

R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS  
TEN BLAKE SONGS



CONTENTS

	<i>page</i>
1 Infant Joy . . . . .	<i>1</i>
2 A Poison Tree . . . . .	<i>2</i>
3 The Piper . . . . .	<i>4</i>
4 London . . . . .	<i>7</i>
5 The Lamb . . . . .	<i>8</i>
6 The Shepherd . . . . .	<i>10</i>
7 Ah! Sun-flower . . . . .	<i>10</i>
8 Cruelty has a Human Heart	<i>12</i>
9 The Divine Image . . . . .	<i>13</i>
10 Eternity . . . . .	<i>14</i>

Dedicated to Wilfred Brown and Janet Craxton

# TEN BLAKE SONGS

FOR VOICE AND OBOE

WILLIAM BLAKE (1757-1827)

R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

## 1 INFANT JOY

(Tenor or Soprano)

**Andante con moto**

VOICE

OBOE

*p*

“I have no name:— I am but two days

old.’ What shall I call thee? “I hap-py am, Joy— is my name.” Sweet joy be-

- fall thee!— Pret-ty Joy! Sweet Joy, but two days

old. Sweet Joy— I call thee.— Thou dost smile, I sing— the while,

— Sweet joy be - fall thee!

Note: The oboe parts of these songs may, in case of necessity, be played on a violin or (by transposing the songs down a tone) on a B flat clarinet—but neither of these expedients is advisable. R.V.W.

## 2 A POISON TREE

(Tenor)

**Lento ma moderato**

VOICE

OBOE

*p*

I was an-gry with my friend:\_\_\_\_\_ I told my wrath, my wrath did

end.\_\_\_\_\_ I was an-gry with my foe:\_\_\_\_\_ I told it

not, my wrath did grow.\_\_\_\_\_ And I wa-ter'd it in

fears, Night and morn-ing with my tears;\_\_\_\_\_ and I sun-nèd it with

smiles, — And with soft de- ceit- ful wiles.

And it grew both day and night, Till it bore an ap- ple bright;

— And my foe be-held it shine, And he knew that it was mine, —

— And in - to my gar- den stole When the night had veil'd the pole: In the

morn - ing glad I see My foe — out - stretch'd be-neath the tree.

## 3 THE PIPER

(Tenor or Soprano)

**Allegro moderato** (♩ = 63)

VOICE

Pip - ing down the

OBOE

*f* *p*

val - leys wild, Pip - ing songs of plea - sant glee, On a

cloud I saw a child, And he laugh - ing said to me: "Pipe a

song a - bout a Lamb." So I piped with mer - ry

cheer. "Pi - per, pipe that song a - gain;" So I

*f* *p*

piped: \_\_\_\_\_ he wept to hear. \_\_\_\_\_  
*f* *p*

"Drop thy pipe, thy hap - py pipe; \_\_\_\_\_  
 2

Sing thy songs of hap - py cheer:" So I sang the same a -  
 2 2

- gain, While he wept with joy to hear. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2/4

"Pi - per, sit thee down and write In a book, that  
 2 2 2 2

**Largamente**

all may read." So he van-ish'd from my

**a tempo**

sight, And I pluck'd a hol-low reed, And I

made a ru-ral pen, And I stain'd the wa-ter clear,

And I wrote my hap-py songs Ev-e-ry child may

joy to hear.

## 4 LONDON

OBOE TACET

(Tenor)

**In free time**

VOICE

I wan-der thro' each chart - er'd street Near where the chart - er'd—  
 Thames does flow, \_\_\_\_\_ And mark in ev - e - ry face I meet  
 Marks of weak - ness, marks of woe. \_\_\_\_\_ In ev - e - ry cry of ev - e - ry  
 Man, In ev - e - ry In - fant's cry of fear, In ev - e - ry  
 voice, in ev - e - ry ban, \_\_\_\_\_ The mind - forg'd ma - na - cles I hear, \_\_\_\_\_  
 How the chim - ney sweep - er's cry Ev - e - ry black - 'ning church ap -  
 - pals; \_\_\_\_\_ And the hap - less sol - dier's sigh Runs in blood down pa - lace  
 walls. But most thro' mid - night streets I hear How the youth - ful  
 har - lot's curse Blasts the new - born In - fant's tear, And  
 blights with plagues the mar - riage hearse. \_\_\_\_\_

Note: This song may be transposed down a semitone or a tone.



