



David Post

ARS POETICA

for mixed chorus a cappella

text by Archibald MacLeish

1994

David Post

ARS POETICA

for mixed chorus a cappella

text by Archibald MacLeish



Composer David Post's music has received wide exposure on radio and in the concert hall, and his Fourth String Quartet was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in music. His orchestral and chamber works have been played and recorded by international organizations including the Czech Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Moravian Philharmonic, the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra and the Salem Philharmonic, among others. He has received numerous commissions from groups and individuals, including the Aiolos Collective, the Terezin Music Foundation, the Martinu Quartet, the Fenimore Quartet, the Hawthorne String Quartet and many others.

Visit David Post's web site at www.DavidPostMusic.com.

I have loved this poem for as long as I can remember. It's crisp, fresh imagery, it's success in conveying, with a magnificent economy, what a poem is all about, is indeed a small miracle.

I could not resist the temptation to set it for chorus. Because the poem had "gestated" for many years,

I wrote it in one sitting, on a late-summer afternoon.

I can only hope it does justice to this small masterpiece.

— DLP

Copyright © 2016 by David L. Post (BMI). All rights reserved.

Available from Swirly Music at www.SwirlyMusic.org
Catalogue Number DPT-008

Ars Poetica

Duration: c. 2'20"

for mixed chorus a cappella

Text by Archibald MacLeish*

David Post

To be sung with an unaffected simplicity

$\text{♩} = 63$

p

Soprano
A po-em should be pal-pa-ble and mute _____ as old me

Alto
p
As a globed fruit Dumb_ as old me

Tenor
p
As a globed fruit Dumb_____ as old me

Bass
p
As a globed fruit Dumb_____ as old me

To be sung with an unaffected simplicity

$\text{♩} = 63$

p

Piano
(for rehearsal only)

* Words from "Ars Poetica" from COLLECTED POEMS, 1917-1982 by Archibald MacLeish. Copyright 1985 by The Estate of Archibald MacLeish. Used by permission of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

5

dal - ions to the thumb

dal - ions to the thumb

mf

Of

dal - ions to the thumb

Si - lent as the sleeve worn stone

mf

dal - ions to the thumb

Of

mf

8

the moss has grown - A po-em should be word-less

mf

p

case-ment led-ges where the moss has grown

the moss has grown

case-ment led-ges where the moss has grown

p

As the flight of birds

As the flight of birds

mf A po - em should be

mf A po - em should be mo - tion - less in

mf

13 *p subito* mo - tion - less As the moon climbs *p*

p subito A po - em should be mo - tion - less As the moon climbs *mf* Leav - ing as the moon re - leas - es

p subito mo - tion less mo - tion - less As the moon climbs *p*

p subito time mo - tion - less As the moon climbs *p*

mf

16

the night en-tang-led trees

Twig by twig the night en-tang-led trees

mf

Leav-ing as the moon be-hind the win-ter leaves

19

p

A po em should be mo-tion-less

p dolce

Mem-or-y by mem-or-y the mind

p dolce

Mem or -y by mem-or-y the mind

p

in time _____ Not true For

As the moon climbs A poem should be e-equal to _____ Not true

As the moon climbs e-equal to Not true

As the moon climbs A po-em should be e-equal to _____ Not true

As the moon climbs A po-em should be e-equal to _____ Not true

As the moon climbs A po-em should be e-equal to _____ Not true

As the moon climbs A po-em should be e-equal to _____ Not true

As the moon climbs A po-em should be e-equal to _____ Not true

all the his-tor-y of grief _____ An emp-ty door-way and a ma-ple leaf For

all the his-tor-y of grief _____ An emp-ty door-way and a ma-ple leaf

all the his-tor-y of grief _____ An emp-ty door-way and a ma-ple leaf

all the his-tor-y of grief _____ An emp-ty door-way and a ma-ple leaf

31

7

love _____ A

f *p*
 divisi unison
 The lean - ing grass - es and two lights a - bove the sea A
 The lean - ing grass - es and two lights a - bove the sea A
 and two lights a - bove the sea A

33

po - em should not mean but be _____

po - em should not mean but be _____

po - em should not mean but be _____

po - em should not mean but be _____