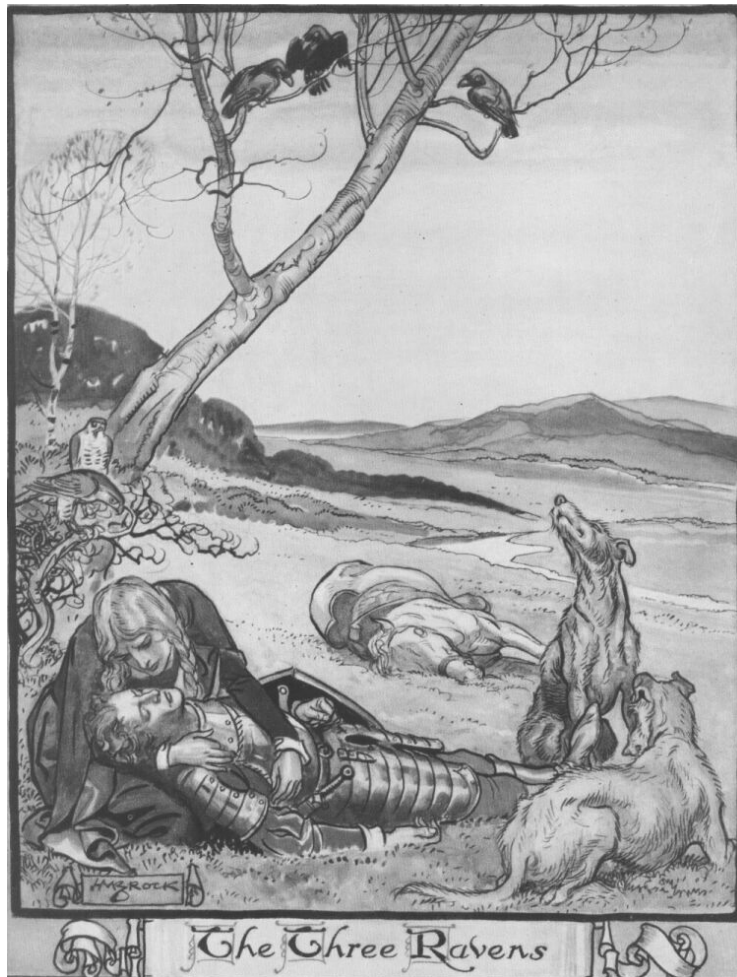


# THE THREE RAVENS

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for Vocal Ensemble (SSA)

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**Phillip A. Cooke**

# THE THREE RAVENS

## for Vocal Ensemble (SSA) (2017)

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### PERFORMANCE NOTES

The *mmm* sound is a resonant humming sound, perhaps with a slightly open mouth if necessary to create a fuller sound.

The *ooh* sound is a generic 'ooh' sound such as the vowel sound in Lucy.

The boxed sections (b.39-51) are to be repeated in a free-time, independently of the other parts, breaths can be taken when necessary.

All breath marks are suggestions only.

A sense of medieval austerity should prevail throughout.

**Duration:** 4 minutes

**Cover photograph:** [www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com)

**For more information:** [www.phillipcooke.com](http://www.phillipcooke.com)

First performed on the 23 March 2017 by Juice at King's College Chapel, Aberdeen, UK

### TEXT

There were three ravens sat on a tree,  
They were as black as they might be.

The one of them said to his mate,  
'Where shall we our breakfast take?'

Down in yonder green field,  
There lies a knight slain under his shield.

His hounds they lie down at his feet,  
So well they can their master keep.

'His hawks they fly so eagerly,  
There's no fowl dare him come nigh.'

Down there comes a fallow doe,  
As great with young as she might go.

She lift up his bloody head,  
And kissed his wounds that were so red.

She got him up upon her back,  
And carried him to earthen lake.

She buried him before the prime,  
She was dead ere evensong time.

God send every gentleman,  
Such hawks, such hounds, and such a  
leman.

