

Tie Me to the Mast

for Treble Choir and Piano

Perusal Score

Zachary Bell

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Zachary Bell Music – ASCAP

Tie Me to the Mast

Duration: 5 minutes

Instrumentation: SSAA (at least two of each part), piano

I. Aphrodite

II. Siren

III. Undying Hearth

Program Notes:

Tie Me to the Mast is a 5 minute work in three movements for treble choir and piano. The piece was written for the Peabody Camerata under the direction of Beth Willer and was recorded by the ensemble in 2023.

In Movement 1 I set the text of Ovid, which brings forth the idea of Venus' touch affecting all. Although she does not inspire love out of kindness, she does not do so out of malevolence either. It is not in our control when or how we might experience love, but it is a remarkable and integral part of life. Regardless of the outcome, love is something worth experiencing.

In Movement 2 I set my original poem, "Siren," which expresses my experience of falling for someone despite the inclination that they are not interested in a relationship with me. I pursued closure, which came in the form of rejection, as I felt unable to deal with ambivalency. I draw a comparison between this and the sirens in Homer's *The Odyssey*. Despite the resulting pain, it was irresistible for me to pursue the potential relationship to its end. Thus, just as Odysseus asked of his sailors, I ask to be "tied to the mast" to avoid swimming to my death.

In Movement 3 I set more original text—this time based on my experience with my current girlfriend. In this relationship, I feel a sense of peace, security, and warmth. Time seems to pass by more slowly when I'm with her, and being in her presence is like sitting next to a fire that does not dwindle—an undying hearth.

Text:

I. "Aphrodite" by Ovid

Even the sun
whose light
rules all the
stars has known
love's kingdom.

The mistress of love is not kind
she is not malevolent either.

Even the toughest of warriors have
known the touch of Venus

through the outreach of her pink light
that shines between us.

II. "Siren" by Zachary Bell

I am a helpless sailor at sea
When I hear your sweet voice
And row towards you
My oar pushing against the water
My strength is faltering

You call for me
And I think that this may be the time
That you're not a siren and I am not a helpless sailor

My heart fills with hope
As I walk onto shore
But even as I trod through the thick gray sand
Doubt begins to fill my mind

I am helpless
I cannot leave and regret rowing away from you
So I offer my heart to do with as you will
And as you eat it
I am relieved

III. "Undying Hearth" by Zachary Bell

Like an imperceptibly fading sunset, the time I spend with you is frozen.
Being with you, I feel at peace.
I give love, and I receive it.

Holding you in my arms is sitting by the fireplace.
Holding you in my arms is tender warmth spreading through me.

Performance Notes:

- Accidentals carry through the measure unless interrupted by another accidental, but courtesy accidentals are provided throughout.
- A tenuto mark indicates that the note should be given more weight, but should not be emphasized as much as notes with accent marks.
- A "7" in place of or attached to an accidental indicates that the pitch is the 7th partial of a harmonic series, and should be lowered by approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of a semitone. This carries through the measure, just as accidentals do.

I'm especially grateful to Dr. Beth Willer, Prof. Michael Hersch, and Dr. Sky Macklay for their time, advice, and support.

Tie Me to the Mast

for the Peabody Camerata

Zachary Bell

I. Aphrodite

Chant-like, Oracular $\text{♩} = 60$

Soprano I *solo* *mf* *f* *mf* *poco rit.....* *mp* *a tempo* *mf* *f* *mf*

Ev - en the sun whose light rules all the stars has known loves king - dom

Soprano II *solo* *mf* *f* *mf* *poco rit.....* *mp* *a tempo* *mf* *f* *mf*

Ev - en the sun whose light rules all the stars has known love

Alto I

Alto II

Piano Chant-like, Oracular $\text{♩} = 60$ *poco rit.....* *a tempo* *mp*

7 **Più mosso** ($\text{♩} = 72$)

S. I

S. II

2 singers *mf* *f* *mf* *mp* *mp* *mf* *mp*

The mis - tress of love is not kind she is not ma - lev - o - lent ei - ther

2 singers *mf* *f* *mf* *mp* *mp* *mf* *mp*

The mis - tress of love is not kind she is not ma - lev - o - lent ei -

Pno. **Più mosso** ($\text{♩} = 72$)

13 solo *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *poco rit.* *a tempo* *mp*

S. I
E - ven the tough - est of war - riors have known the touch of Ve - nus

S. II
E - ven the tough - est of war - riors have known the touch of Ve - nus

A. I

A. II *mp*
- ther

Pno. *p*

18 2 singers *mf* *più f* *mf* *attacca*

S. I
through the out - reach of her pink light_ that shines be - tween us

S. II
through the out - reach of her pink light_ that shines be - tween us

A. I
through the out - reach of her pink light_ that shines be - tween us

A. II
through the out - reach of her pink light_ that shines be - tween us *attacca*

Pno. *mf* *f*

2. Siren

♩ = 80

Soprano I

Soprano II

Alto I

Alto II

Piano

all singers *mp*

I am a help - less

all singers *mp*

I am a help - less

mp *f* *mp*

mp *p* *mp*

5

S. I

S. II

A. I

A. II

Pno.

