

Tread Softly

William Butler Yeats

Benjamin Bolden

with reverence ♩ = 64

S *pp* Had I the heaven's em - broid-ered cloths, *p* En - wr gold-en and

A *pp* Had I the heaven's em - broid-ered cloths, *p* En ight with gold-en and

T *pp* Had I the heaven's em - broid-ered cloths, *p* n - wrought with gold and

B. *pp* Had I the heaven's em - broid-ered cloths, *p* En - wrought with gold and

rehearsal

S *p* sil - ver light, Of night and

A *subito p* sil - ver light, blue dim and dark cloths Of night and light and

T *p* sil - ver li of blue and the dim and the dark cloths Of

B. *mf* *p* si' nt, blue dim and dark cloths Of night

B

10

S light and the half - light; I would spread the cloths

A the half - light, the half - light; I ,spread the cloths_

T night light_ the half - light; I, would

B. light the half - light; I would

mf

m



14

S un - der your feet: would spread the cloths un - der your_ feet:

A un - der you feet:. I would spread the cloths un - der your feet:

T spread cloths your feet: I would spread cloths un - der your_

B. spread un - der your feet: I would spread cloths un - der your

f

f

f

f

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY - PLEASE DO NOT COPY

17 *mf*

S I would spread the cloths un - der your feet: I would spread the cloths un - der your feet:

A I would spread cloths un - der your feet: your feet:

T feet: I would spread the cloths un - der your feet:

B. feet: I would spread cloths un - der your feet: your feet:

21 **C** *mp*

S But I, But I,

A But I, But I,

T But I, But I,

B. But I, But I,

D

S *mp* But I, poor, have on - ly

A *mp* But, but I, poor on - ly

T *mf* I, poor, have on - ly dreams; *mp* But I have on - ly

B. *mf* I, be - ing poor, have on - ly my dreams;

E

S *mf* dreams; on - ly I have spread my

A *mf* dreams; I have spread my dreams un - der your feet; I have

T *mf* dreams; I have

B. *mf* or dreams; I have spread, I have

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY - PLEASE DO NOT COPY

35

S dreams un - der your feet; I have spread my dreams, I have spread my dreams;

A — spread my dreams, I have spread my dreams, dreams;

T stagger breathing spread my dreams, my my dreams;

B. stagger breathing spread my dreams, my dreams, dreams, my dreams;



F

40

S Tread soft - ly, tread soft - ly, soft - ly,

A tread soft - ly Be-cause you

T tread soft - ly,

B. Tread soft - ly, Tread soft - ly,

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY - PLEASE DO NOT COPY

45

S *mp* you tread, *mf* you tread up - on my dreams,

A *mp* tread *mf* up - on my, tread - on my

T *mp* you tread soft - ly, *mf* tread up - on my

B. *mp* you tread soft - ly, *mf* soft up - on my

49

S *mp* **G** my dre my dreams, *p* stagger breathing my

A *mp* dreams, *p* my dreams, my

T dreams, *p* my dreams,

B. *mp* dr *p* my dreams,

53 *mp*

S
dreams.

A
dreams.

T
mp
my dreams, dreams.

B.
mp
my dreams, dreams.

The Cloths of Heaven

Had I trodden embroidered cloths,
 Enwrought with golden and silver light,
 The better to dim and the dark cloths
 Of life, of life, of life,
 I had the cloths under your feet:
 But you, being poor, have only my dreams;
 I have dreamed my dreams under your feet;
 Tread softly because you tread on my dreams.

W. B. Yeats



Benjamin Bolden, music educator and composer, is an associate professor in the Faculty of Education at Queen's University. His research interests include the learning and teaching of composing, creativity, community music, arts-based research, Web 2.0 technologies in education, teacher knowledge, and teachers' professional learning. As a teacher, Ben has worked with pre-school, elementary, secondary, and university students in Canada, England, and Taiwan. Ben is an associate composer of the Canadian Music Centre and his compositions have been performed by a variety of professional and amateur performing ensembles. Ben was editor of the *Canadian Music Educator*, journal of the Canadian Music Educators' Association/L'Association canadienne des musiciens éducateurs, from 2007-2014. He is the proud father of three rascally boys.

I was inspired to compose this piece, Tread Softly, by a TED talk given by Sir Ken Robinson. He spoke about the importance of educating children in a way that allows them to be who they need to be, and of honouring their dreams. He closed the talk by reading the poem 'The Cloths of Heaven' by William Butler Yeats. He was using the poem to remind policy makers, educators, and parents that, everyday and everywhere, children lay their dreams at our feet. We need to tread softly.