

To Dream Again

text by **William Shakespeare**
music by **David Vess**

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Text:

Be not afeard; the isle is full of noises
Sounds and sweet airs, that give delight,
and hurt not.
Sometimes a thousand twangling
instruments
Will hum about mine ears; and sometime
voices,
That if I then had waked after long sleep,
Will make me sleep again: and then, in
dreaming,
The clouds methought would open, and
show riches
Ready to drop upon me; that, when I
waked,
I cried to dream again.

William Shakespeare, *The Tempest Act III Scene II*

Program:

The work begins with a feverish nightmare. Biting dissonances build on 'Be not afeard', as if trying to wake oneself up. We reach a high point, before finding a calm. 'Be not afeard' becomes a voice of reassurance. A chorale begins, calm and collected. But not for long. From there we head into a glade of forest-like music. We hear echos of the text, long melismas float around, almost eerily. The voices and instruments Shakespeare illustrates appear, at times enchanting, and at others, haunting. The music begins to swell, summoning a mighty sound as we approach "riches ready to drop upon me". Most of the work has been quiet and contemplative, yet here we build to a true crescendo, as if the clouds really will open. But just like in dreams, the epiphany, the moment is just beyond our grasp. If only we had not awoken. And the music evaporates, leaving a lingering feeling, of quietly and desperately wanting to dream again.

About the Composer:

The music of David Vess (b. 1991) has been described as everything from "ethereal and unique" to "a real barnburner". David was named the 2022-23 Student Composer-in-Residence with Seraphic Fire. Vess' music has been performed across the United States, Canada, Italy and Japan.

David is currently pursuing his Doctorate in composition at the University of Miami Frost School of Music, serving as a Teaching Assistant in Music Theory. He lives in Jacksonville, FL with his wife and cat, Sophie and Obi.

To Dream Again

Commissioned by Seraphic Fire

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David Vess

March 2023

Miami, FL

William Shakespeare

The Tempest

Act III Scene II

a feverish nightmare ♩ = 102

Soprano *ff*
Be not, be not a - feard, Be

Alto *ff*
Be not, be not a - feard, Be

Tenor *ff*
Be not, be not a - feard, Be

Bass *ff*
Be not, be not a - feard, Be

5 *mf* *accel.*
not, be not a-feard, Be not a-feard, be not a-

mf *accel.*
not, be not a-feard, Be not a-feard, be not a-

mf *accel.*
not, be not a-feard, Be not a-feard, be not a-

Tempo 1

Tempo 1

9

f *mf* *f*

mf *f* *f*

f *mf* *p* *f*

f *mf* *f*

feard__ Be not a-feard, be not a - feard__

feard__ Be not a-feard, be not a - feard__

Be not a - feard__ Be not a -

feard__ Be not a-feard, be not a - feard__

mp *mf*

mp *mf*

mp *mf*

mp *mf*

Be not, be not, be not, be not, be not, be not a -

Be not, be not, be not, be not, be not, be not a -

feard__ a - feard

Be not, be not, be not be not, be not, be not

14 *molto rall.* *ff*

feard _____ a - feard

molto rall. *ff*

feard _____ a - feard

molto rall. *ff*

not a - feard _____ a - feard

molto rall. *ff*

not a - feard _____ a - feard

18 *calm* ♩ = 66 *p* _____ *mf* , *p* _____ *mf*

Be not a - feard; Be not a - feard; _____

p _____ *mf* , *p* _____ *mf*

Be not a - feard; Be not a - feard; _____

p _____ *mf* , *p* _____ *mf*

Be not a - feard; Be not a - feard; _____

p _____ *mf* , *p* _____ *mf*

Be not a - feard; Be not a - feard; _____

22

Musical score for measures 22-25. The score consists of four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) with lyrics: "the isle is full of noise". The music is in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The dynamics are marked *p* (piano). The tempo is marked *accel.* (accelerando). The lyrics are: "the isle is full of noise".

26

Musical score for measures 26-29. The score consists of four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) with lyrics: "es, Sounds and sweet airs,". The music is in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The dynamics are marked *pp* (pianissimo) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The tempo is marked *accel.* (accelerando). The lyrics are: "es, Sounds and sweet airs,".