all singers *mf* *f* *< più f* *mf*

when I hear your sweet voice and row tow'rds you

all singers *mf* *f* *< più f* *mf*

when I hear your sweet voice and row tow'rds you

mf *f* *< più f* *mf*

sail - or at sea voice and row tow'rds you

mf *f* *< più f* *mf*

sail - or at sea voice and row tow'rds you

mf *f* *mf* *f* *< più f* *mp sub.*

mf *mp* *f* *mf sub.*

10

f *mf* *f* *< più f* *mf*

S. I
You call for me and I think this may be the time that you're not a si - ren

S. II
You call for me and I think this may be the time that you're not a si - ren

A. I
You call for me and I think this may be the time that you're not a si - ren

A. II
You call for me and I think this may be the time that you're not a si - ren

Pno.
f *mf* *f* *più f* *mf* *p sub.*

f *mf* *f* *più f* *mf* *p*

Red.

14

mp *f* *> mp* *mp* *f* *p*

S. I
and I am not a help - less sail - or help - less sail - or

S. II
and I am not a help - less sail - or help - less sail - or

A. I
and I am not a help - less sail - or help - less sail - or

A. II
and I am not a help - less sail - or help - less sail - or

Pno.
f *più f* *mf* *f* *mf*

f *mf* *mf*

18 *mp* *poco accel.*..... *f*

S. I My heart fills_ with__ hope as I walk on - to shore but I

S. II *mp* *f* *mf < f*

S. II My heart fills_ with__ hope as I walk on - to shore (e) - ven as

A. I *mp* *f* *mf*

A. I My heart fills_ with__ hope as I walk on - to shore e(ven)

A. II *mp* *f* *mp sub.*

A. II My heart fills_ with__ hope as I walk on - to the shore__ but__

Pno. *f* *mp* *mf* *poco accel.*.....

21 *poco rall.*..... *a tempo* *poco rall.*..... *poco accel.*.....

S. I *ff* *f* *mf* *p*

S. I trod_____ through the thick gray sand doubt be - gins to fill my mind__

S. II *ff* *f* *mf* *p*

S. II I trod_____ through sand doubt be - gins to fill my mind__

A. I *ff* *f* *mf* *p*

A. I I trod_____ through the thick gray sand doubt be - gins to fill my mind__

A. II *ff* *f* *mf* *p*

A. II trod_____ through sand doubt be - gins to fill my mind__

Pno. *poco rall.*..... *a tempo* *poco rall.*..... *poco accel.*.....

ff *mf* *p*

ff *mf* *f* *mp*

25 *a tempo*

S. I *f* I am help - less

S. II *f* I am help - less *mp* I can - not leave and *mf* I can - not leave and *p sub.* re -

A. I *f* I am help - less *mp* I can - not leave and *f* re - gret *mf* leave and re -

A. II *f* I am help - less *mp* I can - not leave and *mf* I can - not leave and *p sub.* re -

a tempo

Pno. *f* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p sub.*

29 *solo* *mf* *f*

S. I *so* I of - fer my heart and as you

S. II *f* -gret row - ing a - way_ from you *mp* row - ing a - way *solo p*

A. I *f* -gret row - ing a - way_ from you *mp* row - ing a - way *solo p*

A. II *f* -gret row - ing a - way_ from you *mp* row - ing a - way *solo p*

Pno. *f* *mf* *p*

molto rall.....a tempo
 all singers
mf *p sub.* **molto rall.....**

S. I
 eat it I am re - lieved

S. II
 I am re - lieved

A. I
 all singers *mf* *p sub.*
 I am re - lieved

A. II
 all singers *mf* *p sub.*
 I am re - lieved

molto rall.....a tempo **molto rall.....**

Pno.
p *mf* *mf* *ff* *f* *fff*
mp
Red.

** chromatic cluster chords can be played with the palm of the LH on the white keys and palm of the RH on the black keys. Register may be approximated*

PERUSA SCORE

3. Undying Hearth

Warm and Serene ♩ = 60

The score is for a piece titled "3. Undying Hearth" with a tempo of "Warm and Serene" at 60 beats per minute. It features four solo voices (labeled 1, 2, 3, 4) and four vocal parts (Soprano I, Soprano II, Alto I, Alto II). The piano part is currently silent. The solo parts are marked "solo mp" and include dynamic markings like "poco poco" and "mf". The vocal parts have lyrics: "Like an imperceptibly fading".

