mf* in this place *mf* what we looked for

T. *f* near, per - haps *mf* in this place *mf* I will find what we looked for

B. *f* near, per - haps *mf* in this place *mf* I will find

Pno

52

S. *mp* there like some - thing we had lost, *mf* yet nev - er known and

A. *mp* there like some - thing we had lost, *mf* yet nev - er known and

T. *mp* there like some - thing we had lost, *mf* yet nev - er known and

B. *mp* there some - thing we had lost, *mf* yet nev - er known

Pno

56

S. *mp* climb - ing the steep, rock - scarred side of the hill I *p*

A. *mp* climb - ing the steep, rock - scarred side of the hill I *p*

T. *p* climb - ing climb - ing I *p*

B. - - - - -

Pno *mp* *p*

60

S. *mp* saw a sud - den sud - den snake: *mf* *f*

A. *mp* saw a sud - den sud - den snake: *mf* *f*

T. *mp* saw a sud - den sud - den snake: *mf* *f*

B. *mp* a sud - den sud - den snake: *mf* *f*

Pno *mp* *mf* *f*

63

S. *f* *p* *f* *poco rit.*..... *a tempo*
 gold,_____ slen - der it it watched me,_____ coiled,_____ next

A. *f* *p* *f*
 gold,_____ slen - der_____ slen - der it watched me,_____ coiled,_____ next

T. *f* *p*
 gold,_____ slen - der_____ coiled,_____ next

B. *f* *p* *f*
 gold,_____ slen - der slen - der it watched me,_____ coiled,_____ next

Pno *f* *p* *f* *poco rit.*..... *a tempo*

66

S. *mp* *pp*
 in - stant lost in the rust - ling grass....

A. *mp* *pp*
 in - stant lost in the rust - ling grass....

T. *mp* *pp*
 in - stant lost in the rust - ling grass....

B. *mp* *pp*
 in - stant lost in the rust - ling grass....

Pno *mp* *pp*