

PART II | FAR, FAR ...

We see only a part, but fancy that we have grasped the whole
Music by Frank Bridge.

Frank Bridge (1879 – 1941)

Sea Idyll (piano)

Three songs | *Far, far from each other* | *Where is it that our soul doth go?* |

Music when soft voices die (voice – viola - piano)

Allegro appassionato (piano - viola)

We move away from photography being ‘the decisive moment’ and into a cycle of repetition. Oscillating flowers – rotating objects are looked upon from various angles, taking photographic snapshots every now and then, integrating them over time. The result is an unexpected, entirely different reflection of this object. Integrating another set of snapshots will change the perspective on the resulting image, again.

In this part the photographic idea is mirrored in the songs by only using a few lines of a poem. All things belong to a greater context. Taking them out of context alters their meaning and at the same time might harmonise them into one theme. Frank Bridge, an English composer and violist, chooses only part of a poem for his settings and thus reduces them to the eternal themes of life - love, longing, loss, farewell and death - forever repetitive.

Far, far from each other is part of a poem by 19th century English writer Matthew Arnold and describes a man’s journey through Switzerland, the encounter with and departure from love and the return after years of absence, interleaved with admiring accounts of the beauty of the Alps. **Where is it that our soul doth go?** is the last verse of Heinrich Heine’s poem “Es kommt zu spät, was du mir lächelst“. Too little – too late: Finally his beloved responds to his love but he – resigned - only ponders his whereabouts in the afterlife. **Music when soft voices die** by Percy Shelley was written in 1821 but only published posthumously in 1824. This poem leaves plenty of room for speculative interpretation: it is about the loss of a beloved whose spirit stays near. The poem was written one year before Shelley’s early death, possibly a foreboding. Bridge set the songs for voice, viola and piano. In the programme they will be enveloped by Bridge’s **Sea Idyll**, a solo piece for piano and the **Allegro appassionato** for piano and viola.