
Why should I fear the spirits of the dead?
A sonnet by
Susan Evance
Set to music and performed by
nion



Susan Evance

Little is known about Miss Evance, apart from her two volumes of poetry, published in 1808 and 1818, respectively. Somewhere between these publications she married a Mr. Hooper, and it is suggested she had children and a brother in the navy. Although reviews of her first collection were favourable, her second volume received little attention and, sadly, she dropped out of sight - and was quickly forgotten. This song is a tribute to her beautiful, melancholic poetry.

nion

The artist has released several albums: Lost In Love (2007), The Void (2009), Quest (2011) and the poetry cycle Thy Delightful Shade (2013-2014). Although he started out as a 'pop' musician, his musical style has developed towards piano-based songs, often inspired by English poetry from the 18th and 19th century.

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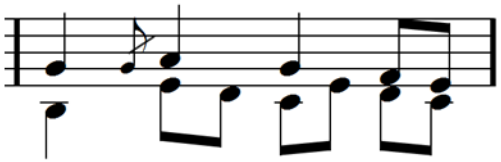
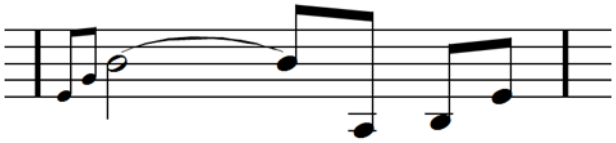
Front cover painting: Netley Abbey by moonlight - John Constable (1776-1837)

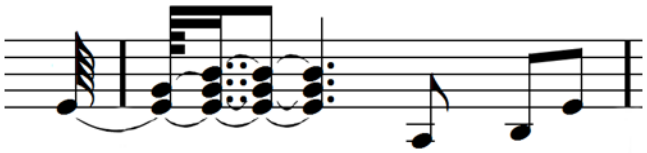
Notation

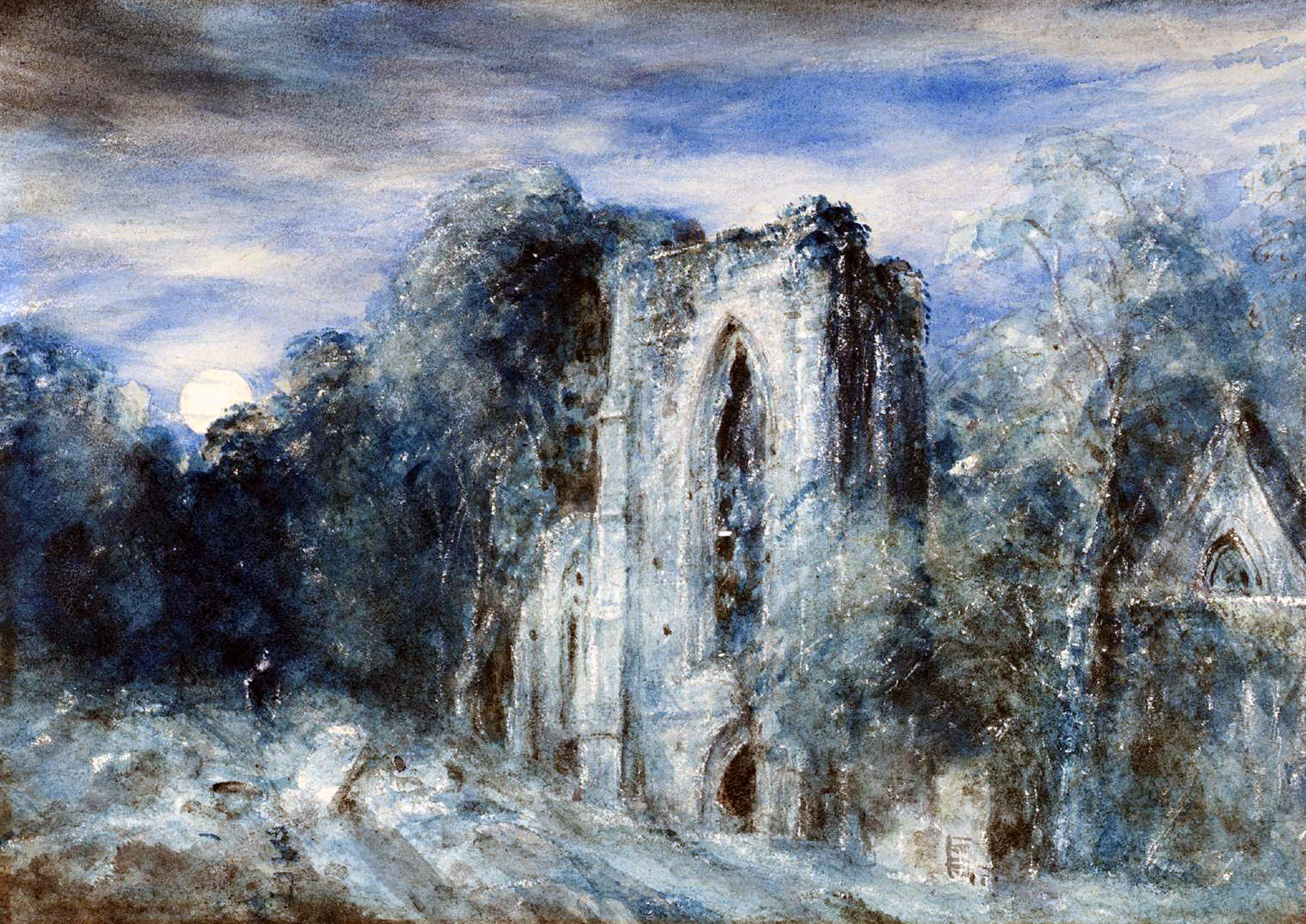
In this book, alternative notation has been used to display arpeggios.
A crossed grace note should be played as a (short) grace note:



