

"Stepping Stones" mixed choir, baritone and organ 11' 2003

Requested by Studium Chorale and commissioned by the Fund for the Creation of Music.

according to Webster's dictionary, stepping - stone means:

'any means or stage of advancement or improvement'.

This refers to the content of the Dag Hammarskjöld's texts, reflected in this composition.

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Gecomponeerd op verzoek van Studium Chorale en in opdracht van het Fonds voor de Scheppende Toonkunst.

'Stepping stone' betekent zoveel als:

'steen in een beek om over te steken' of ' middel om vooruit te komen of een doel te bereiken' en heeft betrekking op de inhoud van Dag Hammarskjöld's tekst die het uitgangspunt vormde van deze compositie.

I am being driven forward Being driven forward On the path of others
Into an unknown land. Into an unknown land Are resting places,
The pass grows steeper, The pass grows steeper, Places in the sun
The air colder and sharper. The air colder and sharper. Where they can meet.
The wind from my unknown goal The wind from my unknown goal But this
Stirs the strings Stirs the strings Is your path,
Of expectation Of expectation And it is now,
Now, (that) you must not fail.
Still the question: Tired Weep,
Shall I ever get there? And lonely, If you can,
There where life resounds, So tired Weep,
A clear pure note The heart aches. But do not complain.
In the silence. Meltwater trickles The way chose you-
Down the rocks, And you must be thankful.
Smiling, sincere, incorruptible- The fingers are numb,
His body disciplined and limber. The knees tremble.
A man who had become what he could, It is now,
And was what he was- Now, that you must not give in.
Ready at any moment to gather everything
Into one simple sacrifice.

from: "Markings" by Dag Hammarskjöld
translated from Swedish by Leif Sjöberg &
W.H.Auden. Ballantine Books - New York