

The Tongue and the Heart for soprano and cello

Text: John Fuller

Music: Nicola LeFanu

*"A pretty little space between the tongue
and the heart,
like that between East and West"-
Coleridge, Notebooks, May 1799*

Hemispheres

As with the hemispheres,
So between the ears
There is a space we seek
And that is where we speak.

This is what we say.
This is what we feel.
There is a space between,
And that is what we mean.

Love has no East or West,
And surely love knows best
How between tongue and heart
Words must play their part.

And yet this is not all:
Two hemispheres recall
The world where they belong
The world that is their song.

Sunset

Come and look at the sun!
Look at the flagging sun:
Tired of the day he made,
A perfect arch of a day,
He is wrapping it up in the sky
And saving it for tomorrow.
In these hours of the evening
He thinks he can do better.

A careless teacher, the sun,
Although we dearly love him:
So many days he wastes,
Gathering all the pieces
Or throwing them away,
Frustrated or in tears.
In these days of our evening
We know we can do better.

Pichet

A little jug of wine
And glasses for two:
Yours, of course, and mine,
Just for me and you.

Glazed breakable clay
And full to the spout
On the exciting day
When we shared it out.

The wine went overboard
At every tilt
Of the jug we so eagerly poured
Reckless of whether it spilled.

Whenever we lifted the jug
We could not decide
How much of its weight and glug
There might be left inside.

Though all that we've attempted
Has come to pass
And the jug nearly emptied
There's still wine in the glass.

Puzzle

Within my arms there is a space
That aches for you, though you are
there
Just over the horizon
Of the passing moment,
Reading a book, or in a chair.

Heads together under the water,
Heads together over sky,
Patient until its edges
Form their promise of
A landscape of the by-and-by.

There is a story in all shape.
There is memory in an embrace.
And things like missing pieces
Eventually turn up
Like love, in their hiding place.

John Fuller

The Tongue and the Heart was composed for Sarah Leonard and Robin Michael.

Duration: c.10minutes. Play from score. NL