



THE FORSAKEN MERMAN

JUDY SPECHT

SATB, Soprano Solo, Piano
RM ACH 259

RENFORTH MUSIC
Rothesay, New Brunswick, Canada
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The Forsaken Merman

Based on the Danish folk tale, "Agnete and the Merman."

Matthew Arnold
(1822-1888)

Judy Specht

AGNETE AND THE MERMAN *A Scandinavian Folk Tale*

In Scandinavian folklore, Agnete, a human, and a Merman fall in love. They marry and live happily together under the sea for many years, producing seven mer-children. One fateful Easter day Agnete hears church bells wafting down from above. Fearful of losing her soul, she is compelled to return to her kinsfolk to pray with them in the little church on the shore. (For, as we all know, while merfolk may live hundreds of years, at death they but transform into seafoam; while humans, though existing only a short span of years, upon death live on forever through an immortal soul.)

The Merman bids her go, but return to the sea after prayers.

This is their story...

THE MERMAN
Moderato ♩ = 112

Solo

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

Moderato ♩ = 112

mf

Ad.

10

S. _____

A. _____

T. *mf*
Come, dear child - ren, let us a - way; down _____

B. *mf*
Come, dear child - ren, let us a - way; _____ down and a -

The piano accompaniment for measures 10-15 features a right hand with a steady eighth-note pattern and a left hand with a similar pattern, accented with *mp*. Pedal markings are present at the beginning and end of the section.

16

S. _____

A. _____
Call once in a

T. _____
be - low. _____ *mf*
Call her once be - fore_ you go. Call once in a

B. _____
- way _____ be - low. _____ *mf*
Call her once be - fore you go. Call her once in a

The piano accompaniment for measures 16-21 continues with the eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more active line in the left hand. It includes a *mf* dynamic marking and a *Con Ped.* instruction at the end of the section.

22 *mf*

S. Child - - ren, child - ren, wild_ with pain._ Sure - ly she will come,____ sure - ly she will

A. voice she will know: Child - - ren, wild with pain. Sure - ly she will come a -

T. voice she'll know: Child - - ren, wild with pain. Sure - ly she will come a -

B. voice:_____ Child - - ren, child - ren wild with pain._ Sure - ly she will come a -

27

S. come a - gain._____ Ah,_____ ah,_____

A. - gain._____ Ah,_____ ah,_____ ah,_____

T. - gain._____ One last look at the

B. - gain._____ One last look at the

34

S. ah...

A. ah...

T. *Alto 2* white wall'd town, and the lit - tle grey church on the wind - y shore. Come; she

B. white wall'd town, and the lit - tle church on the wind - y shore. Come, dear child - ren, let us a - way; she

mp

mf

THE MORTAL

Andante ♩ = 88

39

S.

A.

T. will not come though you call, though you call all day.

B. will not come though you call, though you call all day.

Andante ♩ = 88

g^{va}

f

Andante ♩ = 88

48 *mp*

S. Once she sat with you and me, on a red gold - en throne in the heart of the sea, and the young - est sat on her knee. — She

A. *mp*
Once she sat with you and me, on a red gold - en throne in the heart of the sea, and the young - est sat on her knee. — She

T. *mp*
Once sat with you and me, on red throne in the heart of the sea, the young - est at her knee. —

B. *mp*
Once sat with you and me, on red throne in the heart of the sea, the young - est at her knee. —

mp
(Ped.) *Con Ped.*

54

S. comb'd its bright hair, and she tend - ed it well, when down came the sound of a sil - ver bell. —

A. comb'd hair, she tend - ed well, when down came the sound of a sil - ver bell. —

T. Comb'd hair, tend - ed well, when down the sound of a sil - ver bell. —

B. Comb'd hair, tend - ed well, when down - the sound of a sil - ver bell. —

8va
(Ped.) (Ped.)

60 *mf*

Solo She sigh'd, she look'd up through the clear green sea, through the clear green sea. She said "I must go, for my

S. *pp*
Mm, through the clear green sea. Mm,

A. *pp*
Mm, through the clear green sea. Mm,

T. *pp*
Mm, mm,

B. *pp*
Mm, mm,

p
Red. Red. Con Ped.

66

Solo kins - folk pray in the lit - tle grey church on the shore - to - day. 'Twill be Eas - ter - time in the world, ah

S. mm, mm, in the world, ah

A. mm, on the shore to - day. Mm, in the world, ah

T. mm, mm, in the world, ah

B. mm, mm, mm, in the world, ah

72

Solo me! _____ And I lose my poor soul, Mer - man, lose my poor soul, _____ And I lose my poor soul, Mer - man,

S. me! _____ Lose, _____ lose my poor soul, _____ mm. _____

A. me! _____ Lose, _____ lose my poor soul, _____ mm. _____

T. me! _____ Lose, _____ lose my poor soul, _____ mm. _____

B. me! Ah me! _____ Lose, _____ lose my soul. mm. _____

78

Solo here_ with thee."

S. *mf* "Say thy prayers and come back to the kind sea - -

A. *mf* "Say thy prayers and come back to the kind sea - -

T. *mf* I said: "Go_ up, dear heart, through_ the waves; _____ to the kind sea - -

B. *mf* I said: "Go up, through the waves; _____ to the kind sea - -