

# Ozymandias

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## 3 Part Vocals

*Music by:*

Mitchell Fund

*Text:*

Percy Bysshe Shelley

*Duration: 2:45*

# Information Sheet

## Performance Notes

Ozymandias may be sung with any voices on any parts in any octave that may produce a good blend. Learning from the poem, I tried to set Ozymandias more as a simple telling of the sonnet. Aim for a smooth lyrical flow, and rubato is welcomed. The mm's should stagger their breaths, and may be blended with sung vowels if desired.

## About the Poem: Percy Bysshe Shelley



Ozymandias was written by the English poet Percy Bysshe Shelley in 1818, when he and fellow poet Horace Smith had a lighthearted sonnet writing competition after the British Museum “acquired” a large statue of the Egyptian pharaoh Ramesses II. The two based their sonnets off a description by the Greek historian Diodorus Siculus of a similar statue inscribed: “King of Kings Ozymandias am I. If any want to know how great I am and where I lie, let him outdo me in my work.” Shelley’s version, went on to become one of the most famous poems in the English language, and has been used as a symbol of hubris in numerous poems, books, and films.

Incidentally, Percy was married to Mary Shelley, whose groundbreaking novel “Frankenstein” was also written in a friendly horror writing competition between the two of them, John Polidori, and Lord Byron.

## About the Composer: Mitchell Fund



I’ve been a music teacher, composer, and performer in the Puget Sound region of the Pacific Northwest for over 18 years. In 2021 I decided to follow my Walden dreams and built a small, off grid cabin in the foothills of the Cascade mountains. I spend my days amongst nature composing, reading, writing, and teaching remote music lessons. My main composition inspirations are Arvo Pärt, Henryk Górecki, Tomás Luis de Victoria, Ralph Vaughn Williams, and nature itself.

I have dozens of pieces on my website, [mitchellfundmusic.com](http://mitchellfundmusic.com), all free to download. (Though donations are always appreciated!) My Choral Shorts series are pieces, canons, exercises, and warmups designed to be easy to print out on one piece of paper and composed from a teacher's viewpoint to help work on specific choral techniques.

# Ozymandias

Text - Percy Bysshe Shelley

Music - Mitchell Fund

Freely ♩ = 60

*mp*

I + II

(8)

I met a trav-'ler from an an-tique land,

*mp*

III

*mm*

6

I + II

Who said- "Two vast and trunk-less legs of stone stand in the de - sert.

III

11

*p*

I + II

*mm*

*p*

III

Near them, on the sand, Half sunk a shat-tered vis - age lies,

16

I + II

III

whose frown, And wrin-kled lip, and sneer of cold com - mand,

The musical score is written for three parts: I + II (Soprano/Alto), III (Tenor/Bass), and piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked 'Freely' with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. The music is in 3/2 time. The lyrics are: 'I met a trav-'ler from an an-tique land, Who said- "Two vast and trunk-less legs of stone stand in the de - sert. Near them, on the sand, Half sunk a shat-tered vis - age lies, whose frown, And wrin-kled lip, and sneer of cold com - mand,'. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano), *p* (piano), and *mm* (molto moderato). The score includes measure numbers 6, 11, and 16.

20 *mf*

I + II

Tell that its sculp-tor well those pas-sions read Which yet sur - vive, stamped

III *mf*

*mm*

26 *mp*

I + II

on these life-less things, *mm*

III *mp*

The hand that mocked them, and the heart that

31 *ff*

I + II

'My name is

III *ff*

fed; And on the ped-es - tal, these words ap - pear: 'My name is

36

I + II

O - zy - man - di - as, King of Kings; Look on my Works, ye

III

O - zy - man - di - as, King of Kings; Look on my Works, ye

41 43

I + II *p*  
Might - y, and de - spair! *mm*

III *p*  
Might - y, and de - spair! No thing be - side re -

44

I + II

III  
mains. Round the de - cay Of that co - los - sal Wreck, bound-less and

49

48 *mp* *rit.*

I + II  
The lone and lev - el sands stretch far a -

III *mp*  
bare *mm*

53 **Very Freely** *dim.*

I + II  
way." *dim.*

III *dim.*