

## BACKGROUND

Emily Brontë lived the majority of her short life in a small village in northern England with her father, brother, and two sisters, Charlotte and Anne. As young women, the three sisters decided to publish some of the poems they had written. At that time women were generally expected to sew, cook, and clean house. They were definitely not expected to write poetry or novels for publication. The Brontë sisters decided to use pen names to make it appear that they were men. They made up names which kept the same initials, C.B., E.B., and A.B. Their book of poetry entitled *Poems* by Currer, Ellis, and Acton Bell was published in 1846.

In 1847 the sisters each published a novel: Charlotte's *Jane Eyre*, Anne's *Agnes Grey*, and Emily's *Wuthering Heights*. Over the years, all three novels became immensely popular. Sadly, Emily died a year after the novels were published never knowing that she and her sisters came to be considered among the world's most famous writers.

*Autumn Vesper* celebrates the ecstasy of a beautiful autumn evening. The words are from the close of a very long poem entitled "Written in Aspin Castle" which Emily began while on a trip to Belgium. The poem was finished a month or two after her return to England. For this setting, alterations and additions have been made to the poem. The original is reproduced here.

O come away! the Norman door  
Is silvered with a sudden shine;  
Come, leave these dreams o'er things of yore  
And turn to Nature's face divine.

O'er wood and wold, o'er flood and fell,  
O'er flashing lake and gleaming dell,  
The harvest moon looks down;  
And when heaven smiles with love and light,  
And earth looks back so dazzling bright —  
In such a scene, on such a night,  
Earth's children should not frown.

Since all language evolves over time, several of the words which Emily Brontë used regularly are no longer in common, everyday use today. The following definitions may be helpful.

*wood* a forest  
*wold* rolling uplands or plain  
*flood* a body of flowing water, such as a river  
*fell* a hill or mountain  
*dell* a small wooded valley

Beyond practice and performance, a discussion of the essence of the poetry may be very beneficial. Topics for discussion will vary, but may include Emily Brontë's many references to facial countenance, e.g. "harvest moon looks down," as well as numerous references to aspects of light, e.g. "flashing lake."

This piece should be performed very legato with some rhythmic freedom. Careful attention should be paid to the shaping of phrases and purity of vowel sounds.

Arranged for the 2022 Ohio Music Education Association  
District 5 High School Mixed Honor Choir in Youngstown, OH

# AUTUMN VESPER

for S.A.T.B. voices and piano  
with optional PianoTrax\*

Words by  
**EMILY BRONTË** (1818-1848)

Music and additional Words by **AUDREY SNYDER**  
Arranged by **JACOB NARVERUD**

**Legato, flowing** (♩ = ca. 76) *rit.* *a tempo*  
*mp*

SOPRANO  
O - ver

ALTO  
*rit.* *a tempo*

TENOR  
*rit.* *a tempo*  
*mp*  
O - ver

BASS  
*rit.* *a tempo*

**Legato, flowing** (♩ = ca. 76)  
*mp* *rit.* *a tempo*

PIANO  
*mp* *rit.* *a tempo*  
*pedal harmonically*

\* Also available for 3-part mixed (SV9411) and 2-part/S.S.A. (SV9401).  
PianoTrax 15 accompaniment CD available (49869). Visit [alfred.com](http://alfred.com) for digital scores and audio.

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wood and wold, o - ver  
 O - ver flood and fell, o - ver  
 wood and wold, o - ver  
 O - ver flood and fell, o - ver

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

5

flash - ing lake and gleam - ing dell, the  
 flash - ing lake and gleam - ing dell, the  
 flash - ing lake and gleam - ing dell, the  
 flash - ing lake and gleam - ing dell, the

