Miles to Go Before I Sleep

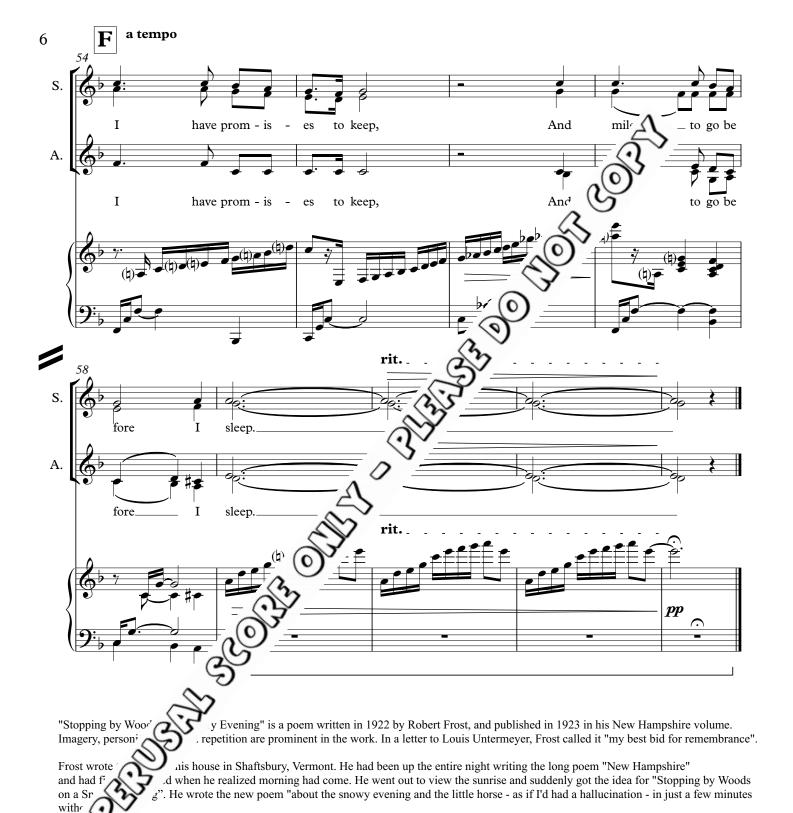
Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening











The text of the poem describes the thoughts of a lone wagon driver (the speaker), pausing at night in his travel to watch snow falling in the woods. It ends with him reminding himself that, despite the loveliness of the view, "I have promises to keep and miles to go before I sleep."

This poem has touched many lives over the years. At the funeral of former Canadian prime minister Pierre Trudeau, on October 3, 2000, his eldest son Justin rephrased the last stanza of this poem in his eulogy: "The woods are lovely, dark and deep. He has kept his promises and earned his sleep."

Composer, Dr. Larry Nickel, says, "Death is a prevalent and powerful theme in literature. Frost uses imagery and symbolism to invoke the yearning for eternal sleep - death - in the weary traveler of life. Yet, one has so many wonderful ventures to experience before that time comes."