

# Everything is Going to be All Right

*for SATB voices (divisi) and piano*

Christopher Churcher

(2023)



Composed August 2023 for the Delaware Choral Scholars  
First performance: 11 February 2024 by Somerville College Choir, directed by Will Dawes

**Everything is Going to be All Right**  
*for SATB voices (divisi) and piano*

How should I not be glad to contemplate  
the clouds clearing beyond the dormer window  
and a high tide reflected on the ceiling?  
There will be dying, there will be dying,  
but there is no need to go into that.  
The poems flow from the hand unbidden  
and the hidden source is the watchful heart.  
The sun rises in spite of everything  
and the far cities are beautiful and bright.  
I lie here in a riot of sunlight  
watching the day break and the clouds flying.  
Everything is going to be all right.

*~ Derek Mahon ~*

Total duration: **ca. 6'**

On my nineteenth birthday, a close friend showed me this poem by the Irish poet Derek Mahon, and I was immediately struck by its heartfelt message of hope. I knew right away I had to set it to music. At the time, I was exploring freer, polyphonic vocal writing and took this as an opportunity to craft a wholly melodic work, focusing on shaping expressive, flowing lines for each voice part.

The music sets the poem to a simple melody, building as the poem becomes more fervent in its message, reaching its peak at the radiant line, “I lie here in a riot of sunlight”. From there, it gently settles, ending with Mahon’s simply reassurance that “everything is going to be all right”. For me, this piece is my way of sharing that simple, comforting sentiment.

Christopher Churcher

# Everything is Going to be All Right

for Carol, Paul and Lori

Derek Mahon (1941-2020)

Christopher Churcher  
b.2004

Expressive, tempo rubato ♩ = 68 rit.

Piano *mp* flowing, lyrical

*Ped. ad lib.*

4 A Tempo *mf* espress.

Tenors & Basses

B. How should I not be glad, to

A Tempo *mp*

Pno.

8 con - tem - plate the clouds clear - ing be - yond the dor - mer

Pno.

11 *dim.*

B. win - dow and a high tide re - flec - ted on the

Pno.

14

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno.

*p*

*mp cresc.*

*mf*

cei - ling.

there will be dy - ing

there will be

cei - ling.

*p*

*mp cresc.*

there will be dy - ing

*p*

*mp*

18

*rit.*

*mf*

*a tempo*

*mp*

*poco rit.*

there will be dy - ing

but there is no need to go in - to

there will be dy - ing

but there is no need to go in - to

dy - ing

but there is no need to go in - to

there will be dy - ing

but there is no need to go in - to

*rit.*

*a tempo*

*poco rit.*

Pno.

