

STAVES  
CALENDS  
LEGENDS

S.A.T.B. a cappella



Poetry by  
THOMAS MEYER

Music by  
CRAIG CARNAHAN

STAVES      CALEND'S      LEGENDS

I, I, BALDR

I                    thus  
thoughts            upon my bed  
                     Baldr  
being at rest in my father's house  
& flourishing in his yard    dream  
                     white brow wet with ice-dew  
visions in my head troubled me  
  
in mist            benches            rushes  
walls            bright shields      vats  
& to their brims            readied  
I saw            bed            beheld  
                     blind  
man            green reed            hand  
eyes            all shapes  
but one    sorrow's moon      drew  
cares' tides to all heart's shores  
but not    dry-eyed hag      wood  
  
a tree  
the beasts of the field had shadow  
                     air            dwelt  
&            wolf            leaves scatter  
fire            flood            home  
gods            hearts  
taken from them    beasts' hearts  
given unto them            dream  
I                       Baldr  
bed                    have seen

## 2. I TOO HAVE BROUGHT MY OWN GODS

I too have brought my own gods.

A dish of flour  
set by rosemary on midsummer  
then by morning initials, a husband  
named, nuptial  
seed.

The tales day forgets  
are told by night.

The third maid, the same maid  
sets the besom aside,  
finds the ring in the fish's belly  
becomes the bride.

The gods do not die,  
they change their names.

## 3. AS HE LAY ON HUNTLIE BANK

He leapt  
up. She  
came  
sudden  
-ly bright.

Thomas Rimer eyed her ride her white  
horse  
jangling a mane of fifty  
nine silver bells.

Her skirt green as grass & silk.  
Over her shoulders hung a velvet cape.

Cap in hand  
he knelt

Ave  
Maria

4. HAIL ME NOT AS MARY

Hail me  
not as Mary.

Neither sun nor moon  
but a sea roaring.  
They sped in murk  
& starless night  
upon his kissing her.

5. THEN SHE LAID OVER HIM A COVERLET

Then she laid over him a coverlet,  
her own handiwork,  
the pelts of nine speckled stoats  
so finely matched that not one seam  
showed the least sign of her stitchery.

The bolster took his arm  
& in its crook he laid his head.

THOMAS MEYER

*from his book*

STAVES CALENDs LEGENDS

*used with permission of the poet*

*staves* = the lines that make up an M or a T

*calends* = new moons

*hag wood* = unclear, perhaps refers to wood that is bent or hooked

*besom* = a broom, especially one made from a bundle of twigs

*stoat* = similar to an ermine, once valued as a symbol of wealth, nobility, or high rank

*bolster* = unclear, possibly refers to a stone mason

# STAVES, CALENDERS, LEGENDS

Thomas Meyer

Craig Carnahan

## 1. I, Baldr

Gently, always sustained  $\text{♩} = 76$

Solo

Soprano *mp*

Alto *mp*

Tenor *mp*

Bass *mp*

I thus thoughts up - on my bed

Piano *for rehearsal only*

Gently, always sustained  $\text{♩} = 76$

Duration: c. 12:30 minutes

5

S Bal - dr be-ing at rest in my fa - ther's house and flour-ish-ing in his

A Bal - dr be-ing at rest in my fa - ther's house and flour-ish-ing in his

T Bal - dr be-ing at rest in my fa - ther's house and flour-ish-ing in his

B Bal - dr be-ing at rest in my fa - ther's house and flour-ish-ing in his

Pno.

9

S yard — dream (m) m *dolce* *rall.*

A yard — dream (m) m *dolce* *rall.*

T yard — dream (m) m *dolce* *rall.*

B yard — dream (m) *dolce* *rall.*

Pno.

♩ = 66

14

S  
white brow wet with ice-dew vi-sions in my head trou-bled me walls

A  
white brow wet with ice-dew vi-sions in my head trou-bled me rush-es

T  
8  
white brow wet with ice-dew vi-sions in my head trou-bled me bench-es

B  
white brow wet with ice-dew vi-sions in my head trou-bled me in mist

Pno.

*mf*

18

S  
bright shields vats and to their brims read-ied I saw bed be-held

A  
*mf*  
bright shields vats and to their brims read-ied I saw bed be-held

T  
8  
*mf*  
bright shields vats and to their brims read-ied I saw bed be-held

B  
*mf*  
bright shields vats and to their brims read-ied I saw bed be-held

Pno.

23

S  
blind man green reed hand eyes

A  
blind man green reed hand eyes

T  
blind man green reed hand eyes

B  
blind man green reed hand eyes

Pno.

*mp* *p*

*mp* *p*

*mp* *p*

*mp* *p*

27

S  
all shapes but one drew cares' tides to all heart's shores

A  
sor-row's moon drew cares' tides to all heart's shores

T  
drew cares' tides to all heart's shores but

B  
sor-row's moon drew cares' tides to all heart's shores

Pno.

