

# Songs of Athena

for dramatic soprano, male chorus, and orchestra  
from the opera, Iphigenia in Weimar

music and text by Philip Armstrong

1. The Moment Is Come (Act III Scene I)
2. The Gaze Of The Other (Act IV Scene I)
3. A Fine Hoard Of Classical Icons (Act III Scene V)
4. I Bid Farewell (Act IV Scene VI)

The score is written in C (with standard octave transpositions)

Duration: approx. 40 minutes

Draft: August 2015

# Act III Scene I

Philip Armstrong

Allegro Moderato ♩ = 76

**2** *f*

The mo - ment\_\_\_ is come,\_\_\_

**A**

7 the Na - tu - ral Law.\_\_\_\_

11 *f* **6**

The mo - ment is come, the Na - tu - ral Law.\_\_\_\_

**B**

20 *f*

And thus A - the - na de - scends from the

24 sky. Here is now; now is here, the mo - ment\_\_\_ true.

28

A pris - tine won - der of gen - tl - ness, yet,

31

Found - er - ing a - mid scep - tic pa\_\_\_\_ ra - dox,\_\_\_

**C**

33 **2**

36 *mf* *mp*  
 The sub-ject shall sub - mit to the O - ther, Is comm - an-ded to

39  
 du - ty from out - side, Is or - dered to e - thi - cal a - gen - cy.

43 *mf* **D**  
 The trans - fixed shall seek ri - tual o - bla - tion.

46 *mp*  
 This is the time - ho - noured o - bli - ga - tion; The de - i - ties

49 *f* *mf*  
 — be - yond O - lym - pus swoon. — If my creat - ures of the

52 *mp*  
 woods are felled then There must be a - tone - ment, must be ba - lance.

56 **E** *mp* *f*  
 Look to a time when all blooms, save a few, Shall

62  
 re - lish with fond - ness the al - tar stone. Bound - less tri - bute to ten - der age;

66 *mp* *f* **F** Allegro Moderato ♩ = 68  
 I say, Hon - our to those who per - form the du - ty,

70 *mp*

Ho - nour \_\_\_\_\_ to his young fe - llow's fa - mi - ly. The

73 *mf*

past is re-plete with glo - ri - ous tales, Of those who rose a - loft to

76 *f*

o - ffer dues. King — A ga - mem - non was one such fi - gure;

80 *mf* *p*

A cham - pi - on to this day, here and now.

84 *mp*

When mor - tals rise to ho - nour the al - tar, \_\_\_\_\_ Then they

87 *mf*

show res - pect to their pre - cur - sors, To each of the fa - mi - ly

90

A - tre - us, E - ven when \_\_\_\_\_ there is al - so tra - ge - dy. Let it

93 *I*

not be for go - tten, the heart - break. — Let it not be un - said that

96 *mp* *mf* *mp*

long a - go Pe - lops failed to a - cknow - ledge the al - tar, Ho - ly

V.S.

100 **J** *mf* *mp*

rites, to com-pre-hend his fa-ther. He\_\_ too is

105

here and now, in vile dis-grace. He brought shame u-pon all his an-ces-try.

109 **K** **Allegro Moderato**  $\text{♩} = 76$  *mf*

O - res-tes can be proud\_\_ of his fa-ther, Who per-

117 *mp* *f*

formed great ser-vice to his peo-ple. Who

121 **L**

led ma-ny cour-a geous young men on To brave-ly face the sharp point\_\_ of a

125 *mp* *f*

spear, And im-pelled his daugh-ter to the al-tar. al - tar, al -

129 **M**

tar, al - tar, al - tar, al - tar, al -

133

tar, al - tar, al - tar, al -

137

tar, al - tar,

140 **N** **O**



Will O - res - tes wa-llow in deep re-gret Like  
 Pe-lops, and like his own dear mo - ther? Or fo-llow this pa ter - nal  
 wis-dom, Thus en-dowed of King A-ga-mem non, and Tan ta - lus,  
 Cro - nus and Gai - a be - fore? The  
 mo - ment is here, the blade i - mma - nent.

