BEYOND for baritone and tape

IN MEMORIAM A.H.H. for tenor, baritone and tape

excerpts of POWERS OF TWO

BARRY TRUAX

BEYOND

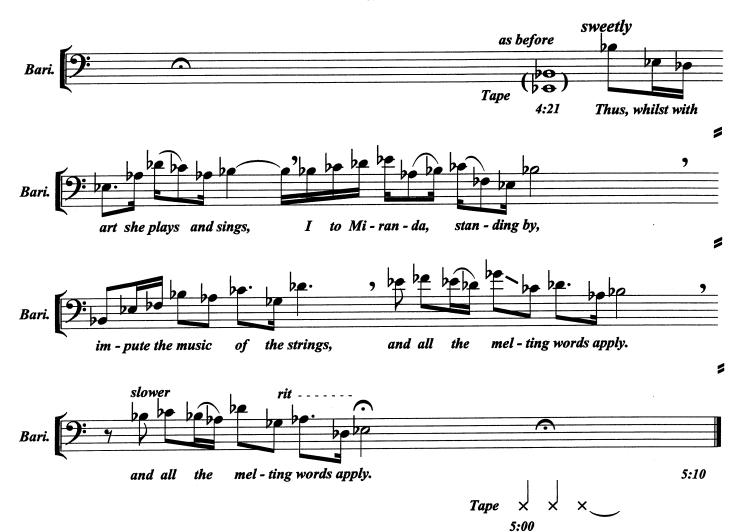
for baritone and tape

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In Memoriam A.H.H.







In Memoriam A.H.H., and Beyond, are excerpts of my electroacoustic opera Powers of Two. In the Act 1, the duet (a setting of one of 131 stanzas written by Tennyson in memory of his friend, Arthur Hallam) is sung by two male characters, one gay, the other straight, followed by a solo using a Whitman text from Leaves of Grass which also celebrates male bonding. Beyond opens Act 4 where the male singer appears to have passed into another realm beyond our reality, yet longs for his lover.

In Memoriam A.H.H.

Thy voice is on the rolling air; I hear thee where the waters run; Thou standest in the rising sun, And in the setting thou art fair.

What art thou then? I cannot guess; But tho' I seem in star and flower To feel thee some diffusive power, I do not therefore love thee less:

My love involves the love before; My love is vaster passion now; Tho' mixed with God and Nature thou, I seem to love thee more and more.

Far off thou art, but ever nigh; I have thee still, and I rejoice; I prosper, circled with thy voice; I shall not lose thee tho' I die.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson: In Memoriam A.H.H., CXXX

Dear friend whoever you are take this kiss,
I give it especially to you, do not forget me,
An unknown sphere more real than I dream'd, more direct
darts awakening rays about me, So long!
Remember my words, I may again return,
I love you, I depart from materials,
I am as one disembodied, triumphant, dead.

Walt Whitman: Leaves of Grass, Songs of Parting (1860)

To the Seer I will go, His disembodied mind will show me The path my art must take To reach my rejected love.

BEYOND

Eeeeh, eeeeh
I do not see, I cannot breathe.
Nothing is there for my eyes to grasp
And I no longer exist
... no eye, not I

It is strange to no longer live on the earth, to abandon one's habits, so recently acquired, to no longer give to the rose the significance of a human future; to no longer be that which with endlessly trembling hands one once was, and to have even one's name drop away like a broken toy.

It is strange to no longer wish for things, to see all that once had substance, connection, flutter about so freely in space. And yes, it is tiring to be dead, filled with recollection, until gradually one might sense a piece of eternity.

R. M. Rilke: *Duino Elegy I* (trans. by Norbert Ruebsaat)

Miranda, is it you, Or are you only in my dreams? I need to see if you are real And bring you to my arms.

Music, which tunes the soul for love And stirs up all our soft desires, Does but the growing flame improve Which pow'rful Beauty first inspires.

Thus, whilst with art she plays and sings, I to Miranda, standing by, Impute the music of the strings And all the melting words apply.

Anne Finch, Countess of Winchilsea (1661-1720)