# THE THREE RAVENS

ENGLISH TRAD. (1611)

for Vocal Ensemble (SSA)

PHILLIP A. COOKE (2017)

**Gelidamente (tempo flessibile)** (♩ = c.88)

**poco rit.** . . . . .

*p* ————— *mf* ————— *p* ————— *mf* ————— *p*

There were three ra - vens sat on a tree, down a down, hey down a down; - there  
 down a down, hey down a down; -  
 down a down, hey down a down;

**A tempo**

**poco rit.** . . . . . **A tempo**

5 were three ra - vens sat on a tree, with a down; the one of them said  
 with a down; -  
 with a down;

**poco rit.** . . . . . **A tempo**

**rit.** . . . . .

9 to his mate, 'where shall we our break - fast take?' with a down, der - rie, der - rie,  
 with a down, der - rie, der - rie,  
 with a down, der - rie, der - rie,

**A tempo**

**poco rit.**

13

der - rie down, down. *p* *p sempre* *\*mmm* down a down, hey

der - rie down, down. *p* *p sempre* *\*mmm* down a down, hey

der - rie down, down. *p* Down in yon - der green field, *mf* *p* down a down, hey

\* See preface for details.

**A tempo**

**poco rit.**

17

down a down; *mf* *p* *p sempre* *\*ooh* with a down; *mf*

down a down; *mf* *p* *p sempre* *\*ooh* with a down; *mf*

down a down; there lies a knight slain un - der his shield, *mf* with a down; His *mf*

\* See preface for details.

**A tempo**

**poco rit.**

21

*mp* *p* *ooh* *mmm* with a

*mp* *p* *ooh* *mmm* with a

*f* *mf* *p* hounds they lie down at his feet, so well they can their mas - ter keep, with a

A tempo rit. . . . . A tempo

25 *mf* *p* *fp* *fp* *fp* *p*

down, der-rie, der-rie, der-rie down, down. hawks, fly, hawks, fly,

*mf* *p* *p* *mf* *p*

down, der-rie, der-rie, der-rie down, down. His hawks, they fly so ea - ger - ly,

*mf* *p* *fp* *fp* *fp* *p*

down, der-rie, der-rie, der-rie down, down. hawks, fly, hawks, fly, —

poco rit. . . . . A tempo poco rit. . . . .

29 *mf* *fp* *fp* *fp* *p*

down a down, hey down a down; hawks, fly, hawks, with a

*mf*

down a down, hey down a down; there's no fowl dare him come nigh, with a

*mf* *fp* *fp* *fp* *p*

down a down, hey down a down; hawks, fly, hawks, with a

. . . . . A tempo poco rit. . . . .

33 *mf* *p sempre*

down; Down, down, down, with, with,

*mf* *f* *mf*

down; Down there comes a fal - low doe, as great with young as

*mf* *p sempre*

down; there, there, there, young,

A tempo                      rit.                      A tempo

with, with a down, der-rie, der-rie, der-rie down, down. She

she might go, with a down, der-rie, der-rie, der-rie down, down. der-rie down, down.

young, young, with a down, der-rie, der-rie, der-rie down, down. der-rie down, down.

\* See preface for details.

poco rit. . . . .

lift up his blood - dy head, down a down, hey down a down; and

der-rie down, down.

der-rie down, down.

A tempo                      poco rit. . . . .                      A tempo

kissed his wounds that were so red with a down; She got him up up -

der-rie down, down.

der-rie down, down.

poco rit. . . . . A tempo rit. . . . .

49 *mf* *p* *mf*

on her back, and car - ried him to earth - en lake, with a down, der - rie, der - rie,

der - rie down, down. with a down, der - rie, der - rie,

der - rie down, down. with a down, der - rie, der - rie,

Meno mosso, più mesto (♩ = c.69)

53 *p* *lunga* *p espress.*

der - rie down, down. She bur - ied him be - fore the prime,

der - rie down, down. She bur - ied him be - fore the prime,

der - rie down, down. She bur - ied him be - fore the prime,

57 *p espress.*

down a down, hey down a down; she was dead ere e - ven-song time, with a

*pp sempre* *p espress.*

down, she was dead ere e - ven-song time, with a

*pp sempre* *p espress.*

down, she was dead ere e - ven-song time, with a

61 *pp* *p espress, più caldo*

down, God send ev - ery' gen - tle - man, such hawks, such hounds and

*pp* *p espress, più caldo*

down, God send ev - ery' gen - tle - man, such hawks, such hounds and

*pp* *p espress, più caldo*

down, God send ev - ery' gen - tle - man, such hawks, such hounds and

**molto rit.** . . . . .

65 *pp* *ppp*

such a \*le - man, - with a down, der - rie, der - rie, der - rie down, down.

*pp* *ppp*

such a \*le - man, - with a down, der - rie, der - rie, der - rie down, down.

*pp* *ppp*

such a \*le - man, - with a down, der - rie, der - rie, der - rie down, down.

\* pronounced lee-man