An uncrossed grace note should be played as a (sustained) arpeggio:



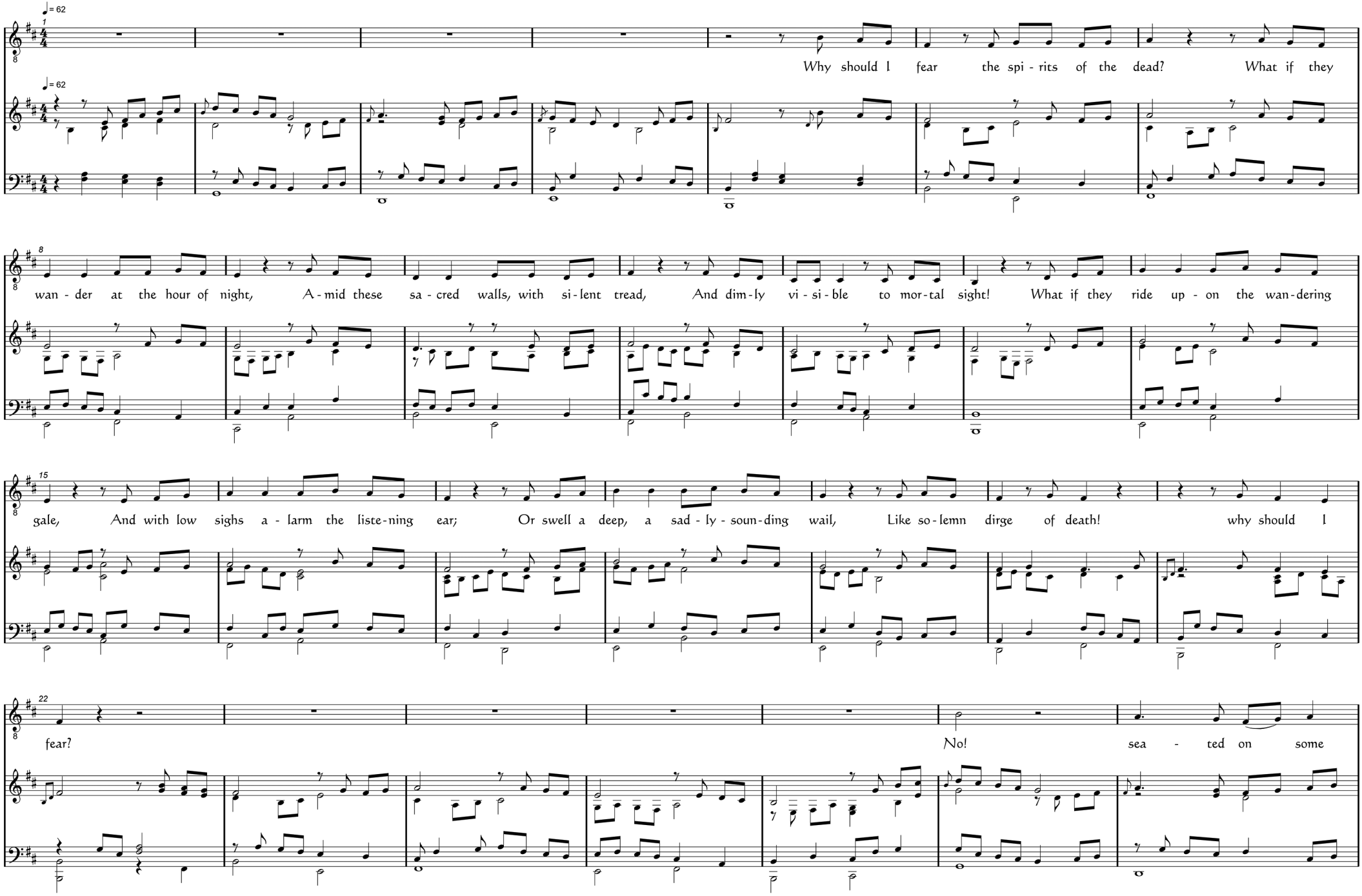




Sonnet

Written at Netley Abbey.

