



# **A dirge**

**George James Webb  
(1803-1887)**

**George James Webb** (1803-1887) was born at Rushmore Lodge, near Salisbury in Wiltshire, England. He trained early in England and was an organist in Falmouth, England. He emigrated to Boston, Massachusetts, in 1830. He was organist at the Old South Church in Boston for nearly 40 years and was organist at the Boston Church of the New Jerusalem. With Lowell Mason, he founded the Boston Academy of Music. He was president of the Handel and Haydn Society. In 1871, he left Boston, taught in New York from 1876-1885, and retired to Orange, New Jersey. He was an editor for the journals "The Music Library" and "The Music Cabinet." He published the books "Vocal Techniques" and "Voice Culture," and was editor and arranger of the collections "Young Ladies' Vocal Class Book," "The Glee Hive," "The New Odeon," "The Vocalist," the "Little Songster," and "Cantica Laudis." He composed organ music, choral music, songs, and hymns. His most well-known composition is his part-song "'Tis Dawn, the Lark is Singing." The original song was well received and later adapted as a hymn with the addition of sacred words "Stand up, stand up for Jesus."

This morn, thy gallant bark, love,  
Sailed on the sunny sea;  
'Tis noon,—and tempests dark, love,  
Have wrecked it on the lee.  
    Ah, wo! ah, wo! ah, wo!  
    By spirits of the deep  
    He's cradled on the billow,  
    To his unwaking sleep!

Thou liest upon the shore, love,  
Beside the swelling surge;  
But sea-nymphs ever more, love,  
Shall sadly chaunt thy dirge.  
    O come! O come! O come!  
    Ye spirits of the deep!  
    While near his sea-weed pillow,  
    My lonely watch I keep.

From far across the sea, love,  
I hear a wild lament,  
By Echo's voice, for thee, love,  
From Ocean's caverns sent:—  
    O list! O list! O list!  
    The spirits of the deep—  
    Loud sounds their wail of sorrow,  
    While I for ever weep!

Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (1797–1851)

# A dirge

G. J. Webb

**Agitato**

S  
This morn, thy gal - lant bark, love, Sail'd on the sun - ny sea; 'Tis

A  
This morn, thy gal - lant bark, love, Sail'd on the sun - ny sea; 'Tis

T  
This morn, thy gal - lant bark, love, Sail'd on the sun - ny sea; 'Tis

B  
This morn, thy gal - lant bark, love, Sail'd on the sun - ny sea; 'Tis

5

S  
noon,— and tem - pests dark, love, Have wreck'd it on the lee. Ah,

A  
noon,— and tem - pests dark, love, Have wreck'd it on the lee. Ah,

T  
noon,— and tem - pests dark, love, Have wreck'd it on the lee. Ah,

B  
noon,— and tem - pests dark, love, Have wreck'd it on the lee. Ah,

## A dirge

9

S wo! ah, wo! ah, wo! By spir - its of the deep He's

A wo! ah, wo! ah, wo! By spir - its of the deep He's

T wo! ah, wo! ah, wo! By spir - its of the deep He's

B wo! ah, wo! ah, wo! By spir - its of the deep He's

*mf* *f*

15

S cra - dled on the bil - low, To his un - wak - ing sleep!

A cra - dled on the bil - low, To his un - wak - ing sleep!

T cra - dled on the bil - low, To his un - wak - ing sleep!

B cra - dled on the bil - low, To his un - wak - ing sleep!

*riten.* *pp* *ritard.*

Tempo 1

21

S Thou liest up - on the shore, love, Be - side the swell - ing surge; But

A Thou liest up - on the shore, love, Be - side the swell - ing surge; But

T Thou liest up - on the shore, love, Be - side the swell - ing surge; But

B Thou liest up - on the shore, love, Be - side the swell - ing surge; But

*mf*

# A dirge

26

S sea - nymphs ev - er more, love, Shall sad - ly chaunt thy dirge. O

A sea - nymphs ev - er more, love, Shall sad - ly chaunt thy dirge. O

T sea - nymphs ev - er more, love, Shall sad - ly chaunt thy dirge. O

B sea - nymphs ev - er more, love, Shall sad - ly chaunt thy dirge. O

30

S come! O come! O come! Ye spir - its of the deep! While

A come! O come! O come! Ye spir - its of the deep! While

T come! O come! O come! Ye spir - its of the deep! While

B come! O come! O come! Ye spir - its of the deep! While

36

S near his sea - weed pil - low, My lone - ly watch I keep.

A near his sea - weed pil - low, My lone - ly watch I keep.

T near his sea - weed pil - low, My lone - ly watch I keep.

B near his sea - weed pil - low, My lone - ly watch I keep.

## A dirge

Tempo 1

42 *mf*

S From far a-cross the sea, love, I hear a wild la - ment, By

A From far a-cross the sea, love, I hear a wild la - ment, By

T From far a-cross the sea, love, I hear a wild la - ment, By

B From far a-cross the sea, love, I hear a wild la - ment, By

47

S Ech - o's voice, for thee, love, From O - cean's cav - erns sent:— O

A Ech - o's voice, for thee, love, From O - cean's cav - erns sent:— O

T Ech - o's voice, for thee, love, From O - cean's cav - erns sent:— O

B Ech - o's voice, for thee, love, From O - cean's cav - erns sent:— O

51

S list! O list! O list! The spir - its of the deep— Loud

A list! O list! O list! The spir - its of the deep— Loud

T list! O list! O list! The spir - its of the deep— Loud

B list! O list! O list! The spir - its of the deep— Loud

# A dirge

57

S  
sounds their wail of sor - row, While I for ev - er weep!

A  
sounds their wail of sor - row, While I for ev - er weep!

T  
sounds their wail of sor - row, While I for ev - er weep!

B  
sounds their wail of sor - row, While I for ev - er weep!

Mason & Law  
(1850)

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