

Two SHAKESPEARE SONGS

For soprano & piano

PROGRAMME NOTES

In *'When icicles hang by the wall'* (from Shakespear's *Love's Labours Lost*) I picture the icy north wind as the storyteller. Outwardly she's cold and icy, frost glistening on her face, but inwardly she's full of fire, playful, humorous and thoroughly enjoying a nip at people's fingers and noses. *'Where the Bee Sucks'* (from *The Tempest*) reflects Ariel's feelings, a free spirit of light and air who, after years of imprisonment in the trunk of a tree, will be set free after his service to Prospero. As his release draws near, he breaks into delighted song and dance at the thought.

When performing the first of these songs, it is important for the pianist to maintain the rhythm of the tarantella, a rolling, skipping rhythm with a real lift. Rhythmic detail is equally important in Ariel's dance where there is a slight emphasis on the quaver off-beat to observe as well as the main beat.

The **Two Shakespeare Songs** have enjoyed various interpretations over the years. Two of the most memorable were by soprano Sarah Redgwick who performed them at the Barbican in her Gold Medal winning recital and Camille van Lunen singing them with the composer at the piano at the Kings Lynn Festival.