

*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.

Duration: about 2:30

# The Rhodora

Ralph Waldo Emerson

SSA (SA or unison) / piano

Kevin Weed

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

Information

Recordings

Videos

j.mp/Rhodora

16

*mp*

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

*mp*

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

*mp*

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

*mp*

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

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 -

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.*