

# ADLESTROP



A SETTING OF EDWARD THOMAS' POEM

FOR

SATB CHOIR AND PIANO

BY

**ROBERT RAMSKILL**

**Edward Thomas** was born in London in 1878 and died at the battle of Arras in World War 1 on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 1917 at the age of 39. His poem *Adlestrop* captures a moment of tranquillity in the English countryside which he experienced when his train journey was interrupted ‘unwontedly’ at the Cotswold village named in the poem’s title. The journey took place on June 24<sup>th</sup> 1914, about a month before the war started. The poem was not written, though, until 1915 (and not published until 1917) and the fact that it was written after the outbreak of war accounts perhaps for its character of melancholy nostalgia - it seems not just to be describing a peaceful moment in time but to be lamenting the loss of an England which could never be the same again.

### ADLESTROP

Yes, I remember Adlestrop –  
The name, because one afternoon  
Of heat the express-train drew up there  
Unwontedly. It was late June.

The steam hissed. Someone cleared his throat.

No one left and no one came  
On the bare platform. What I saw  
Was Adlestrop – only the name

And willows, willow-herb, and grass,  
And meadow-sweet, and haycocks dry,  
No whit less still and lonely fair  
Than the high cloudlets in the sky.

And for that moment a blackbird sang  
Close by, and round him, mistier,  
Farther and farther, all the birds  
Of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.

# ADLESTROP

for SATB Choir and Piano

Words: Edward Thomas  
Music: Robert Ramskill

Slow, expressive ♩ = 52

Piano

4

Pno.

7

S

A

T

B

7

Pno.

8va

LH

pp

mf

p

rit.

*a tempo*

*mp* *p*

Yes. I re-mem-ber Ad-les - trop, I re-mem-ber the name be-cause one af-ter-noon of

Yes. I re-mem-ber Ad-les-trop, I re-mem-ber the name be-cause one af-ter-noon of

Yes. I re-mem-ber Ad-les - trop, I re-mem-ber the name be-cause one af-ter-noon of

Yes. I re-mem-ber Ad-les - trop, I re-mem-ber the name be-cause one af-ter-noon of

*a tempo*

*mp* *p*

S  
heat the ex-press train drew up there un - won-ted-ly. It was

A  
heat the ex-press train drew up there un - won-ted-ly. It was

T  
8 heat the express train drew up there un - won-ted-ly. It was

B  
heat the express train drew up there un - won-ted-ly. It was

Pno.

S  
late June. The

A  
late June. The

T  
8 late June. The

B  
late June. The

Pno.

16

S  
steam hissed. Some-one cleared his throat. No-one left and no-one came on the bare

A  
steam hissed. Some-one cleared his throat. No - one left and no-one came on the bare

T  
steam hissed. Some-one cleared his throat. No-one left and no-one came on the bare

B  
steam hissed. Some-one cleared his throat. No-one left and no-one came on the bare

Pno.

18

S  
plat - form. What I saw was "Ad-les - trop"; on - ly the

A  
plat-form. What I saw was "Ad-les - trop"; on - ly the

T  
plat-form. What I saw was "Ad-les - trop"; on - ly the

B  
plat-form. What I saw was "Ad-les - trop"; on - ly the

Pno.

21 *mp* *p*

S name, the name, And wil - lows, wil - low-herb, and

A name, the name, And wil - lows, wil - low-herb, and

T name, the name, And wil - lows, wil - low-herb, and

B name, the name, And wil - lows, wil - low-herb, and

Pno. *mp* *p*

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23 *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

S grass, and mea-dow sweet, and hay-cocks dry, No

A grass, and mea-dow sweet, and hay-cocks dry, No

T grass, and mea-dow sweet, and hay-cocks dry, No

B grass, and mea-dow sweet, and hay-cocks dry, No

Pno.

25 **Tranquillo**

S whit less still and lone - ly fair than the high cloud-lets in the sky.

A whit less still and lone - ly fair than the high cloud-lets in the sky.

T whit less still and lone - ly fair than the high cloud-lets in the sky.

B whit less still and lone - ly fair than the high cloud-lets in the sky.

**Tranquillo**

Pno. *pp* *mp*

S *mp* And for that

A *mp* And for that

T *mp* And for that

B *mp* And for that

Pno. *mp*

6

ADLESTROP

S  
mi - nute a black-bird sang close

A  
mi - nute a black-bird sang close

T  
mi - nute a black-bird sang close

B  
mi - nute a black-bird sang close

Pno.

S  
by, and round him, *p* mis - ti - er, far - ther and

A  
by, and round him, *p* mis - ti - er, far - ther and

T  
by, and round him, *p* mis - ti - er, far - ther and

B  
by, and round him, *p* mis - ti - er, far - ther and

Pno.



ADLESTROP

33 *cresc.*

S far - ther, all the birds of Ox - ford-shire and

A *cresc.* far - ther, all the birds of Ox - ford-shire and

T *cresc.* far - ther, all the birds of Ox - ford-shire and

B *cresc.* far - ther, all the birds of Ox - ford-shire and

Pno. *cresc.* *tr*

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35 *f* *mp* *p*

S Glou - c'ster-shire. - - - I re - mem-ber, I re-

A *f* *mp* *p* Glou - c'ster-shire. - - - I re - mem-ber, I re-

T *f* *mp* *p* Glou - c'ster-shire. - - - I re - mem-ber, I re-

B *f* *mp* *p* Glou - c'ster-shire. - - - I re - mem-ber, I re-

Pno. *f* *mp* *tr* 4

ADLESTROP

Meno mosso  $\text{♩} = 46$

37 *rit.* *pp* *rit.*

S mem - ber. I re-mem - ber

A mem - ber. I re-mem - ber

T mem - ber. I re-mem - ber

B mem - ber. I re-mem - ber

Pno. *p* *pp* *rit.*

39

S Ad - les - trop,

A Ad - les - trop,

T Ad - les - trop,

B Ad - les - trop,

Pno.