

The Rhodora

SSA (SA or unison) / piano

The Rhodora

poem by Ralph Waldo Emerson

music by Kevin Weed

The Rhodora was written as a song for solo voice. It makes a beautiful instrumental piece as well. It is suitable for church and school. Duration is about **2:30**.

This **SSA arrangement** may be successfully adapted in several ways:

- a) **Solo voice** or unison choir - sing 1st soprano part only.
- b) **SA** - omit 2nd soprano part (except, perhaps, for a few places such as those marked with a bracket: | _____ |)
- c) **Violin solo** - play 1st soprano part.
- d) **Flute solo** - play 1st soprano part up one octave.
- e) **Piano solo** - play the "accompaniment" part alone.

Harvard graduate **Ralph Waldo Emerson** (1803 - 1882), whose original profession and calling was as a Unitarian minister, left the ministry to pursue a career in writing and public speaking, becoming one of America's best known and best loved 19th century figures.

The ***Rhodora*** (*Rhododendron canadense*), is a flower common in New England where the Poet lived.

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Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Moderately ♩ = 120

p

Soprano 1
c' - g''

Soprano 2
a - d''

Alto
g - c''

Piano
p dolce

with pedal

In May, when

6

sea - winds pierced our sol - i - tudes, I found the fresh Rho - do - ra in the

I found the fresh Rho - do - ra in the

I found the fresh Rho - do - ra in the

11

woods, spread - ing its leaf - less blooms in a damp

woods, spread - ing its leaf - less blooms in a damp

woods, spread - ing its leaf - less blooms in a damp

16

nook, to please the des - ert and the slug - gish brook. _____ *mp* The

nook, to please the des - ert and the slug - gish brook. _____ *mp* The

nook, to please the des - ert and the slug - gish brook. _____ *mp* The

21

pur - ple pet - als, fall - en in the pool, made the black _____

pur - ple pet - als, fall - en in the pool, made the black _____

pur - ple pet - als, fall - en in the pool, made the black _____

25

wat - er with their beau - ty _____ gay; _____

wat - er with their beau - ty _____ gay; _____

wat - er with their beau - ty _____ gay; _____

29 *mf*

here might the Red - bird come his plumes to cool, and

mf

here might the Red - bird come his plumes to cool, and

mf

here might the Red - bird come his plumes to cool, and

33

court the flow - er that cheap - ens his ar -

court the flow - er that cheap - ens his ar -

court the flow - er that cheap - ens his ar -

37

ray. Rho - do - ra! If the

ray. Rho - do - ra! If the

ray. Rho - do - ra! If the

* : See Preface b)

41

sag - es ask thee why this charm is wast - ed on the Earth and

sag - es ask thee why this charm is wast - ed on the Earth and

sag - es ask thee why this charm is wast - ed on the Earth and

45

sky, Tell them, dear, that if

sky, Tell them, dear, that if

sky, Tell them, dear, that if

49

eyes were made for see - ing then beau - ty is its own ex - cuse for

eyes were made for see - ing then beau - ty is its own ex - cuse for

eyes were made for see - ing then beau - ty is its own ex - cuse for

53

7.

be - ing. Why thou wert there, o

be - ing. Why thou wert there, o

be - ing. Why thou wert there, o

10

f

57

p cresc.

riv - al of the rose! I nev - er thought to ask, I

p cresc.

riv - al of the rose! I nev - er thought to ask, I

p cresc.

riv - al of the rose! I nev - er thought to ask, I

p cresc.

61

nev - er knew: but, in my sim - ple ig - nor - ance, sup -

nev - er knew: but, in my sim - ple ig - nor - ance, sup -

nev - er knew: but, in my sim - ple ig - nor - ance, sup -

p cresc.

65 *allarg.*

pose ————— The self - same pow - er that

pose ————— The self - same pow - er that

pose ————— The self - same pow - er that

allarg. *f*

69

brought me ————— there brought —————

brought me there brought —————

brought me there brought —————

brought me there brought —————

mp dim. rit.

mp dim. rit.

mp dim. rit.

mp dim. rit.

mp dim. rit.

73 *p a tempo* *rit.*

you. —————

p a tempo *rit.*

you. —————

p a tempo *rit.*

you. —————

p a tempo *rit.*