22 **A Tempo**

S. *p* that.

A. *mf* the po - ems flow the po - ems flow from the hand un -

T. *p* that.

B. *p* that.

Pno. *mp* **A Tempo**



25 **rit.** **A Tempo** *f dim.*

S. and the hid - den source is the

A. *mp* *mp* *f dim.* bid - den and the hid - den source is the

T. *mp* *f dim.* and the hid - den source is the

B. *mp* *f dim.* and the hid - den source is the

Pno. **rit.** **A Tempo**



28

S. *p*  
watch - ful heart

A. *p* *mp cresc.*  
watch - ful heart there will be dy - ing

T. *p*  
watch - ful heart

B. *mp* *mp cresc.*  
watch-ful heart there will be dy -

Pno. *p* *mp*

32

S. *mf* *p*  
there will be dy - ing

A. *mf* *p*  
there will be dy - ing

T. *mf*  
there will be dy - ing

B. *mf*  
- ing

Pno. *mf dim.* *p*

36

Pno. *p* *mf dim.* *rit.* *p*

40 Moving forward slightly ♩ = 76

S. *mp cresc.*  
The sun ri - ses in

A. *mp cresc.*  
The sun ri - ses, the sun ri - ses in

T. *mf cresc.*  
The sun ri - ses in

B. *mf*  
in

Pno. *mp cresc.*  
Moving forward slightly ♩ = 76

44 *f* *poco rit.* *p*  
S. spite of eve - ry thing

A. *f* *p*  
spite of eve - ry thing

T. *f dim.*  
spite of eve - ry thing and the

B. *f dim.*  
spite of eve - ry thing and the

Pno. *f* *p* *pp*  
*poco rit.*

## A Tempo

48

S. *p cresc.*  
and the far\_ ci - ties are beau-ti - ful\_\_\_\_\_ and

A. *p cresc.*  
and the far\_ ci - ties are beau-ti - ful\_\_\_\_\_ and

T. *p cresc.*  
far\_ ci - ties are\_ beau-ti - ful and

B. *p cresc.*  
far\_ ci - ties are beau - ti - ful and\_

Pno. *p cresc.*

52

S. *mf* *rit.*  
bright\_ I\_ lie of

A. *mf cresc.* *f*  
bright\_ I\_ lie here\_ in a ri - ot\_ of

T. *mf cresc.* *f*  
bright\_ I\_ lie\_ here in a ri - ot\_ of\_

B. *mf cresc.* *f*  
bright I\_ lie\_ I\_ lie\_ here in a ri - ot\_ of\_ *rit.*

Pno. *mf cresc.* *f*

A Tempo

7

56 *ff* *dim.* **molto rit.**

S. sun - light in a ri - ot of

A. *ff* *dim.* sun - light, I lie here in a ri - ot of sun - light of

T. *ff* *dim.* sun - light, in a ri - ot of sun - light of

B. *ff* *dim.* sun - light in a ri - ot of sun

Pno. *ff* *dim.* **molto rit.** *mp*

59 *f* *mp* **A Tempo**

S. sun - light watch-ing the day break and the clouds

A. *f* *mp* sun - light watch-ing the day break and the clouds

T. *f* *mp* sun - light watch-ing the day break and the clouds

B. *f* *mp* light and the clouds

Pno. *mp* *p* **A Tempo**

62

S. *mp* fly - ing *rit.*

A. *mp* fly - ing

T. *mp* fly - ing

B. *mp* fly - ing

Pno. *mp* *mf* *pp*

67

Tempo 1 ♩ = 68

S.

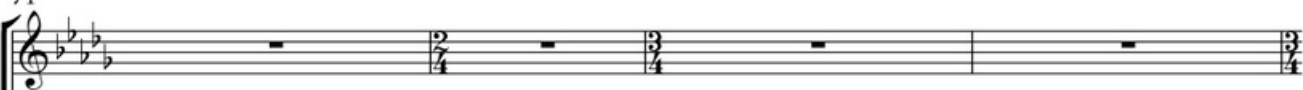
A. *mp* ev - ery - thing ev - ery - thing is go - ing to

T.

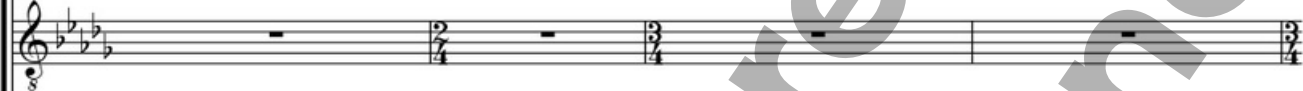
B.

Pno. *mp*

71

S. 

A.   
be

T. 

B.   
*mp*  
ev - ery - thing is go - ing to be all

Pno. 

75

S.   
*mf*  
ev - ery thing is go - ing to be all

A.   
*mf*  
is go - ing to be all

T.   
*mf*  
ev - ery thing is go - ing to be all

B.   
*mf*  
right

Pno. 

79

S. *p* right *mp cresc* ev - ery - thing is

A. *p* right *mp cresc* ev - ery - thing is go - ing to

T. *p* right *p cresc.* ev - ery - thing is go - ing to be all -

B. *p cresc.* ev - ery thing is go - ing to be all right *mf* ev - ery -

Pno. *p cresc.* *mp cresc.*

82

S. *mf cresc.* go - ing to be ev - ery - thing is

A. *mf cresc.* be ev - ery - thing is go - ing to be ev - ery thing is

T. *mf cresc.* right ev - ery - thing is go - ing is

B. thing is go - ing to be all right ev - ery thing is

Pno. *mf*

85 *f dim.* rit. *pp*

S. go - ing to be all right

A. *f dim.* *pp*

goi - ing to be all right

T. *f dim.* *pp*

go - ing to be all right

B. *f dim.* *pp*

go - ing to be all right

Pno. *f dim.* *p*

89 A Tempo *pp*

Pno.

93 *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *mf* *p*

Pno.

97

S. *p* *rit. mp*  
ev - ery - thing — is go - ing to be all

A. *p* *mp*  
ev - ery - thing — is go - ing to be all

T. *p* *mp*  
ev - ery - thing — is go - ing to be all

B. *p* *mp*  
ev - ery - thing — is go - ing to be all

Pno. *p* *rit.*

101

S. *pp*  
right.

A. *pp*  
right.

T. *pp*  
right.

B. *pp*  
right.

Pno. *mp* *pp*