Solos

1 solo *mp* (ah) *poco poco* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

2 solo *mp* (ah) *poco poco* *poco poco* *mf* *mp*

3 solo *mp* (ah) *poco poco* *poco poco*

4 solo *mp* (ah)

Soprano I
(all singers) *mp* *f*
Like an im - - - per - cep - ti - - bly fad - ing

Soprano II
(all singers) *mp* *f*
Like an im - - - per - cep - ti - - bly fad - ing

Alto I
(all singers) *mp* *f*
Like an im - - - per - cep - - ti - bly fad -

Alto II
(all singers) *mp* *f*
Like an im - - - per - cep - - ti - bly fad -

Piano
Warm and Serene ♩ = 60

mp mp > p *mf > mp poco poco poco poco* *poco poco*
 1

mp > mf > mp
 2

Solos

3

4

p mp mf mf < f
 S. I
 sun - - set the time I spend with you is fro - - - zen

p mp mf mf
 S. II
 sun - - set the time I spend with you is fro - - - zen

p mp mf f
 A. I
 - ing sun - set the time I spend with you is fro - - - zen

p mp mf mf < f
 A. II
 - ing sun - - - set the time I spend with you is fro - - - zen

Pno. *mf*

10

poco poco

mp *mf* *mp*

mf *mp*

mf *mp*

S. I *mp* *f*

S. II *f* *mp* *f*

A. I *mp* *f*

A. II *mp* *f*

Pno. *f*

Be - ing with you I feel at

Red.

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score, page 10. It features six staves. The top four staves are labeled 'Solos' (1, 2, 3, 4) and contain instrumental parts with various dynamics and articulations. The fifth and sixth staves are vocal parts labeled 'S. I', 'S. II', 'A. I', and 'A. II' respectively, with lyrics 'Be - ing with you I feel at'. The piano part is at the bottom, labeled 'Pno.', with a forte dynamic. The score includes time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 and back to 4/4. A large watermark 'PERUSSAL SCORE' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

14

poco poco *poco poco* *poco poco* *mf*

1

2

Solos

3

4

S. I

mp *mf* *mp* *mf* *p*

peace I give love and I re - ceive it

S. II

mp *mf* *mp* *mf* *p*

peace I give love and I re - ceive it

A. I

mp *mf* *mp* *mf* *p*

peace I give love and I re - ceive it

A. II

mp *mf* *mp* *mf* *p*

peace I give love and I re - ceive it

Pno.

mf

(Ped.)

18

1 *mp* *mf* *mp*
(ah)

2 *mp*
(ah)

Solos

3 *mp*
(ah)

4 *mp*
(ah)

S. I *f* *mf* *f*
Hold - ing you _____ is sit - ting by _____ the

S. II *f* *mf* *f*
Hold - ing you _____ is sit - ting by _____ the

A. I *f* *mf* *f*
Hold - ing you _____ is sit - ting by _____ the

A. II *f* *mf* *f*
Hold - ing you _____ is sit - ting by _____ the

Pno. *p* *mp* *f* *mf* *ff* *f* *mf*
Red. *p* *più ff*

22 *poco poco* *poco poco*

1

2

Solos

3 *mf* *mp*

4

S. I *mf* *f* *più f* *mf*

fi - re - - place_____ hold - ing you is ten - der warmth spread - ing through me__

S. II *mf* *f* *più f* *mf*

fi - re - - place_____ hold - ing you_____ is ten - der warmth spread - ing through me__

A. I *mf* *f* *più f* *mf*

fi - re - place_____ hold - ing you_____ is ten - der warmth spread - ing through me__

A. II *mf* *f* *più f* *mf*

fi - re - place_____ hold - ing you_____ is ten - der warmth spread - ing through me__

Pno. *f* *più f* *f*

25

1 *mp* *mf* *mp*

2 *poco* *poco* *poco* *poco* *p*

Solos

3

4 *mp* *pp*

S. I *mp* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mp* *mf* *mp*
solo (ah)

S. II *mp* *solo* *poco* *poco*
(ah)

A. I *mp* *solo*
(ah)

A. II *mp* *solo*
(ah)

Pno. *mp*

mp

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for page 14, starting at measure 25. It features seven staves. Staves 1-4 are labeled 'Solos' and contain rhythmic patterns with dynamic markings *mp*, *mf*, *poco*, and *p*. Staves 5-6 are vocal staves for S. I and S. II, with lyrics '(ah)' and performance instructions like 'solo' and 'poco'. Staff 7 is for the Piano (Pno.), with a dynamic marking of *mp*. A large watermark 'PERUSSA SCORE' is overlaid on the page.

Perusal Score