



R O Y A L
C O L L E G E
O F M U S I C

London

KARL RANKL

SEVEN SONGS FOR TENOR OP. 8

RCM EDITIONS

RCM Editions

RCM Editions are performing editions of works. They have been created to support College performances, recordings and research. They are published to bring the works to a wider public.

MUSIC, MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

This edition has been prepared for the research project 'Music, Migration and Mobility - The Legacy of Migrant Musicians from Nazi Europe in Britain', a performance-led and multi-disciplinary project that aimed to better understand the significance of migration and mobility for music. Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) from 2019-2023, the project brought together an international team of musicians, archival researchers, musicologists and geographers for one of the biggest practice-led research projects at the RCM to date. The project studied the mobile lives, artistic products and impact on British culture of musicians who came from Nazi-ruled Europe during the 1930s and '40s. The project also probed the practical challenges of performing and mediating the largely unknown body of works by these musicians, doing so through a series of open rehearsal workshops, public performances and recordings involving RCM students and staff.

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RCM Editions of Songs Op. 5-10 by Karl Rankl

Created for research and performances at the Royal College of Music, these performing editions are faithful transcriptions of the manuscripts. Digital reproductions of Rankl's manuscripts are available publicly on the website of the KUG Library:

<https://phaidra.kug.ac.at/>

Editorial interventions have been kept to a minimum. Below is a small list of corrections made by editor Louis Stanhope:

Op/No.	Bar	Change
Op. 7/2		Spelling of Sara Teasdale – h removed on Sara.
Op. 7/3	9	B-flat changed to dotted quaver in piano right hand.
Op. 7/3	18	5 th quaver rest changed to dotted quaver in piano left hand.
Op. 7/3	38	Minim changed to dotted minim.
Op. 7/5	26	Spelling of 'being' corrected.
Op. 7/9	70	C changed from crotchet to dotted crotchet in piano left hand.
Op. 7/9	74	Spelling of 'physic' corrected.
Op. 7/9	74	Added staccatos to the whole bar.
Op. 7/9	93	Quaver rest changed to semiquaver.
Op. 8/5		Spelling of Mendez corrected.
Op. 8/5	49	Changed crotchet tied to minim to dotted minim.
Op. 9/6	14	C-sharp changed to semiquaver.
Op. 10/7	4	Added hyphen to 'amaze' to show it is one word.
Op. 10/7	4	Semiquavers changed to demisemiquavers on beat 1 left hand piano.
Op. 10/7	14	The word 'a' changed to 'an'.
Op.10/10	4	B-flat minim changed to dotted minim in baritone

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Karl Rankl's Songs Op. 5-10

by Norbert Meyn

Born near Vienna in 1898, Karl Rankl studied privately with Arnold Schoenberg and Anton Webern from 1918-1921, often together with his close friend Hanns Eisler. From 1922 to 1925 Rankl was repetiteur and chorus master for the Volksoper Vienna. He later worked as conductor and repetiteur at Liberec, Königsberg and finally at the Krolloper Berlin from 1928. In 1931 Rankl became Kappellmeister in Wiesbaden, moving to Graz as Music Director from 1933 to 1937 and finally to Prague from 1937 to 1939.

Rankl was persecuted by the Nazis for political reasons due to his known association with socialist worker choirs during the 1920s. He was forced to emigrate to Britain via Prague in August 1939. Following his escape from the Nazis, Rankl and his wife Adele first settled in Bristol, but like most German, Austrian, and Italian nationals in Britain during this period, he was interned as an "enemy alien" during the summer of 1940. By the time he was released his health had declined, and, unable to accept paid employment because of his refugee status, Rankl turned to composition, in particular to setting English texts by British and American authors. All the English songs in Op. 5-10 date from this period, written in Oxford between 1941 and 1942. The German songs in Opus 6 and 10 were written in Bristol in 1939.¹ Some of the songs were performed in Oxford at the time, and the cycle A Chinese Picture Book was submitted to the BBC in 1944 but rejected.