Why should I fear the spirits of the dead?
What if they wander at the hour of night,
Amid these sacred walls, with silent tread,
And dimly visible to mortal sight!
What if they ride upon the wandering gale,
And with low sighs alarm the listening ear;
Or swell a deep, a sadly-sounding wail,
Like solemn dirge of death! why should I fear?
No! seated on some fragment of rude stone,
While through the Ash-trees waving o'er my head
The wild winds pour their melancholy moan,
My soul, by fond imagination led,
Shall muse on days and years for ever flown,
And hold mysterious converse with the dead!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Why should I fear the spi - rits of the dead? What if they
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gale, And with low sighs a - larm the liste - ning ear; Or swell a deep, a sad - ly - soun - ding wail, Like so - lemn dirge of death! why should I
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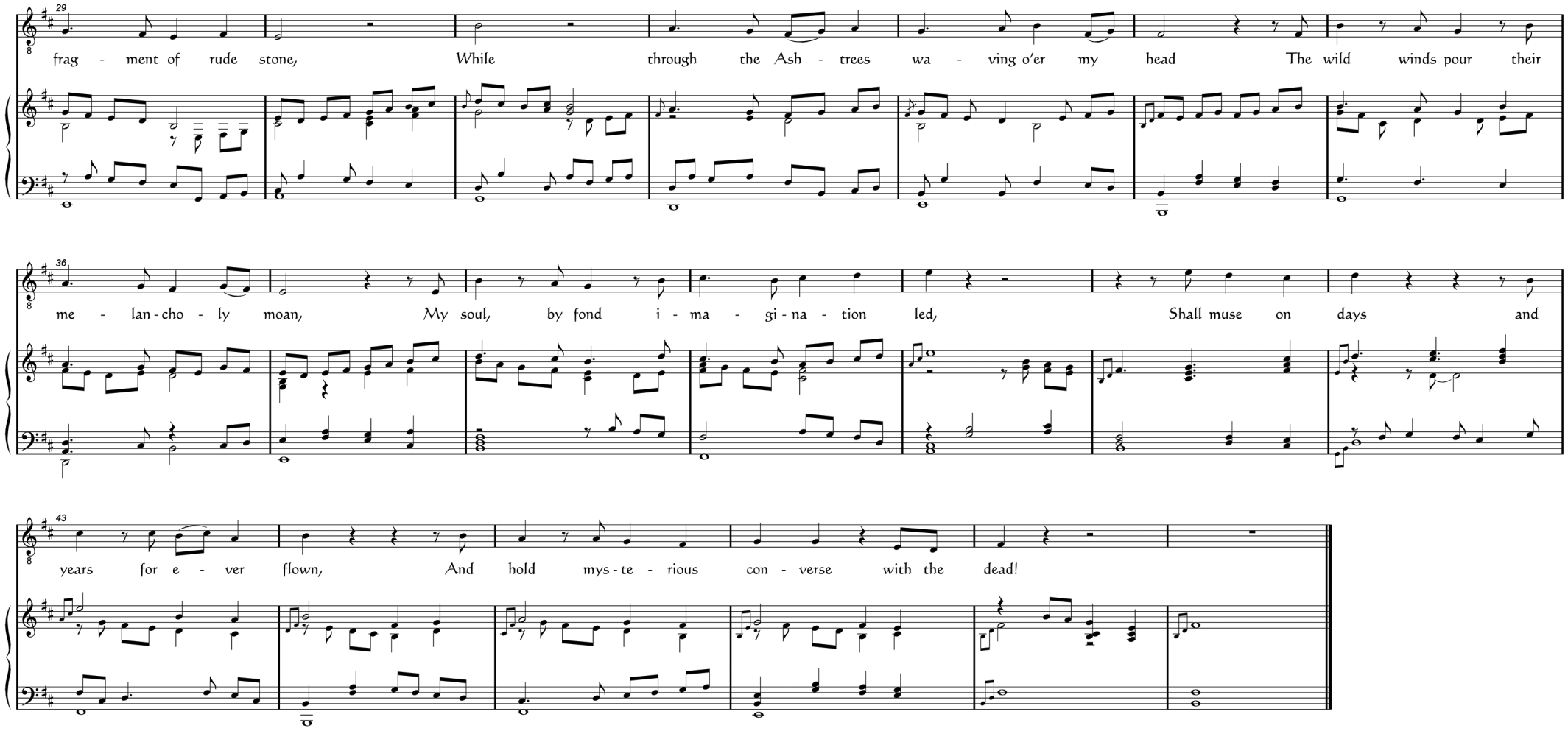
fear? No! sea - ted on some


