TWICE IN A BLUE MOON

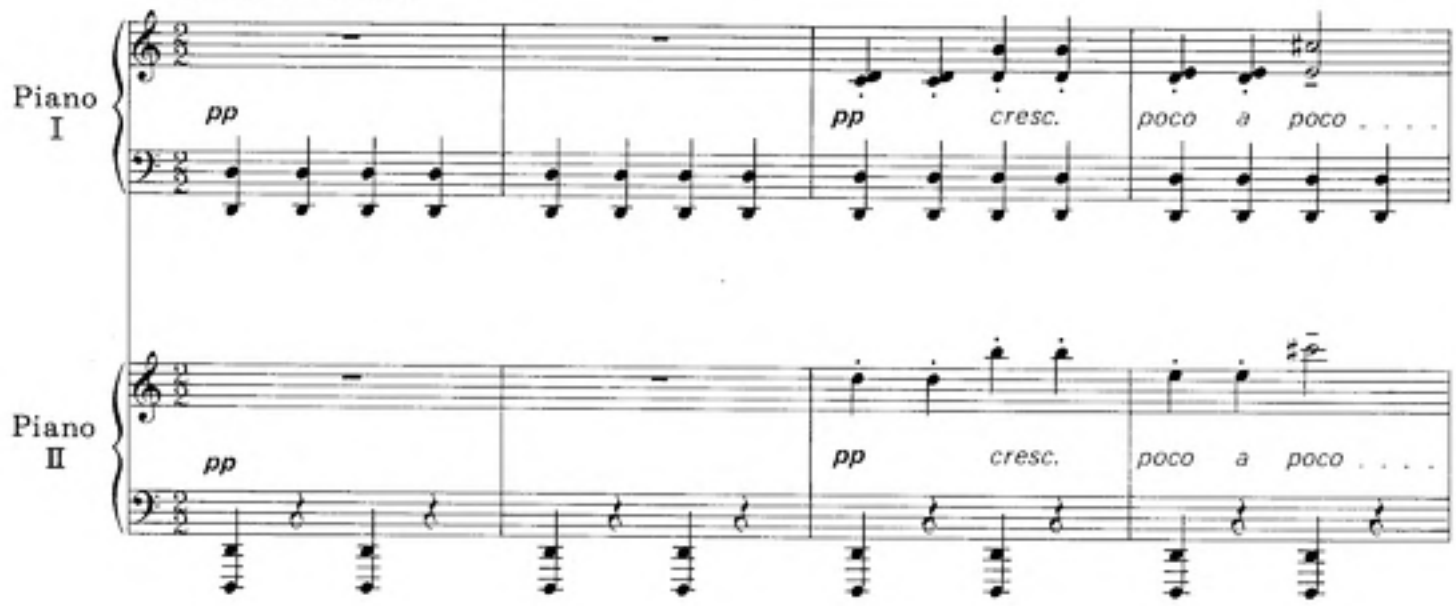
Libretto by
Christopher Hassall

Music by
Phyllis Tate

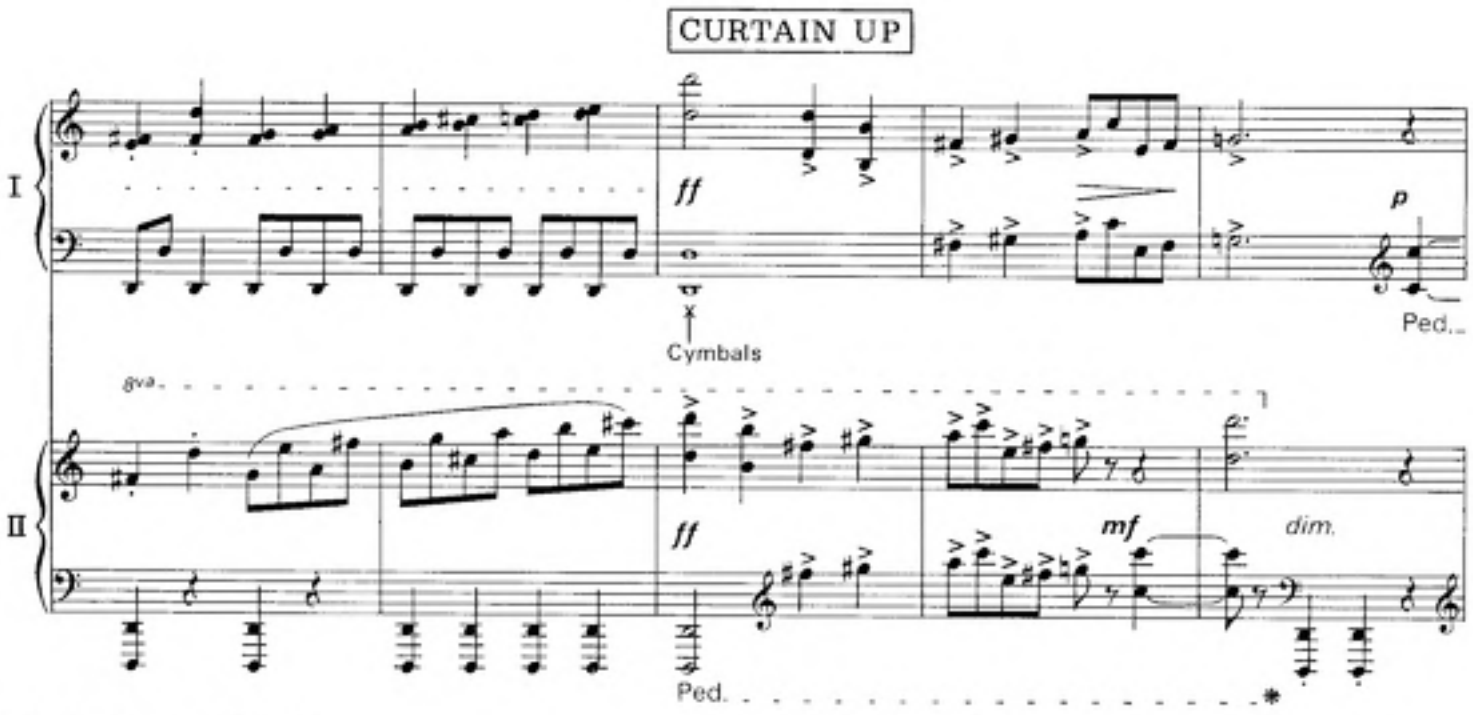
Scene: The Cromes' house, with chorus outside.
Time: About 1810.