30

rit.
mf *p*

that give de - light, and hurt not.____

rit.
mf *p*

that give de - light, and hurt not.____

rit.
mf *p*

that give de - light, and hurt not.____

rit.
mf *p*

that give de - light, and hurt not.____

34 **fluid, flowing** ♩ = 100

pp

some - times some times some - times some - times some _____ times

pp

some times, some times, some_ times some times some _____ times_

38

pp

some - times, some - times some
 some times some times, some times some
 some times some times some times some
 some -

pp

some -

42

mp

times a thou - sand twan - gling instru - ments
 times a thou - sand twan - gling instru ments
 times a thou - sand twan - gling instru ments
 times some-times a thou - sand

times some-times a thou - sand

45

Will hum a - bout

twan - gling in - stru - ments Will hum a - bout

twan - gling in - stru - ments Will hum a - bout

twan - gling in - stru - ments Will hum a - bout

48

mine ears,

mine ears, and some-time voi - ces,

mine ears, and some-time voi - ces,

mine ears,

52

and some -

some - time voi - ces, some - time voi - ces, some-time voi - ces,

some - time voi - ces, some-time voi - ces, some-time voi - ces,

some - time__ voi - ces,__

55

time voi - ces, That, if I__ then had

some-time voi - ces, voi - ces, That, if I__ then had

some - time voi - ces, voi - ces, voi - ces, That, if__ I then had

some-time voi - ces, That, if I__ then,__

59

waked, waked af - ter long sleep,
 waked, waked af - ter long sleep,
 waked, waked af - ter long sleep,
 I then had waked af - ter long sleep,

p *mf*

62

Will make me sleep a - gain:
 Will make me sleep a - gain:
 Will make me sleep a - gain:
 Will make me sleep a - gain:

rit. *f*

with momentum ♩ = 92

64 *pp*

and then, and then and then in dream -

and then, and then and then in dream -

and then in dream -

68

ing, and then, and then, and then and

ing, and then, and then, and then, and

ing, and then in dream -

70

in dream - ing, and then in
 then, and then in dream - ing, and then, in
 then, and then, in dream - - ing in
 - - - ing, and then in,

73

dream - ing, dream - ing, The clouds, me -
 dream - ing, dream - ing The clouds, me -
 dream-ing in dream-ing, in dream - ing The clouds me -
 in dream - - - ing The clouds me -

76 *f*

thought would o - pen, and show ri-ches Rea-dy to

thought would o - pen, and show ri-ches Rea-dy to

thought would o - pen, and show ri-ches Rea-dy to

thought would o - pen, and show ri-ches Rea-dy to

79 *ff* *strident*

drop u - pon me;

drop u - pon me, u-pon me

drop u-pon me

drop u-pon me

82

f that, when I waked, I cried to dream a - *p* ,

f that, when I waked, I cried to dream a - *p* ,

f that, when I waked, cried dream a - *p*

f that, when I waked, cried dream a - *p*

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of music, measures 82 through 85. It consists of four staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats and a 5/4 time signature. The second and third staves are also in treble clef with the same key signature and time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. Each staff begins with a dynamic marking of *f* (forte) and ends with a dynamic marking of *p* (piano). The lyrics are: "that, when I waked, I cried to dream a -" for the first two staves, and "that, when I waked, cried dream a -" for the last two staves. There are crescendo hairpins above the first two staves and decrescendo hairpins above the last two staves.

86

pp gain, to dream a - gain, to dream a -

pp gain, dream a - gain, dream a -

pp gain, dream a - gain, dream a -

pp gain, dream a - gain, dream a -

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of music, measures 86 through 89. It consists of four staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats and a 5/4 time signature. The second and third staves are also in treble clef with the same key signature and time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. Each staff begins with a dynamic marking of *pp* (pianissimo) and ends with a dynamic marking of *pp*. The lyrics are: "gain, to dream a - gain, to dream a -" for the first staff, "gain, dream a - gain, dream a -" for the second staff, "gain, dream a - gain, dream a -" for the third staff, and "gain, dream a - gain, dream a -" for the fourth staff. There are crescendo hairpins above the first two staves and decrescendo hairpins above the last two staves.

90 *molto rit.*
p *mp* *n*

gain. a - gain. _____

gain. a - gain. _____

gain. a - gain. _____

gain. a - gain. _____