## **GREG BARTHOLOMEW**

# TO A FRIEND

for Trombone Quartet



BURKE & BAGLEY

Duration: ca. 5'

# TO A FRIEND

#### for Trombone Quartet

An instrumental adaptation of a choral setting of the poem *To a Friend* by James Fenimore Cooper, Jr. (1892-1918)

Thy voice, as tender as the light
That shivers low at eve –
Thy hair, where myriad flashes bright
Do in and outward weave –
Thy charms in their diversity
Half frighten and astonish me.

Thy hands, that move above the keys With eager touch and swift – Whereby thy mind, with magic ease Doth into music drift – They fill me with a strange delight That doth defy expression quite.

Thine eyes, that hold a mirth subdued Like deep pools scattering fire – Mine dare not meet them in their mood, For fear of my desire, Lest thou that secret do descry Which evermore I must deny.

Thy very quiet dignity
Thy silence, too, I love –
Nay-- thy light word is destiny
Decreed in spheres above –
My mind, my heart is bowed to thee,
And hard it is that I must flee.

Hard is the world that does not give For every love a place; Hard is the power that bids us live A life bereft of grace -Hard, hard to lose thy figure, dear, My star and my religion here!

Captain James Fenimore Cooper, Jr., (1892-1918) was the great-grandson of the famous novelist. A graduate of Yale, Cooper died of pneumonia at Camp Dix, New Jersey, the first member of his class to die in service during World War I. *To a Friend* was published posthumously in 1918 in a collection titled *Afterglow*, some of which had previously appeared in the *Yale Literary Magazine*. Captain Cooper is described therein as having "a character which never departed from the determination to do what was right and to be kind and just to all."

This instrumental arrangement is an adaptation of Greg Bartholomew's setting of the poem for men's chorus, *For Every Love a Place*. For information about the composer, visit gregbartholomew.com.

If you perform this work in public, please send a PDF of the concert program to office@burkeandbagley.com.

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www.burkeandbagley.com

Email: office@burkeandbagley.com

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