*poco rit.*

*poco rit.*

*poco rit.*

*poco rit.*

*poco rit.*

7 *a tempo* *mf* *poco rit.* *a tempo* *poco rit.*

har - vest moon looks down, the har - vest moon looks

*a tempo* *mf* *poco rit.* *a tempo* *poco rit.*

har - vest moon looks down, the har - vest moon looks

*a tempo* *mf* *poco rit.* *a tempo* *poco rit.*

har - vest moon looks down, looks down, the har - vest moon looks

*a tempo* *mf* *poco rit.* *a tempo* *poco rit.*

har - vest moon looks down, looks down, the har - vest moon looks

10 *mp* *a tempo* 11 *p* *lightly* *mp*

down. When heav - en smiles, and

*mp* *a tempo* *p* *lightly* *mp*

down. When heav - en smiles, and

*mp* *a tempo* *mp*

down. And when heav - en smiles with love and light, and

*mp* *a tempo* *mp*

down. And when heav - en smiles with love and light, and

*mp* *a tempo*

13

earth looks back so daz - zling bright, in such a scene, on

earth looks back so daz - zling bright, in such a scene, on

earth looks back so daz - zling bright, in such a scene, on

earth looks back so daz - zling bright, in such a scene, on

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

16

*poco rit.* such a night, earth's chil - dren should not frown. The

*poco rit.* such a night, earth's chil - dren should not frown. The

*poco rit.* such a night, earth's chil - dren should not frown. The

*poco rit.* such a night, earth's chil - dren should not frown.

*a tempo mp*

*a tempo mp*

*a tempo mp*

*a tempo mp*

*poco rit.*

*a tempo mp*

19

*mf*

har-vest moon casts a mag - i - cal glow, en - chant - ing all the

*mf*

har-vest moon casts a mag - i - cal glow, en - chant - ing all the

*mf*

The har-vest moon \_\_\_\_\_ casts a mag - i - cal glow, all the

*mf*

The har-vest moon \_\_\_\_\_ casts a mag - i - cal glow, all the

*mf*

22

23

*cresc.*

world be - low. Bathed in a sil - vered shine, be -

*cresc.*

world be - low. Bathed in a sil - vered shine, be -

*cresc.*

world be - low. Bathed in a shine, \_\_\_\_\_ be -

*cresc.*

world be - low. Bathed in a shine, \_\_\_\_\_ be -

*cresc.*

25 *f* *poco rit.* *a tempo mf*

hold na - ture's face di - vine! \_\_\_\_\_ And when

*f* *poco rit.* *a tempo mf*

hold na - ture's face di - vine! \_\_\_\_\_ And when

*f* *poco rit.* *a tempo*

hold na - ture's face di - vine! \_\_\_\_\_

*f* *poco rit.* *a tempo*

hold na - ture's face di - vine! \_\_\_\_\_

*f* *poco rit.* *a tempo*

28 *mf*

heav - en smiles with love and light, and

*mf*

heav - en smiles with love and light, and

*mp lightly* *mf*

When heav - en smiles \_\_\_\_\_ and

*mp lightly* *mf*

When heav - en smiles \_\_\_\_\_ and

*mf*

30

*poco rit.*

earth looks back so daz - zling bright, in

*poco rit.*

earth looks back so daz - zling bright, in

*poco rit.*

earth looks back so daz - zling bright, in

*poco rit.*

earth looks back so daz - zling bright, in

*poco rit.*

32

*a tempo*

*poco rit.*

such a scene, on such a night, earth's

*a tempo*

*poco rit.*

such a scene, on such a night, earth's

*a tempo*

*poco rit.*

such a scene, on such a night, earth's

*a tempo*

*poco rit.*

such a scene, on such a night, earth's

*a tempo*

*poco rit.*



34 *a tempo* *mp* *poco rit.*

chil - dren should not frown, earth's chil - dren should not

*a tempo* *mp* *poco rit.*

chil - dren should not frown, earth's chil - dren should not

*a tempo* *mp* *poco rit.*

chil - dren should not, should not frown, earth's chil - dren should not

*a tempo* *mp* *poco rit.*

chil - dren should not, should not frown, earth's chil - dren should not

Optional Ending (repeat m.19) Final Ending *a little slower* *mf* 39

37 *a tempo* *a little slower* *mf*

frown. The frown. When the har - vest moon looks

*a tempo* *a little slower* *mf*

frown. The frown. When the har - vest moon looks

*a tempo* *a little slower* *mf*

frown. frown. When the har - vest moon looks

*a tempo* *a little slower* *mf*

frown. frown. When the har - vest moon looks

Optional Ending (repeat m.19) Final Ending

*a tempo* *a little slower* *mf*

40

*mp* *rit.*

down, earth's chil - dren should not

*mp* *rit.*

down, earth's chil - dren should not

*mp* *rit.*

down, looks down, earth's chil - dren should not

*mp* *rit.*

down, looks down, earth's chil - dren should not

*mp* *rit.*

43

*a tempo p* *rit. e decresc.* *pp*

frown.

*a tempo p* *rit. e decresc.* *pp*

frown.

*a tempo p* *rit. e decresc.* *pp*

frown.

*a tempo p* *rit. e decresc.* *pp*

frown.

*a tempo p* *rit.* *pp*

*8va*