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*



31

S  
a tree a tree

A  
a tree a tree

T  
8 not dry-eyed hag wood a tree the beasts of the field had shad-ow

B  
a tree a tree the beasts of the field had shad-ow

Pno.

35

S  
air dwealt leaves scat-ter fire flood home (o)

A  
air dwealt leaves scat-ter fire flood home (o)

T  
8 and wolf fire flood home

B  
and wolf fire flood home

Pno.

40

S  
A  
T  
B

god's hearts tak-en from them beasts' hearts giv-en un-to  
 gods' hearts beasts' hearts giv-en un-to  
 gods' hearts beasts' hearts giv-en un-to  
 god's hearts tak-en from them beasts' hearts giv-en un-to

Pno.

43

S  
A  
T  
B

them dream (m) m  
 them dream (m) m  
 them dream (m)  
 them dream (m)

dolce  
 mp  
 dolce  
 mp  
 dolce  
 mp

Pno.

48 *p* *rall.*

S I Bal - dr bed have seen

A I Bal - dr bed have seen

T I Bal - dr bed have seen

B I Bal - dr bed have seen

Pno. *rall.*

(Brief pause before movement 2)

## 2. I too have brought my own gods

**Playful yet bold** ♩ = 80

52 *mf* gliss. 3

Solo (treble) I \_\_\_\_\_ to have brought my own \_\_\_\_\_ gods. \_\_\_\_\_

T

B

Pno. **Playful yet bold** ♩ = 80 3

55 *mf* gliss.

S I too have brought my own gods. (gods.)

A *mf* gliss. I too have brought my own gods. (gods.)

T *mf* gliss. I too have brought my own gods. (gods.)

B *mf* gliss. I too have brought my own gods. (gods.)

Pno.

*NOTE: Individual voices enter at will. Repeat melodic passage three times (rhythm ad lib.) then stop and hold "gods." When all voices have finished repeating their patterns and are holding "gods" proceed in tempo.*

62

S A dish of flour — set — by rose — ma-ry — on mid — sum-mer

A A dish of flour — set — by rose — ma-ry — on mid — sum-mer

T A dish of flour — set — by rose — ma-ry — on mid — sum-mer

B A dish of flour — set — by rose — ma-ry — on mid — sum-mer

Pno.

66

S a hus - band named \_\_\_\_\_ nup - tial seed.

A then by morn - ing in - i - tials, a hus - band named nup - tial seed.

T a hus - band named \_\_\_\_\_ nup - tial seed.

B a hus - band named \_\_\_\_\_ nup - tial seed.

Pno.

70

Solo *mf* gliss. 3 I \_\_\_\_\_ to have brought my own \_\_\_\_\_ gods. \_\_\_\_\_

S \_\_\_\_\_

A *mf* 3 The tales \_\_\_\_\_ day for - gets are

T *mf* 3 The tales \_\_\_\_\_ day for - gets are

B \_\_\_\_\_

Pno.

74 *mf*

S The third maid. \_\_\_\_\_ sets the be-som a-side, the

A told by night. \_\_\_\_\_ The same maid sets the be-som a-side, the third maid, \_\_\_\_\_

T told by night. \_\_\_\_\_ The same maid sets the be-som a-side, the

B *mf* The third maid. \_\_\_\_\_ sets the be-som a-side, the third maid, \_\_\_\_\_

Pno.

80 *f*

S same maid finds the ring \_\_\_\_\_ in the fish-'s bel-ly be-comes the bride. \_\_\_\_\_

A finds the ring \_\_\_\_\_ in the fish-'s bel-ly be-comes the bride. \_\_\_\_\_

T same maid finds the ring \_\_\_\_\_ in the fish-'s bel-ly be-comes the bride. \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_ finds the ring \_\_\_\_\_ in the fish-'s bel-ly be-comes the bride. \_\_\_\_\_

Pno.

86

S *mf*

A *mf*  
bride

T *mf*  
bride

B *mf*  
bride

Pno.

92

S  
A dish of flour — set — by rose — ma-ry — on mid — sum-mer

A  
A dish of flour — set — by rose — ma-ry — on mid — sum-mer

T  
A dish of flour — set — by rose — ma-ry — on mid — sum-mer

B  
A dish of flour — set — by rose — ma-ry — on mid — sum-mer

Pno.

96

S a hus - band named nup - tial seed.

A then by morn - ing in - i - tials, a hus - band named nup - tial seed.

T a hus - band named nup - tial seed.

B a hus - band named nup - tial seed.

Pno.

