

Break, break, break

for Large Brass Ensemble

by

John M. Tarrh

Instrumentation

1 A Piccolo Trumpet

4 C Trumpet

5 F Horn

3 Trombone

1 Euphonium

2 Tuba

Break, break, break

Alfred Lord Tennyson

Break, break, break
On thy cold grey stones, O Sea!
And I would that my tongue could utter
The thoughts that arise in me.

O well for the fisherman's boy,
That he shouts with his sister at play!
O well for the sailor lad,
That he sings in his boat on the bay!

And the stately ships go on
To their haven under the hill;
But O for the touch of a vanish'd hand,
And the sound of voice that is still!

Break, break, break
At the foot of thy crags, O Sea!
But the tender grace of a day that is dead
Will never come back to me.

Program Notes

“Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809 – 1892), the most famous poet of the Victorian age, was a profound spokesman for the ideas and values of his times.” (Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition, 2001.)

Break, break, break was written in response to the sudden death at an early age of his closest friend, Arthur Hallam. The poem is full of sudden shifts of imagery which are reflected in the musical setting. Rather than ending in resignation and acceptance, the setting ends in defiance.

Originally written for chorus (SATB) and piano, *Break, break, break* has also been arranged for large brass ensemble (5 trumpets, 5 horns, 3 trombones, euphonium and 2 tubas) divided into three groups. The first (2 trumpets, trombone and euphonium) generally represents the chorus, while the second (2 trumpets, 2 horns, trombone and tuba) and third (trumpet, 3 horns, bass trombone and tuba) provide antiphonal accompaniment.

Break, break, break

John M. Tarrh

Vigorously, $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 90$

Piccolo Trumpet in A

Trumpet in C 1
Soloists

Trombone 1

Euphonium

Trumpet in C 2

Trumpet in C 3

Horn in F 1
Chorus A

Horn in F 2

Trombone 2

Tuba 1

Trumpet in C 4

Horn in F 3

Horn in F 4
Chorus B

Horn in F 5

Bass Trombone

Tuba 2

Break, break, break

rit. A Flowing, $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 80$

Picc. Tpt. *mf* *f* *mp*

C Tpt. 1 *f* *mp*

Soloists

Tbn. 1 *f* *mp*

Euph. *mf* *f* *mp*

C Tpt. 2 *mp* *f*

C Tpt. 3 *mp* *f*

Hn. 1 *mp* *f*

Chorus A

Hn. 2 *mp* *f*

Tbn. 2 *mp* *f*

Tuba 1 *mp* *f*

rit.

C Tpt. 4 *f* *molto* *p*

Hn. 3 *f* *molto* *p*

Hn. 4 *f* *molto* *p*

Chorus B

Hn. 5 *f* *molto* *p*

B. Tbn. *f* *molto* *p*

Tuba 2

Break, break, break

B Vigorously, as before
a tempo

This musical score is for the piece "Break, break, break" and is the third page of the score. It features a variety of instruments and vocal parts. The score is divided into three systems. The first system includes Piccolo Trumpet, C Trumpet 1, Soloists, Trombone 1, and Euphonium. The second system includes C Trumpet 2, C Trumpet 3, Horn 1, Chorus A, Horn 2, Trombone 2, and Tuba 1. The third system includes C Trumpet 4, Horn 3, Horn 4, Chorus B, Horn 5, Bass Trombone, and Tuba 2. The music is in a key with three flats and a 3/4 time signature. It begins with a 21-measure introduction featuring triplets in the Piccolo Trumpet, C Trumpet 1, Soloists, and Euphonium parts, with dynamics of *mf* and *f*. At measure 26, a section marked **B** begins, with the instruction "Vigorously, as before" and "a tempo". This section features a dynamic shift to *f* and includes parts for C Trumpet 2, C Trumpet 3, Horn 1, Chorus A, Horn 2, Trombone 2, Tuba 1, C Trumpet 4, Horn 3, Horn 4, Chorus B, Horn 5, Bass Trombone, and Tuba 2. The score concludes with a final *f* dynamic.

Break, break, break

31 Spirited

Picc. Tpt.

C Tpt. 1 Soloists

Tbn. 1

Euph.

