

Six Epitaphs

for SATB quartet

- I. On the death of a child
- II. Keats
- III. Upon himselfe being buried
- IV. "I told you I was sick"
- V. Jemima Jones
- VI. John Jones & Wives

8 minutes

Brooke Joyce (2003)

Premiered by Synergy Vocals, 2003

Program Note:

'Remember man as you pass by
As you are now so once was I
As I am now, so shall you be
Prepare for death and follow me.'

I. On the death of a child (Robert Herrick, 1591-1674)

Here a pretty Baby lies
Sung asleep with Lullabies:
Pray be silent, and not stirre
Th'easie earth that covers her.

II. Keats (John Keats, 1795-1821)

Here lies One
Whose Name was writ in Water.

III. Upon himselfe being buried (Herrick)

Let me sleep this night away,
Till the Dawning of the day:
Then at th' opening of mine eyes,
I, and all the world shall rise.

IV. "I told you I was sick" (William H. Hahn, Jr., 1905-1980)

V. Jemima Jones (Shropshire Tombstone, 1803)

This is the last long resting place
Of Aunt Jemima Jones
Her soul ascended into space
Amidst our tears and groans
She was not pleasing to the eye
Nor had she any brain
And when she talked twas through her nose
Which gave her friends much pain
But still we feel that she was worth
The money that was spent
Upon the coffin, hearse and stone
(The funeral plumes were lent)

VI. John Jones & Wives (unknown)
Here lies the body of Mary,
wife of John Jones of this parish.

Here lies the body of Martha,
wife of John Jones of this parish.

Here lies the body of Jane,
wife of John Jones of this parish.

John Jones. At rest.