100

Solo *mf* gliss. 3 *mp*

I \_\_\_ to have brought my own gods. \_\_\_

**Hushed; as if sharing a secret**

S The gods do not die, \_\_\_ do not die, \_\_\_ The gods do not

A The gods do not die, \_\_\_ do not

T The gods do not die. The gods do not die. \_\_\_

B The gods do not die, \_\_\_ do not die. The

Pno.



106

S die, do not die, they change their names. —

A die. The gods do not die, they change their names. —

T — The gods do not die, they change their names. —

B gods do not die, do not die. —

Pno.

*rall.* *gliss.* *rall.* *gliss.* *rall.* *gliss.*

(Brief pause before movement 3.)

### 3. As He Lay on Huntlie Bank

113 Expectantly ♩ = 120

S She came sud-den-ly bright. She

A She came sud-den-ly bright. She

T He leapt up. He leapt up. He leapt up.

B He leapt up. He leapt up. He leapt up.

Pno.

*mf* *fp* *mf* *mf* *f* *mf*

120

S  
came sud-den-ly bright. Sud-den-ly bright, sud-den-ly bright, sud-den-ly

A  
came sud-den-ly bright. Sud-den-ly bright, sud-den-ly bright, sud-den-ly

T  
Sud-den-ly bright, sud-den-ly bright, sud-den-ly bright,

B  
Sud-den-ly bright, sud-den-ly bright, sud-den-ly bright,

Pno.

Tenor solo: Warmly, quasi recitativo ♩ = 70

125

*mf*

Thom-as Ri-mer eyed her ride her

S  
bright. Thom-as Ri-mer,

A  
bright. Thom-as Ri-mer,

T  
He leapt up. He leapt up. Thom-as Ri-mer,

B  
He leapt up. He leapt up. Thom-as Ri-mer,

Pno.

Warmly, quasi recitativo ♩ = 70



135

Solo

skirt green as grass and silk. — O-ver her shoul-ders hung a vel-vet cape.

S

A

T

B

Pno.

140

S

A

T

B

Pno.

She came sud-den-ly bright. — Sud-den-ly bright,

She came sud-den-ly bright. — Sud-den-ly

Cap in hand he knelt — Cap in hand he knelt Sud-den-ly

Cap in hand he knelt — Cap in hand he knelt Sud-den-ly

146  $\text{♩} = 120$

S  
A  
T  
B

Sud-den - ly bright, sud-den - ly bright, sud-den - ly bright. *f*

Sud-den - ly bright, sud-den - ly bright, sud-den - ly bright. *f*

bright, sud-den - ly bright, sud-den - ly bright, Cap in hand he

bright, sud-den - ly bright, sud-den - ly bright, Cap in hand he

Pno.

151 *Exuberantly*  $\text{♩} = 84$

S  
A  
T  
B

*ppp*  
m

*ppp*  
m

*ff*  
knelt A - ve Ma - ri - a A - ve Ma -

*ff*  
knelt A - ve Ma - ri - a A - ve Ma -

*Exuberantly*  $\text{♩} = 84$

Pno.

157 *attacca*

S *m*

A *m* *attacca*

T *ri - a* *A - ve Ma - ri - a.* *attacca*

B *ri - a* *A - ve Ma - ri - a.* *attacca*

Pno. *attacca*

#### 4. Hail Me Not as Mary

Passionately ♩ = 84

163 *f*

S *Hail me not as Ma-ry.*

A *Hail me not as Ma-ry.*

T *A - ve Ma - ri - a, A - ve Ma - ri - a, A - ve Ma - ri - a,...* (a)

B *A - ve Ma - ri - a, A - ve Ma - ri - a, A - ve Ma - ri - a,...* (a)

Pno.

*Chant text on pitch, as quickly as possible*  
*pp*

Passionately ♩ = 84

167

*f*

S  
Hail me not as Ma-ry.

A  
Hail me not as Ma-ry.

T  
8

B

*mp*

Nei-ther sun nor moon,

*mp*

Nei-ther sun nor moon,

*mp*

Nei-ther sun nor moon,

Pno.

171

*mf*

S  
Nei-ther sun nor moon, *rall.*

A  
*mf*

Nei-ther sun nor moon, *rall.*

T  
8

B  
*mf*

Nei-ther sun nor moon, *rall.*

Pno.

174

*f*

S  
Nei - ther sun<sup>3</sup> nor moon — but a sea, roar - - - ing,

A  
*f*  
Nei - ther sun — nor moon — but a sea,

T  
*f*  
Nei - ther sun<sup>3</sup> nor moon — but a sea, roar - - - ing,

B  
*f*  
Nei - ther sun<sup>3</sup> nor moon — but a sea,

Pno.

177

S  
— — — — —

A  
Nei - ther sun<sup>3</sup> nor moon — but a sea roar - ing.

