

To the Townspeople of Amherst, Massachusetts, 1759-1959

The Telephone*

dialogue for seven-part chorus of mixed voices with piano or orchestra

Robert Frost

Randall Thompson

Allegretto scherzoso (♩ = 116)

SOPRANO

ALTO I

ALTO II

TENOR I

TENOR II

BASS I

BASS II

The women's chorus may remain seated during performance, if desired.

PIANO

Allegretto scherzoso (♩ = 116)

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4

TENOR I 5 *a tempo*
(*rall.*) *p*

TENOR II *a tempo*
(*rall.*) *p*

BASS I *a tempo*
(*rall.*) *p*

BASS II *a tempo*
(*rall.*) *p*

'When I was just as far as

'When I was just as far as

'When I was just as far as

'When I was just as far as

a tempo 5 *rall.* *a tempo*

f *p*

*poco rall. ** *a tempo*

8 I could walk From here to - day, There was an hour

poco rall. *a tempo*

8 I could walk From here to - day, There was an hour

poco rall. *a tempo*

I could walk From here to - day, There was an hour

poco rall. *a tempo*

I could walk From here to - day, There was an hour

poco rall. *a tempo*

m.d.

* Subdivide the 2nd and 3rd beats

10
pp *p cresc.* *poco rall.**

8 All still When lean-ing with my head a-gainst a flow'r

8 All still When lean-ing with my head a-gainst a flow'r

All still When lean-ing with my head a-gainst a flow'r

10 *pp* *p cresc.* *poco rall.*

a tempo *mf* *mf*

8 I heard you talk. Don't say I did - n't, for I

8 I heard you talk. Don't say I did - n't, for I

I heard you talk. Don't say I did - n't, for I

a tempo *mf* *mf*

I heard you talk. Don't say I did - n't, for I

*Subdivide the 2nd and 3rd beats.

8 heard you say — You spoke from that flow - er on the

8 heard you say — You spoke from that flow - er on the

8 heard you say — You spoke from that flow - er on the

8 heard you say — You spoke from that flow - er on the

15

pp win-dow sill — *f dolce* Do you re - mem - ber — *Poco ritenuto* what it was you

pp win-dow sill — *f dolce* Do you re - mem - ber — what it was you

pp win-dow sill — *f dolce* Do you re - mem - ber — what it was you

pp win-dow sill — *f dolce* Do you re - mem - ber — what it was you

Poco ritenuto

20 **Tempo I**
SOPRANO

(*poco rall.*)

p prudente

ALTO I

(*poco rall.*)

'First
p prudente

ALTO II

(*poco rall.*)

'First
p prudente

20 **Tempo I°**

(*poco rall.*)

'First

said?'

(*poco rall.*)

said?'

(*poco rall.*)

said?'

(*poco rall.*)

said?'

20 **Tempo I°**

poco rall.

Ped.
a tempo

25

tell me what it was you thought you heard.'

a tempo

tell me what it was you thought you heard.'

a tempo

tell me what it was you thought you heard.'

a tempo

25

heard.'

pp

p

p

Ped.

(*accel.*) (*rall.*)

(*accel.*) (*rall.*)

(*accel.*) (*rall.*)

accel. *rall.* *mf* *p*

(*Red. sempre*) *

30

Tempo I°

TENOR I

poco rall. *

p 'Hav - ing found the flow'r and driv'n a bee a - way,

TENOR II

poco rall.

p 'Hav - ing found the flow'r and driv'n a bee a - way,

BASS I

poco rall.

p 'Hav - ing found the flow'r and driv'n a bee a - way,

BASS II

poco rall.

p 'Hav - ing found the flow'r and driv'n a bee a - way,

30

Tempo I°

poco rall.

poco sfz

*Subdivide the 2nd and 3rd beats.

a tempo *poco a poco cresc.*

8 I lean'd my head, And hold-ing by the stalk, I

a tempo *poco a poco cresc.*

8 I lean'd my head, And hold-ing by the stalk, I

a tempo *poco a poco cresc.*

I lean'd my head, And hold-ing by the stalk, I

a tempo *poco a poco cresc.*

I lean'd my head, And hold-ing by the stalk, I

a tempo *poco a poco cresc.*

p *m. d.* *poco a poco cresc.*

35 *appassionato*

8 list - en'd and I thought I caught the word — What

appassionato

8 list - en'd and I thought I caught the word — What

appassionato

list - en'd and I thought I caught the word — What

appassionato

list - en'd and I thought I caught the word — What

35 *appassionato*

f *p* *f* *p* *pp* *poco a poco rall.* 40

8 was it? Did you call me by my name? Or did you say —

f *p* *f* *p* *pp* *poco a poco rall.*

8 was it? Did you call me by my name? Or did you say —

f *p* *f* *p* *pp* *poco a poco rall.*

was it? Did you call me by my name? Or did you say —

f *p* *f* *p* *pp* *poco a poco rall.*

was it? Did you call me by my name? Or did you say —

sotto *poco a poco rall.* 40

p

Meno mosso *pp* *rall.* *poch.* *a tempo* *p*

8 Some-one said "Come"— I heard it as I

pp *rall.* *poch.* *a tempo* *p*

8 Some-one said "Come"— I heard it as I

pp *rall.* *poch.* *a tempo* *mp* *espressivo*

Some-one said "Come"— I heard it as I

pp *rall.* *poch.* *a tempo* *p*

Some-one said "Come"— I heard it as I

Meno mosso *rall.* *a tempo*

pp

Fin. *

45 SOPRANO *poco rall.* *p* *a tempo*

ALTO I *poco rall.* *p* may have thought as *a tempo*

ALTO II *poco rall.* *p* may have thought as *a tempo*

may have thought as

poco rall. (a tempo)

bow'd.' *poco rall.* (a tempo)

bow'd.' *poco rall.* (a tempo)

bow'd.' *poco rall.* (a tempo)

bow'd.' *poco rall.* (a tempo)

45 *poco rall.* *a tempo*

p *pp* *p*

Red.

50 *pp* (accel.)

much, but not a - loud! *pp* (accel.)

much, but not a - loud! *pp* (accel.)

much, but not a - loud! *pp* (accel.)

much, but not a - loud! *pp* (accel.)

50 *pp molto cresc.* *accel.*

Red.

8 'Well, so I came.'

TENOR II *ff a tempo pp*

8 'Well, so I came.'

BASS I *ff a tempo pp*

8 'Well, so I came.'

BASS II *ff a tempo pp*

8 'Well, so I came.'

a tempo

55
Tempo I°

pp

SOPRANO

*p molto cresc.**f*

60

ALTO I

*Mm (humming)**p molto cresc.**f*

ALTO II

*Mm (humming)**p molto cresc.**f**Mm (humming)*

molto cresc.

p

f

p

mf

p

ppp

pp

poco sfz

*Red. **

THE TELEPHONE*

'When I was just as far as I could walk
From here today,
There was an hour
All still
When leaning with my head against a flower
I heard you talk.
Don't say I didn't, for I heard you say —
You spoke from that flower on the window sill —
Do you remember what it was you said?'

'First tell me what it was you thought you heard.'

'Having found the flower and driven a bee away,
I leaned my head,
And holding by the stalk,
I listened and I thought I caught the word —
What was it? Did you call me by my name?
Or did you say —
Someone said "Come" — I heard it as I bowed.'

'I may have thought as much, but not aloud.'

'Well, so I came.'

ROBERT FROST