

# A Hermit Thrush at Eve

op. 92, no. 1

Holy, Holy! — in the hush  
Hearken to the hermit thrush  
All the air is in prayer

John Vance Cheney

Amy Marcy Cheney Beach  
(1867 – 1944)

**Molto lento (con gran espressione)** ♩ = 56 – 66

*pp*

*con pedale*

*accel.*

*rit.*

5 *a tempo*

*murmurando*

*simile*

8 *dolce cantabile e legato*

11 *sempre con pedale*

The small notes in this composition, e.g., mm. 23–27, are exact notations, an octave lower, of bird calls heard by the composer at the MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, New Hampshire. The song of the hermit thrush alternates between held notes and rapid notes which outline triads and chords of the seventh.

Composed 1921

14 *murmurando*

*ppp dolce cantando*

*simile*

17 *a tempo*

*poco rall.*

*pp*

20

*8va*

*8va - 1*

*simile*

23 *veloce*

*8va*

*veloce*

25 *murmurando*

*8va*

*murmurando*

27

Musical score for measures 27-28. The piece is in a key with three flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor) and a 3/4 time signature. Measure 27 features a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand. Measure 28 continues with similar patterns, including another triplet in the right hand.

29

Musical score for measures 29-30. Measure 29 shows a melodic line in the right hand with a *cresc.* (crescendo) marking and a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 30 continues the melodic development with a triplet in the right hand and a more active bass line.

31

Musical score for measures 31-32. Measure 31 includes a triplet in the right hand and a *più dim.* (more diminuendo) marking in the left hand. Measure 32 features a *molto cresc.* (much crescendo) marking and a triplet in the right hand.

33

Musical score for measures 33-35. Measure 33 has a *rit. e dim.* (ritardando and diminuendo) marking. Measure 34 is marked *a tempo* and *dolcissimo espressivo* (very sweetly and expressively). Measure 35 continues the melodic line in the right hand.

36

Musical score for measures 36-37. Measure 36 shows a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand and a melodic line in the right hand. Measure 37 continues with similar patterns, including a triplet in the right hand.

38 *mf sempre cantabile* *con pedale*

8va

40 *dim.*

42 *pp poco rall.* *a tempo* *ppp*

44 *cresc.* *simile*

46 *dim.* *pp*

8va

48

8va

rall.

3

50

più rit.

ppp

3

52

8va

3

ppp

una corda

54

3

accel.

rit.

58

8va