29
frag - ment of rude stone, While through the Ash - trees wa - ving o'er my head The wild winds pour their
36
me - lan - cho - ly moan, My soul, by fond i - ma - gi - na - tion led, Shall muse on days and
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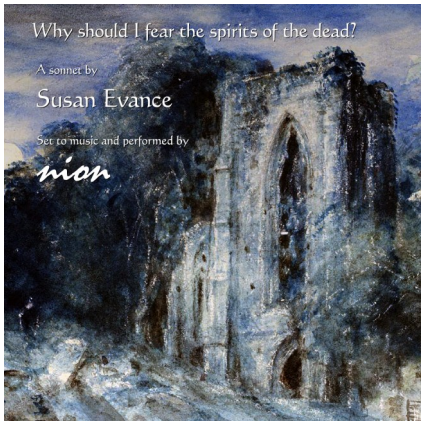
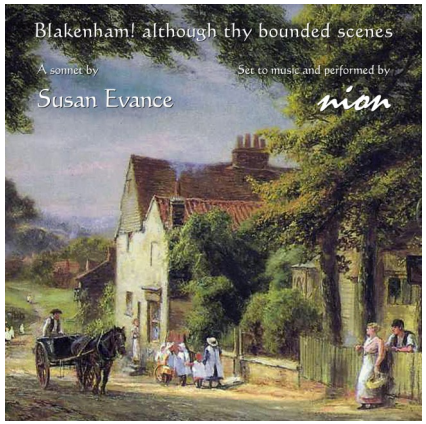
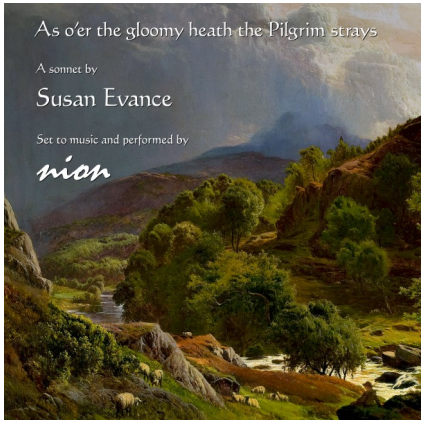
years for e - ver flown, And hold mys - te - rious con - verse with the dead!

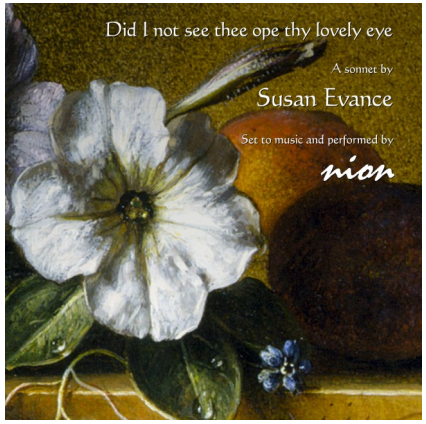
Singles

Free downloads from www.nion.eu.



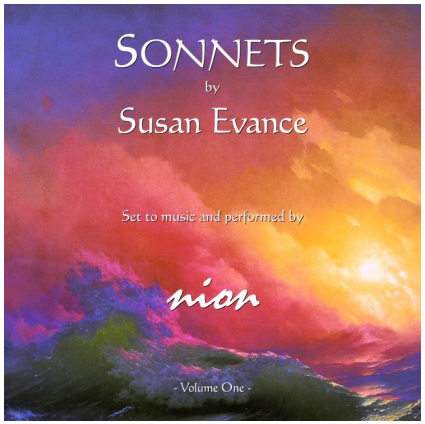


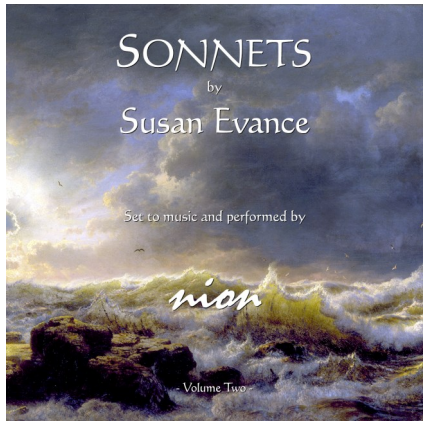




Albums

'Volume One' and 'Volume Two' are available from iTunes, Amazon, Google Play and CD Baby. 'Highlights' is available from Bandcamp.







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