Commissioned by the Hopkins High School Bel Canto Choir,
Philip Brown, Conductor

The White Birds

William Butler Yeats

Daniel J. Hall

Lyrics under the vocal line:

I would that we were, my be-loved, white birds on the foam of the sea! We

4

tire of the flame of the me-te-or,___ be-fore it can fade___ and

Soprano (tutti or solo)

cresc. *mp*

flee;_____ And the flame of the blue___ star of

twi-light, hung low on the rim of the sky,_____ Has a-

wak - ened in our hearts, my be - loved,_____ a

sad - ness that may___ not die,_____ A

Soprano (tutti or solo) *mf*

Alto (tutti or solo) *mf*

A

sad - ness that may___ not die,_____ may not

sad - ness that may not die, may not die,_____

dim. sempre

27

p

die,____ may not die.____

dim. sempre

p

3

may not die,____ may not die.____

dim.

mp

sim.

29

Alto 1 (tutti)

mp ♪ = ♪

For Perusal Only

A wear - i - ness comes from those

Alto 2 (tutti)

mp

A wear - i - ness comes from those

♪ = ♪

Ped._____ Ped._____

31 tutti

S1: Comes from those dream - ers, dew dab - bled, the li - ly and the

S2 (tutti): Comes from those dream - ers, dew dab - bled, the li - ly and the

A1: dream - ers,_____ dew - dab - bled, the li - ly and the

A2: dream - ers,_____ dew - dab - bled, the li - ly and the

sim.

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S1: rose, the li - ly and the rose;_____ Ah,

S2: rose, the li - ly and the rose;_____ Ah,

A1: rose;_____ Ah, dream not of them, my be -

A2: rose;_____ Ah, dream not of them, my be -

35

dream   not of them,   the   flame   of the me - te - or   that

dream   not of them,   the   flame _____ of the me - te - or   that

loved, _____ the   flame   of the me - te - or   that

loved, _____ the   flame   of the me - te - or   that

cresc.   *mf*

37

goes,   that   goes,   that   goes, _____   Or the

cresc.   *mf*

goes, _____ that   goes,   that   goes,   Or the

cresc.   *mf*

goes, _____   that   goes,   Or the

cresc.   *mf*

goes, _____ that   goes, _____ that   goes,   that   goes,   Or the

flame of the blue star that ling-gers hung

flame of the blue star that ling - gers hung

flame of the blue star that ling-gers hung

flame of the blue star that ling-gers hung

low in the fall of the dew: For I

low in the fall, the fall of the dew: For I

low in the fall of the dew: For I

low in the fall, the fall of the dew: For I

would we were changed to white birds on the wan - der - ing

would we were changed to white birds on the wan - der - ing

would we were changed to white birds on the wan - der - ing

would we were changed to white birds on the wan - der - ing

foam: I___ and you,_____ I___ and

foam: I___ and you,_____ I___ and

foam: I_____ and you,

foam: I_____ and you,

For Perusal Only

you, I and you, I and you, I and

you, I and you, I and you, I and you, I and

you, I and you, I and

you, I and you, I and you, I and

you! I and you!

you, I and you!

you, I and you! I am

you, I and you! I am

For Perusal Only

61

shore,_____ time would for-get___ us, and

shore,_____ time would for-get___ us, and

time would sure - ly for - get_____ us,_____ and

time would sure - ly for - get_____ us,_____ and

63

cresc. poco a poco

sor - row come near us no more, no more,___ no

cresc. poco a poco

sor - row come near us no more, no more,___ no

cresc. poco a poco

sor - row come near___ us no more,_____ no

cresc. poco a poco

sor - row come near___ us no more,_____ no

cresc. poco a poco

more;___ Soon___ far from the rose and the

more;___ Soon___ far from the rose and the

more;___ Soon far from the rose___ and the

more;___ Soon far from the rose___ and the

cresc. poco a poco

li - ly,_____ and the threat of the flames _ we would

li - ly, and the threat of the flames we would

li - ly,___ and the threat of the flames we would

li - ly,___ and the threat of the flames we would

1211-15

69

cresc. poco a poco

be, Were we on - ly white

cresc. poco a poco

be, we would be, Were we on - ly white

cresc. poco a poco

be, Were we on - ly white

cresc. poco a poco

be, we would be, Were we on - ly white

cresc. poco a poco

71

f

birds, my be - loved, buoyed out on the foam of the

f

birds, my be - loved, buoyed out on the foam of the

f

birds, my be - loved, buoyed out ___ on the foam of the

f

birds, my be - loved, buoyed out on the foam of the

81

dim. sempre

p

sea,_____ of   the

dim. sempre

p

sea,   of ___ the   sea,_____ of   the

dim. sempre

p

sea,   of   the   sea,___ of   the   sea,   of   the   sea,___ of   the

dim. sempre

p

of   the   sea,___ the   sea,_____ the   sea,   of   the

tutti unison

83   **pp** *a niente*

sea._____

p

85

pp *poco rit.*   *a niente*