## Act IV Scene I

Adagio ♩ = 68

Philip Armstrong

12 **A** *f* *mp*

The gaze of the Oth-er is re - con-dite.

16 *f* *mp* *f*

It is not else - where, not part of the self; It is

20 *mp* **B** *f*

in - fi-nite and it is no-where. There is a charge of di-li-gent

24 *mp* *mf*

vir - tue. There is a charge of care, of de - vo - tion. There is no imm

27 *mp* *mf*

u - ni-ty from yield-ing. Will this man, who su-m-moned A-the-na forth To

30 *f* *mp*

lend him cou rage, al-so step for-ward? O-res tes shall be off ered fit gui-dance.

33 **C** *mp* *mf*

At O - lym - pus, the pat - ron of wis - dom I am,

35 *mp* *mf* *f*

noth - ing oth-er than the Oth - er, The eth - i - cal by phen - o - men - al thought. I am V.S.

37



39



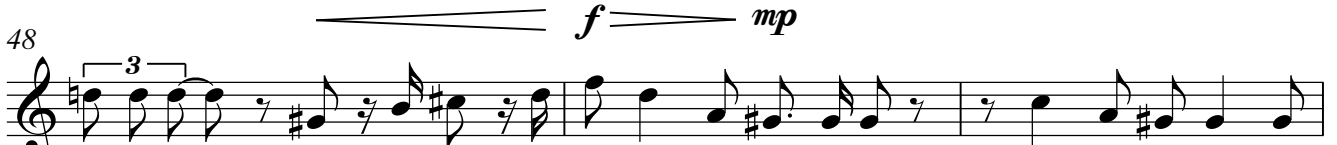
42



45



48



51



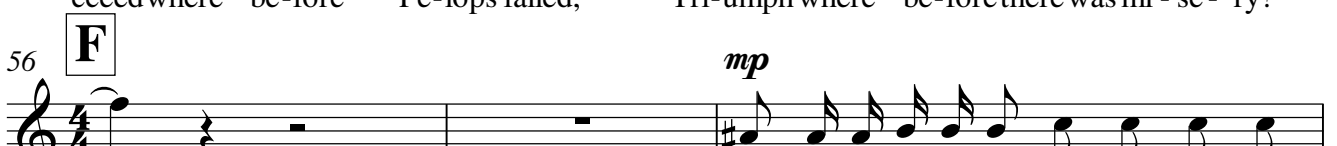
53




54




56

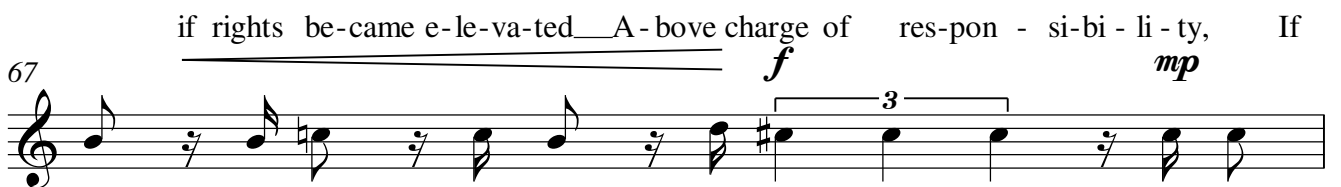





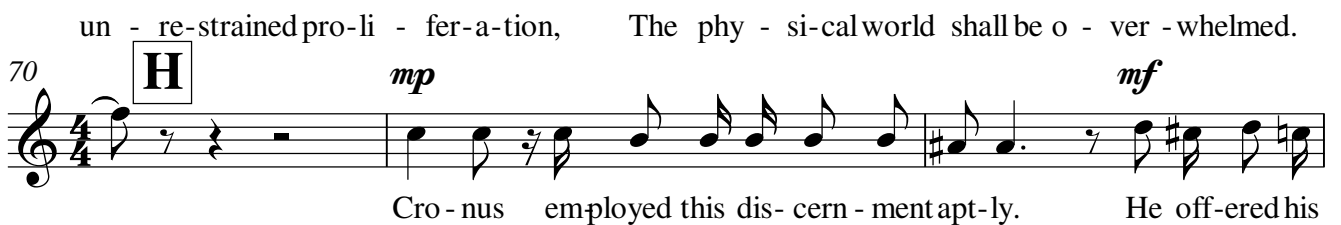
59 *mf*  
  
 She who is pri-mor-di-al di - e-ty, Moth-er God-dess, be - ne-fac tor\_ of life. Her

