

Lyrics from the Chinese

8 settings of ancient lyrics

Collected and translated by Helen Waddell

1

Phyllis Batchelor

Andante

Ah! Let it drift, That boat of cy-press wood,

6
There in the mid-dle of the Ho. He was my mate, And un-til death I will go

10
de-so-late. Ah! Mo-ther God! How is it that ye will not

Allegretto

p *2*

The dew is heavy on the grass,

pp

7

At last the sun is set. Fill up, fill up The cups of jade. The

12

rit. *2*

night's before us yet. All

3

6

rit. .

p

pp

8va-----

The swal-lows take their flight a-cross the

9

allarg.

ford. My la-dy goes from sight, And I must bring her on her way

Adagio

My lord is gone a-way to serve the King. The pi-geons ho-ming at the

9

più mosso

set of sun Are side by side u - pon the court - yard wall,

15

And far a - way I hear the herds-man call The goats u - pon the hill when day is

5

Andante

The moon is shi-ning on this bor-der-land

più mosso

Just as it will be shi-ning on *Lung - T'ow. The sea is ve-ry

qui-et on the sand. I won-der what the folks are do-ing now.

* The second day of the second moon, in the Chinese lunar year, when 'the dragon raises his head', heralding new vitality in the land.

Allegretto

p

The ru - shes on the marsh are green, And in the wind they bend. I

mp

7

saw a wo - man stan - ding there Near day - light's end.

pizz

12

On the black wa - ter of the marsh The lo - tus buds swim white. I saw her stan - ding

7

Larghetto

The morning glo-ry climbs a-bove my head, Pale flowers of
 white and pur-ple, blue and red. I am dis-qui - e - ted.
 Down in the wi - thered gras - ses some - thing stirred;
 I thought it was his foot - fall that I heard.

8

Adagio

White clouds are in the sky. Great shoulders of the hills Be-tween us two must lie.

pp *pp*

Detailed description: This system contains the first six measures of the piece. The vocal line is in treble clef with a common time signature. It begins with a whole rest, followed by a quarter note G#4, a quarter note A4, and a triplet of eighth notes B4, C5, and B4. The piano accompaniment is in grand staff with a common time signature. The right hand features a series of chords, starting with a half note chord (G#4, A4, B4) and moving to a half note chord (A4, B4, C5). The left hand plays a similar harmonic structure with half notes. Dynamics include piano (*pp*) and a hairpin crescendo.

The road is rough and far. Deep fords be tween us are. I pray you not to

pp *ppp*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 7 through 10. Measure 7 starts with a quarter rest, followed by a triplet of eighth notes (G#4, A4, B4) and a quarter note C5. The piano accompaniment continues with chords in the right hand and bass notes in the left hand. The key signature changes to one flat (Bb major) in measure 8. Dynamics include piano (*pp*) and pianissimo (*ppp*).