After that, things started to improve for Rankl as he was offered opportunities to conduct the London Philharmonic Orchestra toward the end of the war. In 1946 he was appointed music director of the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden, one of the most important positions in post-war British musical life. He held this position until 1951 and afterward conducted several other leading orchestras in Britain and Australia. Rankl later orchestrated some of his songs for his oratorio *Der Mensch* (1963/64), but none of these songs were ever published. Eventually, their manuscripts were donated to the Kunsthochschule Graz, where they have been digitized and made available to the public. Rankl's compositions in Britain during and after the war included, in addition to *Der Mensch*, eight symphonies and an opera, *Deirdre of the Sorrows*. Unlike most migrant musicians of his generation, and despite the fact that he spent less than a third of his life in Britain and re-migrated to Austria toward the end of his life, Rankl is characterized as a "British conductor and composer of Austrian birth" in the New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians. This forms a stark contrast with the views of many at the time of his

¹ For a list of all the songs with dates of composition see:
Nicole Ristow, *Karl Rankl*, von Bockel Verlag, Neumünster, 2017, p. 514-522

appointment at Covent Garden who criticized the selection of an Austrian refugee and foreigner rather than a British artist.

Attempts to place the English Songs within a clear national or geographical context can lead to similar tensions. Their style of composition demonstrates clear roots in the Second Viennese School, unsurprisingly since Rankl studied with Arnold Schoenberg and Anton von Webern in Vienna. His treatment of harmony and atonality is associative and rather free, reminiscent sometimes of the earlier works of Schoenberg and of those of Zemlinsky. At other times, the songs feature elements of the more rhetorical style of his friend Hanns Eisler, a representative of the socialist art of Bertolt Brecht's circle in Berlin, where both musicians lived and worked for a number of years. This music arguably sounds more "Austro-German" than "English" to a majority of listeners, yet their English-language texts, consisting of poems by Siegfried Sassoon and Thomas Lisle as well as a number of twentieth-century American authors, locate the songs within an Anglo-American cultural context.

About twenty of these songs were performed during a 2017 student workshop at the Austrian Cultural Forum (with Austrian pianist Joseph Breinl), London and in concerts by Ensemble Émigré in London and Oxford in 2019. Then, in late 2022 and early 2023, 18 songs were recorded by advanced students and recent graduates of the Royal College of Music as part of the Music, Migration and Mobility project. Musicians and audiences found them well-crafted as well as engaging, humorous, and approachable. However, several performers commented on the occasional oddity of the text setting, sometimes felt to be more German than English. A similar observation could apply to Handel's English oratorios and Britten's settings of German and French poetry, which likewise reflect the mobility of these composers, but in the case of a less familiar composer such as Rankl, the discrepancy engenders another obstacle to appreciation of the music. If one maintains the ingrained habit of evaluating music with reference to fixed geographical location, then these songs may easily be regarded as deficient, "not really German" or "not really English," difficult to place exactly. However, if they are regarded as constituted not only by fixity but also by movement, then the path opens toward a favourable assessment of their stylistic hybridity and innovative nature, and to acceptance of Rankl as a positive agent of cultural mobility, rather than dismissal of him as a historical anomaly.

An earlier version of this text and further information about the research of the AHRC project Music, Migration and Mobility can be found in: Meyn, N. and Grosch, N. and Adey, P. (2023) *Foregrounding mobility rather than belonging: a conceptual framework for engaging with music shaped by transnational migration*. Acta Musicologica, 95 (1) pp. 4-20.

Seven Songs for Tenor, Op. 8

No. 1: Caliban in the Coal Mines

Louis Untermeyer (1885-1977)

Karl Rankl (1898-1968)

Allegro ma non troppo

Tenor

Piano

T.

Pno.

T.

Pno.

T.

Pno.

T.

Pno.

3

God,
we don't like
to com - plain
we

mf < >
p < >

5

know that the mines are no lark;

mf < >
f
mf

7

but... there's the pools from the rain,

p
mf cresc.