62 *mp*  
  
 spawn-ing was great, As was her wis - dom. She knew:

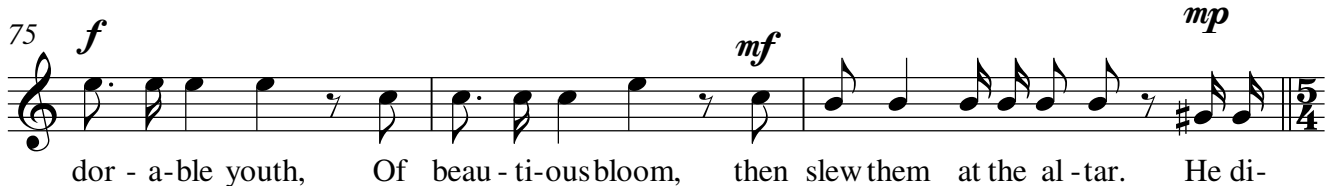
65 **G** *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp*  


67 *f* *mp*  
  
 if rights be-came e-le-va-ted\_ A - bove charge of res-pon - si-bi - li - ty, If

68 *f* *mp* *ff*  
  
 fee - ble coun - ter-weight is brought to bear A - gainst

70 **H** *mp* *mf*  
  
 un - re-strained pro-li - fer-a-tion, The phy - si-cal world shall be o - ver - whelmed.  
 Cro - nus employed this dis - cern - ment apt-ly. He off-ered his

73  
  
 child - ren\_ for the de-light of might - y de - i-ties. He watched them grow to a -

75 *f* *mf* *mp*  
  
 dor - a-ble youth, Of beau - ti-ous bloom, then slew them at the al - tar. He di -

78 **I** *f* *mp*  
  
 se - vered and con-sumed of them all. De-me ter, Hes-ti - a, He - ra,

V.S.

80 *f* *mp* *f* *mf*  
 Ha - des, And Po-sei - don; de-vooured ra-ve nous-ly. But he was

82 **J**  
 duped and de-ceived by Rhe-a, She who did not per-ceive his deep in-sight.

85 *p*  
 Sec-ret-ly, fur-tive-ly, in de - fi-ance, She gave birth to a - no-ther

87 *mf*  
 son, to Zeus. She kept him from a vo-ra - cious fa - ther. The

89 *f* *mf*  
 boy grew to might-y strength far from sight. Un-til at last, he de-posed his fore bear

92 *f* *mf*  
 and forced the dis-gorg - ing of the sib - lings. All were re - con-sti-

94 *f* **4**  
 tu - ted, siezed and torn A - way from the maw of the de - i - fic.

100 **K** **L** *f* *mp*  
 10 3  
 The re-ver - sal of the sanc - ti - fied rites,

113 *f* *mp* *f*  
 The re - vi - val of Zeus pre-tty child ren, Un

117 *mp* *f*

do - ing of the bless-ed off - er ings, The

120 *mf*

dark-est, ca-la - mi-tous tra - ge-dy In all mea - sure-ment of an

123 **M** *mp*

ti - qui ty. Gai-a mourned the loss for the high-er

127 *mf*

realms. There-af-ter King Cro-nus was o - ver thrown. And the shame-less

131

pro - fli - ga - cy of Zeus Was great - er than a - ny - thing of be -

135 *mp* *mf*

fore. Yet there was no thought to Na - tu - ral Law, Un-til the

138 *ff* **N** *mf*

young - est son di - vined the truth. Tan - ta - lus was born of the u - ni - on

141 *mp*

Be-tween dough - ty Zeus and the nymph Plu - to, She from a - mong the three

144 *mf* *mp*

thou-sand daugh-ters Of O - cean-us, the Black Lake pa-tro - ness. She con V.S.

