

for Dr Bernie Sherlock & New Dublin Voices

Elemental Powers

W. B. Yeats

Roxanna Panufnik

Stormy ♩. = 78

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Alto 1 *pp* **unrelenting!** *p*

Pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and

Alto 2

Tenor 1 *pp* **unrelenting!** *p*

Pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and

Tenor 2

Bass 1 *pp* **unrelenting!** *p*

Pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and

Bass 2

5 *Unrelenting!* *p*

S.1 Pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers,

A.1 pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and

T.1 pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and

B.1 pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and

9

S.1 *p*
Pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers,

S.2 *mp*
The Pow - -

A.1 *p*
pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and

A.2 *mp*
The Pow - -

T.1 *p*
pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and

T.2 *mp*
The Pow - -

B.1 *p*
pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and

B.2 *mp*
The Pow - -

13

S.1 Pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and crea - ture

S.2 - ers whose name and shape no li - ving crea - ture

A.1 pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and

A.2 - ers whose name and shape no li - ving crea - ture

T.1 pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and

T.2 - ers whose name and shape no li - ving crea - ture

B.1 pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and pow-ers and

B.2 - ers whose name and shape no li - ving crea - ture

THE POET PLEADS WITH THE ELEMENTAL POWERS

THE Powers whose name and shape no living creature knows
Have pulled the Immortal Rose;
And though the Seven Lights bowed in their dance and wept,
The Polar Dragon slept,
His heavy rings uncoiled from glimmering deep to deep:
When will he wake from sleep?
Great Powers of falling wave and wind and windy fire,
With your harmonious choir
Encircle her I love and sing her into peace,
That my old care may cease;
Unfold your flaming wings and cover out of sight
The nets of day and night.
Dim powers of drowsy thought, let her no longer be
Like the pale cup of the sea,
When winds have gathered and sun and moon burned dim
Above its cloudy rim;
But let a gentle silence wrought with music flow
Whither her footsteps go.

W. B. Yeats

When Dr Bernie Sherlock approached me to commission a setting of W B Yeats poem for New Dublin Voices, I'm ashamed to say that I wasn't familiar with his work. But it gave me a fantastic opportunity to read through his Collected Poems – so many jumped out at me, begging to be set.

The Poet Pleads with the Elemental Powers chimed with me especially – the desperation of having to draw so profoundly deeply for nebulous creative inspiration then being swept away with it once it arrives, chimed with the passionate turbulence and Celtic mysticism in this poem.

The direction for the performers from the start is 'Stormy' – the elemental powers are relentless and create a constant chromatic swirling accompaniment in one half of the choir, whilst the other half describe the form that the *Elemental Powers* take.

The last verse feels like a prayer of sorts to me, so this is a quieter, more reflective and hymn-like part. However, the final chord is strong but unsettled in its harmony, as if there will never be complete rest from those stormy powers.

I am very grateful to Bernie for this commission and the Arts Council of Ireland for its funding support.

Roxanna Panufnik, 4 December 2023

Duration: approx. 4 minutes

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