9 *poco rit.* *A tempo*

T. But...there's the cold and the dark.

Pno. *f* *p*

11 *poco rit.* *A tempo*

T. God, you don't know— what it is,

Pno. *ff* *p* *espr.* *p*

13 **Poco maestoso**

T. You, in Your well - ligh - ted sky,

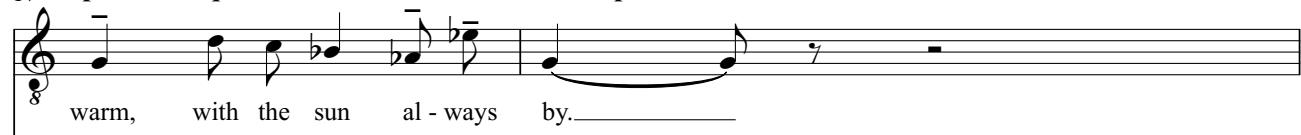
Pno. *fp* *cresc.* *rit.*

15 *rit.*

T. wat-ching a me - te - or whiz

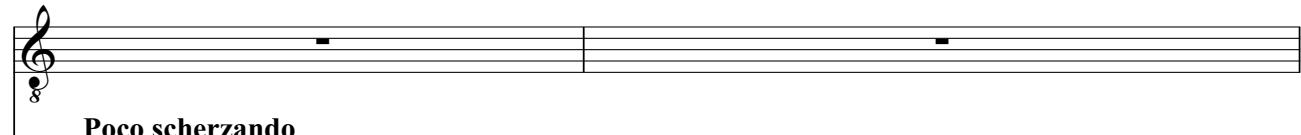
Pno. *f* *mf* *ppp*

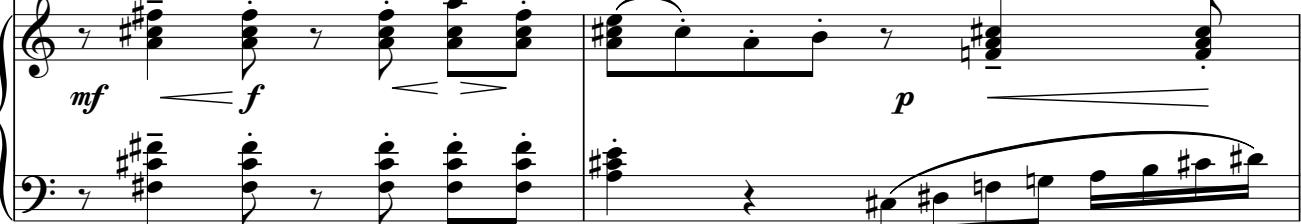
17 **poco tranquillo rit.** - - - **a tempo**

T. 

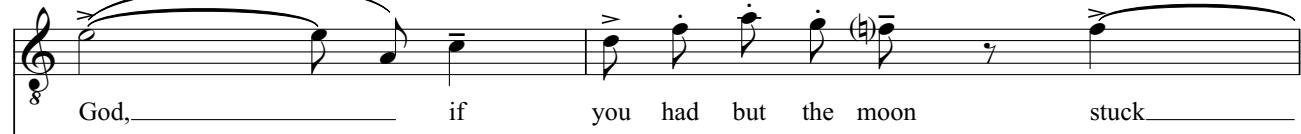
Pno. 

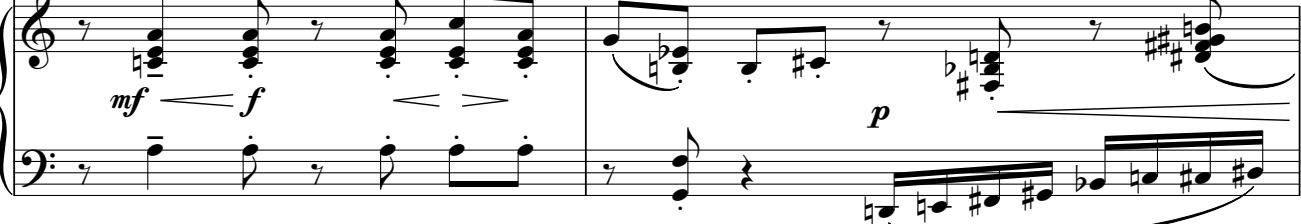
19 **Poco scherzando**

T. 