147 **O** *f* *mp* *f*

sumed the lo - cal youths in great stock, Not hers but of ma - ny o - thers to hand,

149 *mp* *f*

Al - ways with height - ened ce - re - mo - ni - als, \_\_\_\_\_

150 *mp* *f*

Al - ways with re - course to sharp - ened dagg - ers,

151 *mp* *f*

Feed - ing in the sil - ent and sub merged depths,

152 **P** *mf* *mp*

And im - par - ted to her child great wis - dom. Tan - ta - lus di - vined sac - red

155

truth, a sense Of Gai - an law. There was ob - li - ga - tion To re -

157 *f* *mf* *mp*

veal an - cient learn - ing to the gods. He would off er Pe - lops to the al - tar. With

160 **Q** *f* *mp*

for - mal ob - ser - vance Tan - ta - lus drove in - to the tall boy, the beau - ti - ful youth,

162 *f*

He who could not in all days un - der - stand. \_\_\_\_\_

**R**

163 *mp* *f*

Tan - ta-lus off-ered the flesh to the gods, As Cro-nus had once be-fore done the same.

166 *mf* *p*

De-me-ter ate of her fill, shoul - der first. She was con-

168 *mf* *f*

sumed by her fath-er be-fore, And re-lished the ex tract; she swooned with joy.

171 *f*

Hes-ti-a and He-ra were de-si-rous too, E-ven Ha-des and

175 *mp*

flu-id Po-sei-don. But they and the o-ther O-lym-pi-ans Were

**S**

178 *f* *mp*

un-der the do-mi-ni-on of Zeus. They

182 **T** *f*

spurned the mo-ment, the truth of Gai-a Zeus charged the pu-nish-ment of

185 *mp* *mf*

Tan - ta-lus The dis-gorge-ment of Pe-lops, he who failed, Where O-

187 *mf*

res-tes has the chance to su-ceed, To ful-fill the charge of V.S.

190

mo-ral du - ty In the di-vine o-ri fice\_\_ for - e - ver.\_\_

**U** **V**

194

**3** **4**

# Act III Scene V

Allegro ♩ = 124

Philip Armstrong

*mf*

A fine hoard of cla-ssi-cal i-cons, yet

6

Here is the most stu-nning sight in the world, And the most sub -

9

lime un - der - ta - king too, A dri - ving mo men - tum, deep with - in

13 **A**

*mf* *mp* *mf*

We must not be de - ceived by dog - ma, yet The face -

19

— of the O - ther is core va - lue; —

**B** Andante moderato ♩ = 92

29

3

32 *f* *mf*

It is not a sym-bol of some thing else. Pri-or to all lan - guage and re-

37 *p*

flec - tion, \_\_\_\_\_ It sets de - mands u - pon the a - ni - ma.

42 **C** Tempo Primo ♩ = 124 *mp*

Bright wild - flo - wer, you must bear du - ty to Sanc - tion this

45 **15**

O - ther \_\_\_\_\_ to se - ver the stalk.

62 **D** Andante moderato ♩ = 92 *f* *mf*

You shall show great cou - rage and bra - ve - ry A -

69 *p* **2**

llo - wing the mar - ve - lous deed be done.

75 **E** Tempo Primo ♩ = 124 *mp*

These in - ci - sions \_\_\_\_\_ to the in - te - ri - or, This



78 *mf*

sca-tte ring of pe-tals to the wind. A-ny-thing else would be—

85

— a dis-ser-vice, A dis-fa-vour to o-thers and to you.

