

for my friend, Gary Lamprecht

Sister Gone

(S.A.T.B., a cappella)

William Barnes (1801-1886)

K. v. v. A. Memley

Having grown up with two younger sisters and marrying into a family of three daughters, I have seen my share of wedding ceremonies. Needless to say, I always wanted a brother! But growing up with girls was not such a bad thing. One by one, I watched them enter into marriage and a beautiful new life. The greatest burden fell upon the last unwed sister, Julia, who had not yet found 'a life to match her own' as William Barnes states. It seemed like the empty years passed on for her as we gathered with family during the holidays. However, I am happy to tell you that Julia is now married and is enjoying her time with her husband and new daughter.

How I came across the poem, "Sister Gone" is a shadowy memory. The text had been in my possession for a few years, but it took the personal experiences of my sister to revive my interest and emotional commitment to the piece. William Barnes eloquently reminds us of the intimate subtleties shared between sisters. His masterful touch brings us alongside Jane's bittersweet feelings of both happiness and solitude, and leaves us there to ponder.

This piece is dedicated to my friend, Gary Lamprecht. Gary was one of the first to perform my music with his groups in San Luis Obispo, many years before I was published. Thank you, Gary.

KAM

Rubato ♩ = 72

SOPRANO
ALTO

TENOR
BASS

mp 1 2 3

When Ma - ry, on her wed - ding day, (at) last a bride, had

mp

4 5 6

gone a - way from all her friends that there had spent

mf

7 8 9

and ring - ers rang, at

mp

10 11 12

e - ven - fall, their peals of bells, from great to small, with-

the

P1444

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13 *f* in the tow - er's moss - y wall so high a-against the *mp* *rit.*

14 15

16 *a tempo* ev' - ning sky, then Jane, that there through-out the day *p*

17 18 *mp*

ev' - ning sky, then Jane, that there through - out the day had

19 (one soprano) *a little slower* had been the gay - est of the gay, *mp* at

20 21

been the gay - est of the gay,

22 and pon - der on her sis - ter fled, *mp*

23 24

la - be - gan to hang her head and

23 *rit.* days that seem'd too quick - ly flown, *mp*

24

with no one's life to match her own,

25 *rubato* so sad, though hith - er - to so glad, *mp*

26

27 *mf* so sad, though hith - er - to so glad, *mf*

28

29 *f* *p* 30 *mp* to It sad - dened me that moon - paled night *f* *p*

31

32 *mp* see her by the wall, in white, while *mf*

mp

34 friends de - part - ed mate with mate *mf*

be -

36 as *mp*

yond the of - ten swing - ing gate, *mp*

38 the be - side the li - lac shade, where *mf*

mf

40 gol - den chained la - bur - num sway'd a -

42 round her face her hair - locks play'd, all *f*

p

44 black with light be - hind her (her) back. Oo *pp*

pp

47 *rit. to end*

48 49 50 51



Kevin A. Memley is a refreshing and versatile composer whose works have received the world-wide attention of audiences and performers. Though largely self-taught, Memley has received praise for his fine craftsmanship and dedication. He is in demand as a commissioned composer and has been prominently featured in ACDA National and Regional conventions since 2009. In addition, many All-State Choirs across the United States have sung his works. His music has been performed in the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Segerstrom Hall, the Chicago Symphony Hall and at the Llangollen International Choral Festival in Wales by top placing choirs. He is published with Pavane Publishing (including his own choral series), Walton Music, Gentry Publishing and John Rich Music Press.

Memley has also composed, orchestrated and conducted for film. His two feature scores, "Final Encounter" and "Daim Duab," have played largely in the Western Hemisphere, Europe and Asia. Memley has earned a Designated Subjects Credential in Multimedia from Fresno Pacific University and teaches Music Technology at Clovis East High School. As an accomplished accompanist, he serves the Fresno area at Clovis East High School, the San Joaquin Chorale of Fresno Pacific University, and the Willow International Community College Choir. Since 2009, he has directed the choir at the Kingsburg Community Church and often writes for them.

He resides in Fresno, California, with his wife Melody and three sons Mark, John, and Kyle. For more information, visit www.kevinmemley.com.

Music by Kevin A. Memley

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