Pno. 

21

T. 

Pno. 

23

T. 

Pno. 

25

T. e - even You'd tire of it soon.

Pno. *mf* *f* *p*

27 *poco rit.* a tempo

T. down in the dark and the damp.

Pno. *f* *p* *f dim.*

29

T. No - thing but black - ness a - bove, and

Pno. *p* *f*

31

T. no - thing that moves but the cars:

Pno. *p* *f*

33 **Pesante**

T. God, in re - turn for our love,

Pesante

Pno. *f espres.*

Ped. *

36 **poco rit.** **A tempo**

T. fling us a hand - ful of stars!

poco rit. **A tempo**

Pno. *f l.h.*

Ped. *

38 **poco pesante** **a tempo**

T. - - -

poco pesante **a tempo**

Pno. *Ped.* *

No. 2: Nudus Redibo (Naked I shall return)

Thomas Flatman (1635-1688)

Karl Rankl (1898-1968)

Andante (poco maestoso)

Tenor

Na - ked I came, when I be - gan to be a man_____ a-mong the

Andante (poco maestoso)

Piano

poco rit.**a tempo**

T. sons____ of mi - se - ry, ten - der, un - armed, help - less,

poco rit.**a tempo**

Pno.

9

T. and quite for - lorn, e'er since'twas my hard for - tune

Pno.

13

T. to be born;

Pno. *mp espr molto*

17

T. And when the space of a few wea - ry

Pno. *f* *p dim* *pp*

21

T. days_____ shall____ be ex - pired

Pno. *mp* *f* *mp* *pp*

25

T. then must I go my____ ways. Na -

Pno. *poco rit.* *a tempo*
mp expr *poco rit.* *a tempo*
mp expr.

29

T. - ked I shall re - turn, and noth - ing have, no - thing where-with to

Pno. *cresc*

poco pesante

poco pesante

f

Pd. *

33

T. bribe my hun - gry grave. Then What's the proud - est mon-arch's glitte-ring

Pno. *p sub.*

molto rit. A tempo molto rit.

molto rit. , A tempo molto rit.

mf

37

T. robe, or what's he, more than I, that ruled the globe? _____

Pno. *f*

a tempo

poco pesante

a tempo

poco pesante

41 **a tempo**

T. Since we must all with-out di - stinc - tion die, and slum - - ber both stark

a tempo

Pno.

45 **poco rit.** - - - - -

T. na - ked, He and I.

poco rit. - - - - -

Pno.

No. 3: The Fiddler of Dooney

William Butler Yeats (1865-1939)

Karl Rankl (1898-1968)

Vivace

Tenor **poco rit.**

Piano **Vivace** **poco rit.**

5 **Tempo di Valse (not too quick)**

T. When _____ I play on my fid - dle in Doo - ney,

Pno. **Tempo di Valse (not too quick)**

9 **poco rit.** **a tempo**

T. folk _____ dance like a wave of the sea;

Pno. **poco rit.** **a tempo**

13

T. My cou - sin is priest in Kil - var - net,

Pno.

17 **poco rit.** my bro - ther in Mo - cha - ra -

poco rit. **a tempo**

Pno. *mf espr. molto* *f dim.*

20 **poco pesante** buiee. I passed my

poco pesante **a tempo**

Pno. *p* *f sub.* *mp sub.*

23

T. bro - ther and cou - sin: They

Pno.

poco rit.

27 a tempo

T. read in their books of prayer;

Pno.

poco rit.

a tempo

31 accel. A tempo

T. I read in my book of

Pno.

accel. A tempo

rit. a tempo

T. 35 Songs I bought at the

Pno.

poco rit. a tempo poco a poco rit

T. 39 Sli go fair.

Pno.

molto rit. Very slow Valse

T. 43 When we come at the

Pno.

molto rit. Very slow Valse

p

pp

47

T. end of Time, to Pe - ter

Pno.

