

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Richard Hovey was born in Normal, Illinois in 1864 and died in New York in 1900. He grew up in Massachusetts and Washington, D.C. and later graduated from Dartmouth College. Hovey was a supporter of women's rights. He was described as a rebel and an eccentric who loved to dress in outlandish clothes. Hovey taught classes in English literature at Barnard College and also lectured at Columbia University, but he spent most of his life traveling and writing poetry and plays. Hovey's poem, "The Sea Gypsy," is a reflection of his restlessness and adventurous spirit.

## **VOCABULARY**

Wander-thirst – a strong desire to rove or travel

Schooner – a type of sailing vessel

Topsails – square sails which sit above the lowest sail on the mast of a square-rigged ship

In the offing – a ship out at sea, but still visible from shore

Islands of Desire – beautiful islands found in the South Pacific

Cathay – another name for China

# THE SEA GYPSY

for T.T.B. voices and piano  
with optional PianoTrax CD\*

Words by  
**RICHARD HOVEY** (1864-1900)

Music by  
**RUTH MORRIS GRAY**

Energetically (♩ = ca. 120)

PIANO

The piano introduction is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It begins with a forte (f) dynamic. The right hand features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a steady accompaniment of quarter notes.

4 TENOR I & II *rit.* *mf* 5 *a tempo*

I am fe-vered with the sun-set, I am

BASS *mf*

The vocal parts for Tenor I & II and Bass enter at measure 4. The Tenors sing "I am fe-vered" and the Bass sings "with the sun-set, I am". The piano accompaniment continues with a ritardando (rit.) leading to a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic, then returns to the original tempo (a tempo).

*rit.* *mf* *a tempo*

The piano accompaniment continues with a ritardando (rit.) leading to a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic, then returns to the original tempo (a tempo).

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fret - ful with the bay, for the wan - der - thirst is

The vocal parts continue with the lyrics "fret - ful with the bay, for the wan - der - thirst is". The piano accompaniment remains in the same dynamic and tempo.

The piano accompaniment concludes the piece with a final chord in the key signature of two sharps.

\* PianoTrax 1 Accompaniment CD available (31028).

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