T  
8  
Nei - ther sun<sup>3</sup> nor moon — but a sea

B  
Nei - ther sun<sup>3</sup> nor moon — but a sea roar - ing, — — — — — roar - ing.

Pno.



181

S  
Hail me not as Ma-ry. —

A  
Hail me not as Ma-ry. —

T  
*pp*  
A - ve Ma - ri - a, A - ve Ma - ri - a, A - ve Ma - ri - a,.... (a)

B  
*pp*  
A - ve Ma - ri - a, A - ve Ma - ri - a, A - ve Ma - ri - a,.... (a)

Pno.

185

S  
Hail me not as Ma - ry. They sped in murk and star - less

A  
Hail me not as Ma - ry. They sped in murk and star - less

T  
*f*  
They sped in murk and the star - less night, star-less

B  
They sped in murk and star - less

Pno.

189 *ff*

S night up-on his kiss-ing her.

A *ff* night up-on his kiss-ing her. *mf* Hail me not. Hail me not.

T night up-on his kiss-ing her.

B *ff* night up-on his kiss-ing her.

Pno.

193 *mp* *rall.* *p*

S Up - on his kiss - ing her.

A *mp* *rall.* *p*  
Up - on his kiss - ing her.

T *rall.*

B *rall.*

Pno. *rall.*

(Brief pause before movement 5.)

## 5. Then She Laid Over Him a Coverlet

Sustained, with a sense of mystery

Treble solo

197 *mp*

Solo

Then she laid over him a coverlet, her own hand-i-work, the pelts of nine speck-led stoats

Pno.

201

S

Then she laid over him a coverlet, her own handiwork, the pelts of nine speck-led stoats

A

Then she laid over him a coverlet, her own handiwork, the pelts of nine speck-led stoats

T

Then she laid over him a coverlet, her own handiwork, the pelts of nine speck-led stoats

B

Then she laid over him a coverlet, her own handiwork, the pelts of nine speck-led stoats

Pno.

204

S  
so finely matched that not one seam showed the least sign of her stitch-er - y,

A  
so finely matched that not one seam showed the least sign of her stitch - er - y,

T  
so finely matched that not one seam showed the least sign of her stitch-er - y,

B

Pno.

206

S  
so finely matched that not one seam showed the least sign of her stitch-er - y,

A  
so finely matched that not one seam showed the least sign of her stitch-er - y,

T  
so finely matched that not one seam showed the least sign of her stitch-er - y,

B

Pno.

208  $\text{♩} = 68$  *mf*

S The bol - ster — took his arm and in its crook he laid his head. *mf*

A The bol - ster — took his arm and in its crook he laid his head. *mf*

T

B *mf* And *mf*

Pno.  $\text{♩} = 68$

211

S The bol - ster took<sup>3</sup> his arm and in — its crook

A The bol - ster took his arm and in, — in — its crook.

T in — his crook he laid his head. The bol - ster took his arm and in, in — its crook.

B in — his crook he laid his head. The bol - ster took his arm and in its crook, in — its

Pno.

215 *mp*

S he laid his head.

A

T *mp*

B *mp*

crook he laid his head. Then she laid over him a coverlet, her own handiwork, the pelts of nine

Pno.

219

S

A

T *mp*

B *mp*

speck-led stoats so finely matched that not one seam showed the least sign of her stitch-er - y,

speck-led stoats so finely matched that not one seam showed the least sign of her stitch-er - y,

Pno.

222

S  
Then she laid over him a coverlet, her own handiwork, the pelts of nine speck - led stoats

A  
Then she laid over him a coverlet, her own handiwork, the pelts of nine speck - led stoats

T  
8  
Then she laid over him a coverlet, her own handiwork, the pelts of nine speck - led stoats

B  
m

Pno.

225

S  
so finely matched that not one seam showed the least sign of her stitch - er - y,

A  
so finely matched that not one seam showed the least sign of her stitch - er - y,

T  
8  
so finely matched that not one seam showed the least sign of her stitch - er - y,

B

Pno.

227

S  
so finely matched that not one seam showed the least sign of her stitch-er - y,

A  
so finely matched that not one seam showed the least sign of her stitch-er - y,

T  
so finely matched that not one seam showed the least sign of her stitch-er - y,

B

Pno.

229 *mp* *p*

Solo  
The bol - ster took his arm and in its crook he laid his head.

S

A

T

B

Pno.



233 *rall.*

**S** *p* *rall.* *pp*  
The bol - ster took his arm and in its crook he laid his head.

**A** *p* *rall.* *pp*  
The bol - ster took his arm and in its crook he laid his head.

**T** *p* *rall.* *pp*  
The bol - ster took his arm and in its crook he laid his head.

**B** *p* *rall.* *pp*  
The bol - ster took his arm and in its crook he laid his head.

**Pno.** *rall.*