51 **un poco piu mosso**

T. sit - ting in state, he will smile on the three old
un poco piu mosso

Pno.

55 **poco rit.**

T. spi - rits, But call me first through the gate;
poco rit.

Pno.

60 **Very slow again**

T. For the good are al - ways the
Very slow again

Pno. **pp**

64

T. mer - ry, Save by an e - vil chance;

Pno.

poco a poco accel.

69

T. and the mer - ry love the fid - dle

Pno.

mf

73 **poco rit.**

T. and the mer - ry love to dance:

Pno.

cresc.

f

mf

accel.

77 **Tempo di Valse**

T. 8 and when the folk there spy me,

Tempo di Valse

Pno. *mp*

81 **poco rit.****A tempo**

T. 8 they will all come up to

poco rit.**A tempo**

Pno. *mf espr. molto* *p cresc.*

84 **poco rit.****A tempo**

T. 8 me, with "Here is the fid - dler of Doo - - -

poco rit.**A tempo**

Pno. *f*

88

T. ney!" and dance.

Pno. *ff* *p sub.* *cresc.*

rit. (ad libitum) A tempo

92 like a wave of

rit. A tempo

Pno. *ff marcato*

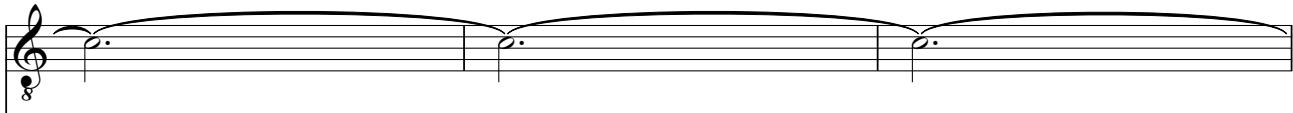
Vivace

96 the sea.

Vivace

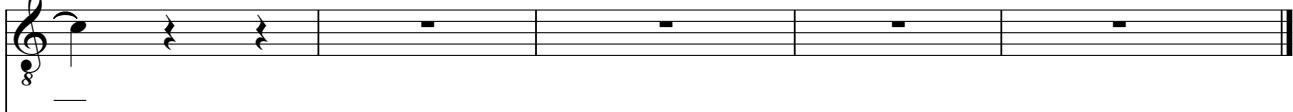
Pno. *f*

100

T. 

Pno. 

103

T. 

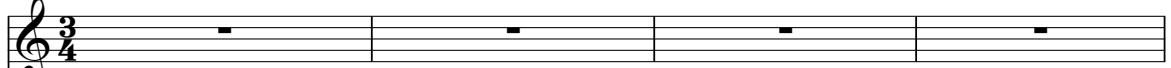
Pno. 

No. 4: In Exile

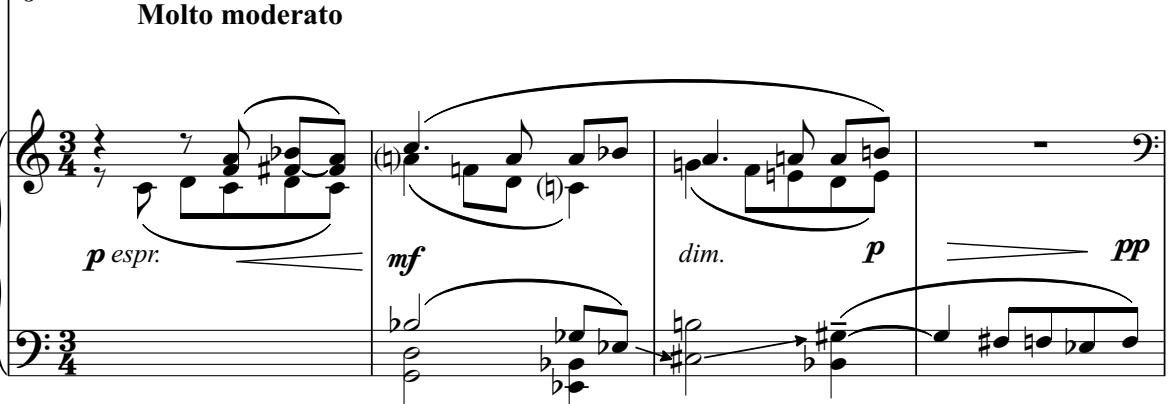
Monk Gibbon (1896-1987)

