

Meeting at Night

*The grey sea and the long black land;
And the yellow half-moon large and low;
And the startled little waves that leap
In fiery ringlets from their sleep,
As I gain the cove with pushing prow,
And quench its speed i' the slushy sand.*

*Then a mile of warm sea-scented beach;
Three fields to cross till a farm appears;
A tap at the pane, the quick sharp scratch
And blue spurt of a lighted match,
And a voice less loud, thro' its joys and fears,
Than the two hearts beating each to each!*

Text: Robert Browning (1812-1899)

Eric Choate (b. 1990)

Lento (♩ = 52)

pp (♩ = ♩ throughout)

The grey sea and the long black land; And the yellow half -

The grey sea and the long black land; And the yellow half -

The grey sea and the long black land; And the yellow half -

The grey sea and the long black land; And the yellow half -

6

moon large and low, large and low; And the

moon large and low, large and low; And the star-tled lit-tle

8 moon large and low, large and low; And the star-tled

moon large and low; And the star-tled lit-tle

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

10

waves that leap in fier-y, fier-y

waves that leap, that leap in fier-y, fier-y

8 waves that leap, that leap in fier-y, fier-y

waves that leap in fier-y, fier-y

p *mf* *p* *mf*

poco rit. *a tempo*
pp
 14
 ring - lets from their sleep,
 ring - lets from their sleep,
 ring - lets from their sleep, As I gain the cove,
 ring - lets from their sleep, As I gain the cove with push - ing

mf *cresc.*
 18
 As I gain the the
 As I gain the cove, I gain with
 I gain the cove with
 prow, I gain the cove with

rit. a tempo

21

cove - And quench its speed, and quench its speed i' the
 push - ing prow And quench its speed, and quench its speed i' the
 push - ing prow And quench its speed, and quench its speed i' the
 push - ing prow And quench its speed, and quench its speed i' the

24

slush - y sand. Three
 slush - y sand. Three
 slush - y sand. Then a mile of warm beach Three
 sand Then a mile of warm sea-scent - ed beach,
 Bass 1
 Bass 2

28

fields to cross till a farm appears; A tap at the pane,

fields to cross till a farm appears; A tap at the pane,

fields to cross till a farm appears; a tap at the pane,

mf Bass 1 & 2 *pp* Bass 2 only

three fields to cross till a farm appears; A tap at the pane,

32

And blue spurt of a light-ed match, pane, the quick sharp scratch And blue spurt light-ed match, at the pane, the sharp scratch, the quick sharp scratch,

p *poco* *p* *poco* *pp* *(sempre pp)*

36 *p* *pp*

— And a voice, — a voice less loud — thro' its joys and

p *pp*

— And a voice less loud —

p *pp*

8 And a voice less loud — thro' its joys and

Bass 1 & 2 *p* *pp*

And a voice less loud, — less

41 *mf*

fears, — Than the two hearts beat-ing, —

mf

— Than the two hearts — beat-ing, —

p *mf*

8 fears, — Than the two hearts, — than the two hearts

p *mf* *sonore*

loud — Than the two hearts, than the

44

than the two hearts beat-ing, than the two hearts beat-ing, than the two hearts
 than the two hearts beat-ing, than the two hearts beat-ing, than the two hearts
 beat-ing, than the two hearts beating, than the two hearts
 two hearts, the two hearts, the two hearts

47

beat-ing — each to each! Ah! *poco meno mosso*
 beat-ing — each to each, to each! Ah! *mf espress.*
 beat-ing — each to each, to each! Ah! *mf espress.*
 beat-ing — each to each, to each! Ah! *mf espress.*

51 *dim.* *rall.* *pp*

The musical score consists of five systems. The first four systems are vocal parts: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. Each vocal line begins with a *dim.* (diminuendo) marking and ends with a *pp* (pianissimo) marking. The vocal lines are marked with 'Ah!' and feature long, sweeping melodic lines. The fifth system is the piano accompaniment, showing the right and left hand parts. The score is in 4/4 time and includes a *rall.* (rallentando) marking. A specific note in the bass line is marked with an asterisk and a flat symbol (*b) to indicate an alternative octave.

*If low D-flat is not available, all basses should sing the upper octave.

ca. 4'
19 April - 8 May 2023
San Francisco, CA