

DT0040 | TRUMBORE | \$2.35
WHERE GO THE BOATS | SATB CHORUS A CAPPELLA

WHERE GO THE BOATS

SATB Chorus a cappella
Text by Robert Louis Stevenson

The logo for Dale Trumbore, featuring a stylized musical note above the letter 'd' in the word 'daletrumbore'. Below the name, the word 'composer' is written in a smaller, lowercase font, with each letter spaced out.
daletrumbore
c o m p o s e r

WHERE GO THE BOATS?

Dark brown is the river.
Golden is the sand.
It flows along for ever;
With trees on either hand.

Green leaves a-floating,
Castles of the foam,
Boats of mine a-boating
Where will all come home?

On goes the river
And out past the mill,
Away down the valley,
Away down the hill.

Away down the river,
A hundred miles or more,
Other little children
Shall bring my boats ashore

Robert Louis Stevenson

Where Go the Boats? (2012) sets a seemingly simple Robert Louis Stevenson text about a child's boats sailing down a river. As the river flows away with the boats at the poem's conclusion, the speaker realizes, "Other little children / Shall bring my boats ashore."

The poem's undertones—loss, longing for return, and letting go—reach far beyond a child's immediate experience. This particular musical setting aims to bring out both the surface simplicity of this poem and its potential darker, deeper implications. The child narrator copes with the loss of the boats in the same way an adult must cope with the loss of a lover: the lost objects are gone forever, but will nonetheless be loved in the future.

Where Go the Boats? (2012) was commissioned by the Harmonium Choral Society (Anne Mallack, director) for a concert celebrating the 15th anniversary of Harmonium's Composition Competition, of which Trumbore was the 2005 winner. *Where Go the Boats?* was premiered June 2 & 3, 2012 at Grace Episcopal Church, Madison, New Jersey.

Commissioned by Harmonium Choral Society, NJ
in honor of the 15th anniversary of the High School Student Composition Contest
and dedicated to singer David Hoadley for his years of loyal service to the chorus

Where Go the Boats?

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♩ = ca. 66

SOPRANO *p* Dark brown is the ri - ver, *p* Gold-en is the sand. *mp*

ALTO *p* Dark brown is the ri - ver, *p* Gold-en, is, Gold-en is the *mp*

TENOR *p* Dark brown is the ri - ver, *p* Gold-en, Gold-en is the *mp*

BASS *p* Dark brown is the ri - ver, *p* Gold-en, Gold - en *mp*

PIANO (for rehearsal only) *♩* = ca. 66

6 *p* It flows a - long for - e - ver, *mp* trees on

A. *p* sand. It flows a - long for - e - ver, *mp* With trees on ei - ther

T. *p* sand. It flows a - long for - e - ver, *mp* With trees on ei - ther hand.

B. *p* sand. It flows a - long for - e - ver,

6 Pno.

Where Go the Boats?

2

12

S. *mp* ei - ther hand. _____ Cast-les of the

A. *mf* hand. Green leaves a - float - ing, Cast-les of the

T. *mf* Green leaves a float-ing.

B. *mf* Green leaves a - float-ing,

Pno.

17

S. *f* foam, _____ *mp* Boats of mine, _____

A. *f* foam, _____ *pp* Boats of mine, Boats of mine, Boats of mine, Boats of mine, *mp*

T. *f* Cast-les of the foam. *pp* Boats of mine, *mp* Boats of mine, Boats of mine,

B. *mp* Boats of mine, Boats of mine,

Pno.

Where Go the Boats?

23 *f* *p* *mf*

S. Boats of mine a - boat - ing, Where will all come home, come

A. Boats of mine a - boat - ing, Where will all come home, come

T. Boats of mine, a - boat - ing, Where will all come home, come

B. Boats of mine a - boat - ing, Where will all come home, come

Pno.

29 *mf*

S. home? On goes the ri - ver, goes the

A. home? On goes the ri - ver, the ri - ver, On goes the

T. home? On goes the ri - ver, the ri - ver, On goes the ri - ver, the

B. home? On goes, On goes the ri - ver, On

Pno.

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Where Go the Boats?

41 $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$ *pp* *mp* *mf* rit. . . .

S. A - way down the ri- ver, A hun-dred miles or more,

A. A - way down the ri- ver, A hun-dred miles, A hun-dred miles or more,

T. A - way down the ri- ver, A hun-dred miles, A hun-dred miles or more,

B. A - way down the ri- ver, A hun-dred miles or more.

Pno.

47 $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$ *p* *mp*

S. O - ther lit - tle child-ren, bring my

A. O - ther lit - tle child-ren, Shall bring my boats a -

T. (nn), Shall bring my boats a - shore,

B. O - ther lit - tle child-ren,

Pno.

Where Go the Boats?

6

53

S. *p* *pp*
boats a - shore. boats of mine, boats of mine, boats of mine,

A. *mp* *p*
shore, a - shore, a - shore,

T. *mp* *pp*
a - shore, boats of mine,

B.

Pno.

poco a poco rit.

58

S. *pp*
boats of mine, (nn) boats of mine, boats of mine, a - shore.

A. *p* *pp* < *p*
a - shore, a - shore.

T. *p*
boats of mine, boats of mine, boats of mine, a - shore.

B. *pp* *pp*
(nn), a - shore.

58 *poco a poco rit.*

Pno.