Karl Rankl (1898-1968)

Molto moderato

Tenor 

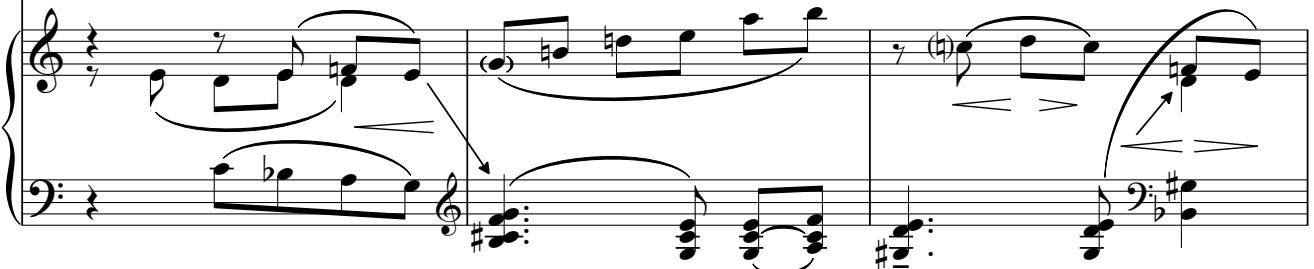
Molto moderato

Piano { 

5
T. Who would have thought a lit - tle field, a patch of

Pno. { 

8
T. green where skies are wide, the

Pno. { 

11

T. steep lane up a val - ley, and smoke curl - ing up - wards

Pno.

14

T. from be - side five lone - ly trees in that steep part,

Pno.

17

T. could stir such sad - ness in the heart?

Pno.

21

T. Who would have thought a lit - tle field,
a far - off road,

Pno.

24

T. a far - off lane, a far - off cot - tage could in

Pno.

27

T. time Wake far off thoughts with so much

Pno.

30

T. pain, make far off thoughts so hard to stem

Pno.

33

T. a man might fear to think _____ of them?

Pno. *mp molto espr*

poco rit.

poco rit.

pp

This musical score page contains two staves. The top staff is for the Tenor (T.) and the bottom staff is for the Piano (Pno.). The vocal line begins with eighth notes followed by a measure of rests. The lyrics 'a man might fear to think _____ of them?' are written below the vocal line. The piano part consists of sustained chords and eighth-note patterns. Dynamic markings include 'mp molto espr' for the piano, 'poco rit.' for both parts, and 'pp' at the end. Measure numbers 33 are indicated above the staves.

No. 5: Song

Moses Mendez (1690-1758)

Karl Rankl (1898-1968)

Allegro

Tenor Allegro

Piano

T. You say, at your feet that I

T. wept in des - pair, and vowed that no an - gel was

Pno.

T. e - ver so fair! How

Pno.

T. could you be - lieve all the non - sense I spoke? What

Pno.

17 **accel.** **Pesante** **A tempo**

T. know we of an - gels? I meant it in joke.

accel. **Pesante** **A tempo**

Pno.

21 **poco accel.**

T.

Pno. **f**

poco accel.

25 **Allegro (Tempo I^o)**

T. I next stand in - dic - ted for swear - ing to

Pno. **p**

Allegro (Tempo I^o)

29

T. love, and noth - ing but death should my pas - sion re -

Pno. **mf** **f** **mf**

33

T. move: I have liked you a twelve - month, a

poco meno

Pno.

f p

38 poco accel. rit. accel. Pesante

T. ca - len - dar year, and not yet con - tent - ed?... Have

poco accel. rit. accel. Pesante

Pno.