## 5 THE LAMB

(Tenor)

*Andante con moto*

VOICE

Lit-tle Lamb, who made thee? — Dost thou know who made thee? —

OBOE

*p*

Gave thee life, and bid thee feed, By the stream and o'er the mead; Gave thee

cloth - ing of de - light, Soft - est\_ cloth - ing wool - ly, — bright; Gave thee

such a ten - der voice, Mak - ing all the vales re - joice? —

Lit-tle Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee? —

Lit-tle Lamb, I'll tell thee, Lit-tle Lamb I'll

tell thee: He is call-ed by thy name, For He

calls Him-self a Lamb. He is meek, and He is mild:— He be-

- came a lit-tle child. I a child, and thou a lamb, We are

call-ed by His name. Lit-tle Lamb, God bless thee!

Lit-tle Lamb, God bless thee!

*pp*

# 6 THE SHEPHERD

OBOE TACET

(Tenor or Soprano)

**Allegretto** (♩ = 132)

VOICE

How sweet is the Shep-herd's sweet lot! From the morn to the

eve - ning he strays; He shall fol - low his sheep all the day, And his

tongue shall be fill - - - - - ed with praise. For he

hears the lamb's in - no - cent call, And he hears the ewe's ten - der re -

- ply; He is watch - ful while they are in peace, For they

know when their Shep - - - - - herd is nigh.

Note: This song may be transposed down a semitone, a tone, or a minor third.

# 7 AH! SUN-FLOWER

(Tenor)

**Moderato**

*senza misura*

VOICE

Ah, Sun-flower! wea-ry of time,

*senza misura*

OBOE

— Who coun-test the steps of the sun; Seek - ing af - ter that

sweet gol - den clime, Where the trav - el - ler's jour - ney is

done; Where the Youth pined a - way with de -

*senza misura*

- sire, And the pale Vir - gin shroud - ed in snow,

— A - rise from their graves, and as - pire Where my Sun - flower

wish - es to go.

*senza misura*

## 8 CRUELTY HAS A HUMAN HEART

(Tenor or Soprano)

**Moderato**

VOICE *f* Cru - - el - ty has a

OBOE *f*

hu - man heart, And Jea - - lou - sy a hu - man face;

*f* *f*

Ter - - - ror the hu - man form di - vine, And

*f* *p* *f* 3 3

Se - cre - cy the hu - man dress. The hu - man dress is forg - èd iron, The

*f*

hu - man form a fie - ry forge, The hu - man face a fur - nace seal'd,

*f*

The hu - man heart its hun - gry gorge.

*p* *p*

## 9 THE DIVINE IMAGE

(Tenor or Soprano)

**Semplice**

To Mer - cy, Pi - ty, Peace, and Love All pray in their dis - tress;

And to these vir - tues of de - light Re - turn their thank - ful - ness.

For Mer - cy, Pi - ty, Peace, and Love Is God, our Fa - ther dear,

And Mer - cy, Pi - ty, Peace, and Love Is man, His child and care.

For Mer - cy has a hu - man heart, Pi - ty a hu - man face,

And Love, the hu - man form di - vine, And Peace, the hu - man dress.

Then e - ve - ry man, of e - ve - ry clime, That prays in his dis - tress,

Prays to the hu - man form di - vine, Love, Mer - cy, Pi - ty, Peace. And

all must love the hu - man form, In hea - then, Turk, or Jew;—

Where Mer - cy, Love, and Pi - ty dwell There God is dwel - ling too.

## 10 ETERNITY

(Tenor or Soprano)

**Andante sostenuto** (♩ = 66)

VOICE

He who binds to him-self a Joy Doth the wing-èd life des-troy; But\_

OBOE

*p*

he who kiss-es the Joy as it flies Lives in E-ter - - ni-ty's sun - rise.

*f*

The\_ look of\_ love a - larms, Be -

*p*

- cause it's fill'd with fire; But the look of soft de - ceit Shall win the lo - ver's hire.

Soft de-ceit and i - dle - ness, These are Beau -

- ty's sweet - est dress.

*ppp*