C Tpt. 2

C Tpt. 3

Hn. 1

Chorus A

Hn. 2

Tbn. 2

Tuba 1

C Tpt. 4

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Chorus B

Hn. 5

B. Tbn.

Tuba 2

p *mp* *mf* *f*

molto *p* *f*

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a brass ensemble. The page is numbered '4' at the top left. The title 'Break, break, break' is centered at the top. The score begins at measure 31, indicated by a '31' above the first staff. The tempo/mood is marked 'Spirited'. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The instruments listed on the left are Piccolo Trumpet, C Trumpet 1 (Soloists), Trombone 1, Euphonium, C Trumpet 2, C Trumpet 3, Horn 1, Chorus A, Horn 2, Trombone 2, Tuba 1, C Trumpet 4, Horn 3, Horn 4, Chorus B, Horn 5, Baritone Trombone, and Tuba 2. The score shows a crescendo in dynamics from *p* (piano) to *f* (forte) across the measures. The C Trumpet 1 part has a 'Spirited' marking above it. The C Trumpet 2 part has a 'molto' marking above it. The Piccolo Trumpet part has a *f* marking above it. The Euphonium part has a *p* marking above it. The Horn 1 part has a 'molto' marking above it. The Trombone 2 and Tuba 1 parts have *p* markings above them. The C Trumpet 2, C Trumpet 3, Horn 2, Trombone 2, and Tuba 1 parts have *f* markings above them at the end of the page. The score is written in a standard musical notation with stems and beams.

40 *rit.* **C** Flowing, $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 80$

Picc. Tpt. *mp*

C Tpt. 1 *mp*

Soloists

Tbn. 1

Euph.

C Tpt. 2

C Tpt. 3

Hn. 1

Chorus A

Hn. 2

Tbn. 2

Tuba 1

C Tpt. 4 *rit.* *f* *molto*

Hn. 3 *f* *molto* *p*

Hn. 4 *f* *molto* *p*

Chorus B

Hn. 5 *f* *molto* *p*

B. Tbn. *f* *molto* *p*

Tuba 2

50

Picc. Tpt. *p*

C Tpt. 1 *p*

Soloists

Tbn. 1

Euph. *p*

C Tpt. 2

C Tpt. 3

Hn. 1

Chorus A

Hn. 2

Tbn. 2

Tuba 1

C Tpt. 4

Hn. 3 *pp*

Hn. 4 *pp*

Chorus B

Hn. 5 *pp*

B. Tbn. *pp*

Tuba 2

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 6, is titled "Break, break, break". It features a variety of brass instruments. The Piccolo Trumpet (Picc. Tpt.) and the first Cornet (C Tpt. 1) both play a melodic line starting with a triplet of eighth notes, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The Euphonium (Euph.) also plays a triplet of eighth notes later in the measure, also marked *p*. The second and third Cornets (C Tpt. 2 and 3) are silent. The first Horn (Hn. 1) is silent. The Chorus A section, consisting of the second and third Horns (Hn. 2 and 3), is silent. The second and third Trombones (Tbn. 2 and 3) are silent. The first Tuba (Tuba 1) is silent. The fourth Cornet (C Tpt. 4) is silent. The third Horn (Hn. 3) plays a melodic line with triplets, marked *pp*. The fourth Horn (Hn. 4) plays a melodic line with triplets, marked *pp*. The Chorus B section, consisting of the fifth Horn (Hn. 5), is silent. The fifth Horn (Hn. 5) plays a melodic line with triplets, marked *pp*. The Bass Trombone (B. Tbn.) plays a melodic line with triplets, marked *pp*. The second Tuba (Tuba 2) is silent.

Break, break, break

59 *rit.* **D** Vigorously, as before
a tempo

Picc. Tpt.

C Tpt. 1 Soloists

Tbn. 1

Euph.

C Tpt. 2

C Tpt. 3

Hn. 1

Chorus A

Hn. 2

Tbn. 2

Tuba 1

C Tpt. 4

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Chorus B

Hn. 5

B. Tbn.

Tuba 2

78

Picc. Tpt.

C Tpt. 1

Soloists

Tbn. 1

Euph.

C Tpt. 2

C Tpt. 3

Hn. 1

Chorus A

Hn. 2

Tbn. 2

Tuba 1

C Tpt. 4

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Chorus B

Hn. 5

B. Tbn.

Tuba 2

f

ff