42 A tempo rit. Vivace

T. con - science my dear.

A tempo rit. Vivace

Pno.

mf cresc. ff

46

T.

Pno.

A musical score for piano and voice. The piano part (Pno.) is in the basso continuo style, providing harmonic support. The vocal part (T.) enters with a sustained note on the first beat. The piano part features eighth-note chords and sixteenth-note patterns. Measure 46 concludes with a melodic line in the soprano register, supported by the piano's harmonic progression.

No. 6: The Bewildered Guest

William Dean Howells (1837-1920)

Karl Rankl (1898-1968)

Moderato

Tenor

Moderato

T.

T.

7 **Tranquillo**

T. Some say that we shall ne - ver see him,

Pno. **Tranquillo**
p espr molto

9

T. and some that we shall see him else - where, and then

Pno.

11

T. know why we were bid. How long I am to

Pno.

13

T. stay I have not the least no - tion. None they say, was ev - er

Pno.

15

T. told when he should come or go

Pno.

espr. molto

17

T. But ev - ery now and then there bursts up - on the song and

Pno.

19

T. mirth a la - ment - a - ble noise, a

Pno.

r.h.
l.h.
mf

f

Red. *

21

T. sound_ of shrieks and sobs, that strikes our joys_ dumb_

Pno. *p* *p* *fp* *f*

23

T. _____ in our_breasts; and then,

Pno. *poco accel.* *ff* *p crescendo*

25

T. some one is gone. They say we

Pno. *Tranquillo* *ff* *pp espres*

28

T. meet him. None knows where or when.

Pno.

30 **Tempo I^o**

T. We know that we shall not meet him here a -

Tempo I^o

Pno. **p**

32

T. gain.

Pno. **pp**

No. 7: Luck

Wilfrid W. Gibson (1878-1962)

Karl Rankl (1898-1968)

Allegro resoluto

Tenor Allegro resoluto

Piano "What bring you,

f *p*

T. 5 sai - lor home from the sea... Cof - fers of gold and of

Pno. *f* *p*

T. 10 i - vo - ry?"

Pno. *cresc.* *ff* *f marcato*

T. 14

Pno.

18 **poco a poco rit.**

T. - - - - -

Pno. {

18 **poco a poco rit.**

Pno. {

22 **Poco meno mosso**

T. When first I went to sea as a lad A new

Poco meno mosso

Pno. {

25

T. jack - knife was all I had:

Pno. {

27 **accel.** **Tempo I'**

T. And I've sailed for

Tempo I'

Pno. {

30

T. fif - ty years and three

Pno.

34

T. To the coasts of gold and of i - vo - ry:

Pno.

38

poco rit. - - - - - poco meno mosso

T. And now at the

Pno.

41

T. end of a lu - - - - cky life,

Pno.

poco rit.

43

T. Well, still I've got my
poco rit.

Pno. *f*

Tempo I°, Allegro resoluto

45

T. old

Pno.

Tempo I°, Allegro resoluto

47

T. — jack - knife.

Pno. *staccato ff*

50

T.

Pno.

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is for the Treble (T.) and the bottom staff is for the Piano (Pno.). The Treble staff has a clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a tempo marking of 50. The first measure shows a rest followed by a measure separator. The second measure begins with a 2/4 time signature, followed by a rest, then a piano dynamic (V) over a eighth-note chord, and another piano dynamic (V) over a sixteenth-note chord. The third measure begins with a 2/4 time signature, followed by a piano dynamic (V) over a eighth-note chord, and another piano dynamic (V) over a sixteenth-note chord. The Piano staff has a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a bass clef. It features a series of chords: a C major chord (E-G-B), a G major chord (D-G-B), a D major chord (A-D-F#), and an F# major chord (C-F#-A). The piano part also includes several piano dynamics (V).