

The Second Coming

William Butler Yeats
Brian Mountford

Composed for the Centennial of St. John's
Presbyterian Church, Berkeley, California

Organ registration:
full reedy sound on one manual and the pedal;
flutes (ideally a little biting as well, but soft)
on the other

Moderato ♩ = 40

0:03 0:06 0:09 0:12

Speaker **6/8** | Turning and turning in the | widening gyre | The falcon cannot hear | the falconer. |

Chorus **6/8** | *whispering* | | | | |

Bass Drum **6/8** | *pp* | *roll* | | | | |

0:15 0:18 0:21 0:24

Spkr | Things fall apart; | the centre cannot hold; | Mere anarchy | is loosed upon the world, |

Chor | | | | |

BDrm | | | | |

0:27 0:30 0:33

Spkr | | The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, | and everywhere The ceremony of innocence |

Sopr | | | | |

Chor | *speaking, playing bells* | | | | |

Ob | | | | |

Strngs | | *playing passage from Trees* | | | | |

Cb | | | | |

Pno | | *chord* | | | | |

BDrm | | | | |

0:36 0:39 0:42 0:45 0:48

Spkr is drowned; | The best lack all conviction, | while the worst | Are full of passionate intensity. | |

Sopr *singing passage from The Windhover*

Chor *mp*

Ob *playing passage from Pied Beauty*

Strngs *mp*

Cb *playing passage from Anecdote of the Jar*

Pno *playing passage from The Cat and the Moon*

BDrm *pp* *p* *mf*

p

0:51 0:54 0:57 1:00 1:03 1:06 1:09 1:12

Spkr | | | | | | | Surely some revelation | is at hand; |

Sopr *mf*

Chor *mf*

Ob *mf*

Strngs *mf*

Cb *mf*

Pno *mp*

BDrm *mf*

1:15 Surely the Second Coming | 1:18 is at hand. | 1:21 The Second Coming! | 1:24 Hardly are those words out

Spkr

BDrm

Org

flutes

1:27 When a vast image out of | 1:30 Spiritus Mundi Troubles my sight: | 1:33 | 1:36 | 1:39

Spkr

Strngs

BDrm

Org

imitating bird cries

ppp

flutes

slightly détachée

1:42 1:45 1:48 1:51 1:54

Spkr somewhere | in sands of the desert | A shape | with lion body | and the head of a man,

Strngs

BDrm

Org

1:57 2:00 2:03 2:06 2:09

Spkr A gaze blank | and pitiless as the sun, | Is moving its slow thighs, | while all about it

Strngs

BDrm

Org

reeds

reeds

flutes

2:12 2:15 2:18 2:21 2:24 2:27

Spkr Reel shadows | of the indignant desert birds | | | | |

Strngs

BDrm

mp *roll* *p*

Org

reeds
detachée

reeds

2:30 2:33 2:36 2:39 2:42 2:45

Strngs

BDrm

p

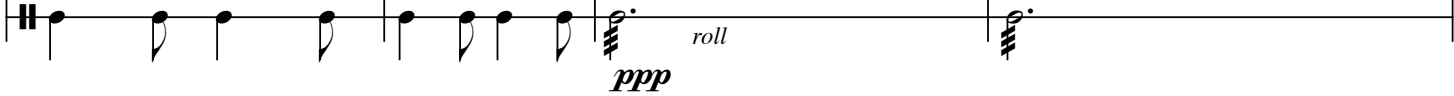
Org

2:48 2:51 2:54 2:57

Spkr The darkness drops again; | but now I know | That twenty centuries of stony sleep | Were vexed to nightmare |

BDrm

3:00 by a rocking cradle, 3:03 | 3:06 And what rough beast, 3:09 | its hour come round at last, | l.v.

BDrm 

3:12 Spkr Slouches towards Bethlehem 3:15 | to be born? ||