**F** Andante moderato ♩ = 92

89

E-fflo-re-scent blo-ssom of the mea-dow,

94 *mf* *mp*

You would live in bi-tter-ness for all days; Wit-ness the self re-proach of be-

99 *p*

tra-yal. In-stead of char-ming the gods in hea-ven You would

103

rot in the dirt of self dis-gust.——

106 **G** Tempo Primo ♩ = 124

2

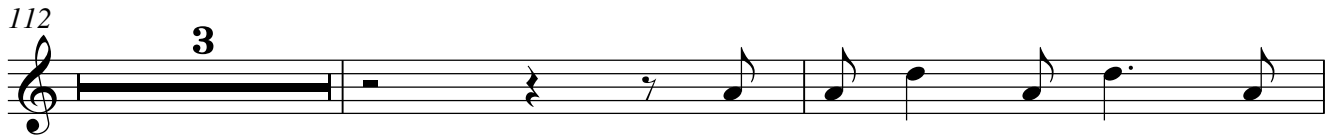
## Athena

108 *mf*



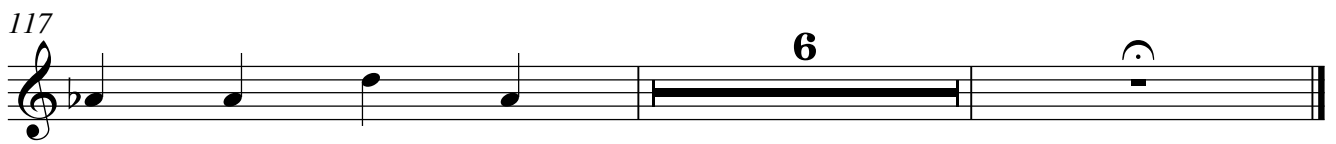
So — step forward now with the chin held high

112 **3**



And ready your - self for

117 **6**



sharp in - tru - sions.



55

gift Lea - ding — the pros - pe - ri - ty of those that Re - main be -

58

*p*

hind.

To O - res - tes I say:

62

**D** Poco più mosso ♩ = 84

*mp*

Go too, cou-ra-geously, — in peace and love — To the

68

*mf* *mp* *f*

blades of zeal and a - do - ra - tion. Go forth, free — from the

72

*mp* **E** **F** *mp*

veil of A-po-llo. Be not racked with em-

86

*mf* *f*

bi-tter-ment, fired by A mo-ther who ne-ver per - ceived the truth.

91

**G** *mp*

Go, be not a - no-ther Pe-lops, blind man,

95

*f* **2**

Be-mused by a fa - ther's a - ppe - ten - cy,

99

**H** *f*

Turn - ing his back on all Gai-an mys-tics, Who - lly mis-read-ing his

106 *f*

son, A - tre - us, The ri - tu - al o - ffer - ing of

109

kin - dred, The most daz - zling star of all, Chry - si - ppus.

116 **I** *mp*

This was not ri - val - ry for the

120 **12**

throne of O - lym - pus, as told by Zeus and a - llies.

135 **J** *mp* *mf* *f*

It was in - spired by the boy's great beau - ty, By the fu - sion of blood with smel - ted

139 *mf* *f*

ore, By sounds of o - ver - whelm ing pe - ne - trant, Mu - si - cal blend.

142 **2** *p* *mp*

To O - res - tes I say: If the

147 **K** *mf* *mp*

choice is to flee pick - ly day - dreams With com - pa - ny of sis - ter be - side him, As -

151 *f* **11**

told in fa - bles and fic - tion be - fore, Then all is not lost. —

166 **L** *f*

Still per-haps he may Build a splen - did tem-ple to

173

call his own And tell the tale of

176

Tau - ris at Wei - mar — So that men and wo-men joined may sing

179 **M** *f*

And pro-claim Na - tu-ral Law through the rites,

184 **2**

the rites, the rites. —

188 **N** *f*

There - in the sword, in lieu of one par - ting, — Shall bless ma - ny

196

throats, and still red blood flow, Like - wise the new realm\_ in -

200 **O** *f* **2**

i - ti - a - ted. The face of the O - ther re - veals new paths. Its

206

rites seek to di - mi - nish de - cep - tion, Those mysti - cal spec - ters, tired and in -



