

## ODE

The vocal/piano duet, *Ode*, is programmatic in nature. As this was my first serious attempt at what might be called “art song”, I studied the Aaron Copland work, *Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson* for voice and piano. It is also very appropriate that *Ode* should be rooted in the practice of a celebrated American composer as it is, in fact, a reflection of my feelings about the United States at this time in history.

In particular, I am very proud of America’s foundations, and hope that the questionable times we live in do not adversely shape our direction as a nation. I love this country and hope that we do not follow the course of another great empire - Rome.

*“Ode” by Arthur O’Shaughnessy*

We are the music makers  
    and we are the dreamers of dreams,  
Wandering by lone sea-breakers,  
    and sitting by desolate streams;  
World-losers and world-forsakers,  
    on whom the pale moon gleams:  
Yet we are the movers and shakers  
    of the world forever, it seems.

With wonderful deathless ditties  
    we build up the world’s great cities,  
And out of a fabulous story  
    we fashion an empire’s glory:

One man with a dream, at pleasure,  
    shall go forth and conquer a crown;  
And three with a new song’s measure  
    can trample an empire down.

We, in the ages lying  
    in the buried past of the earth,  
Built Nineveh with our sighing,  
    and Babel itself with our mirth;  
And o’erthrew them with prophesying  
    to the old of the new world’s worth;  
For each age is a dream that is dying,  
    or one that is coming to birth.

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