I: CHORUS

Allegro rustico



CURTAIN UP



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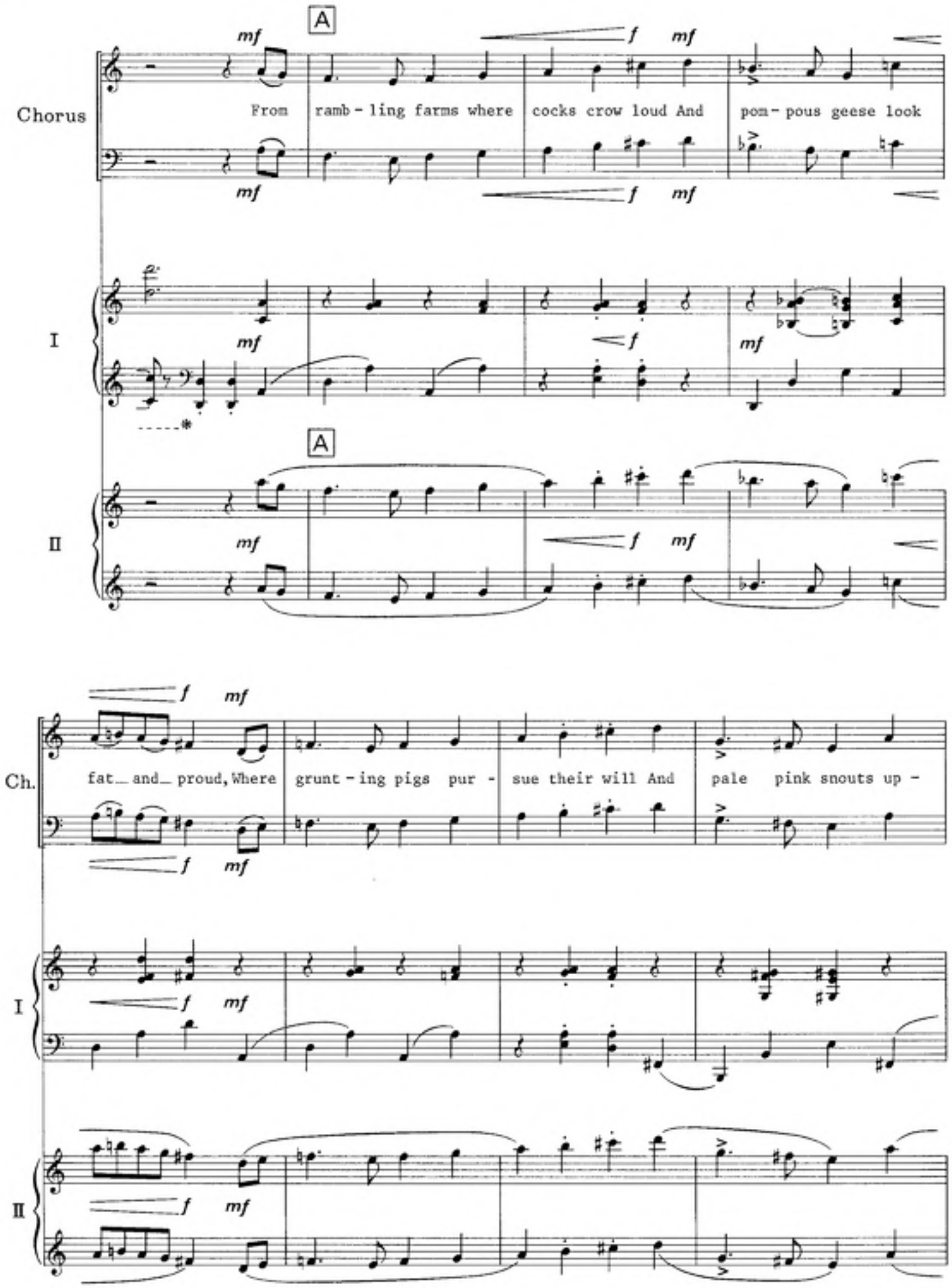
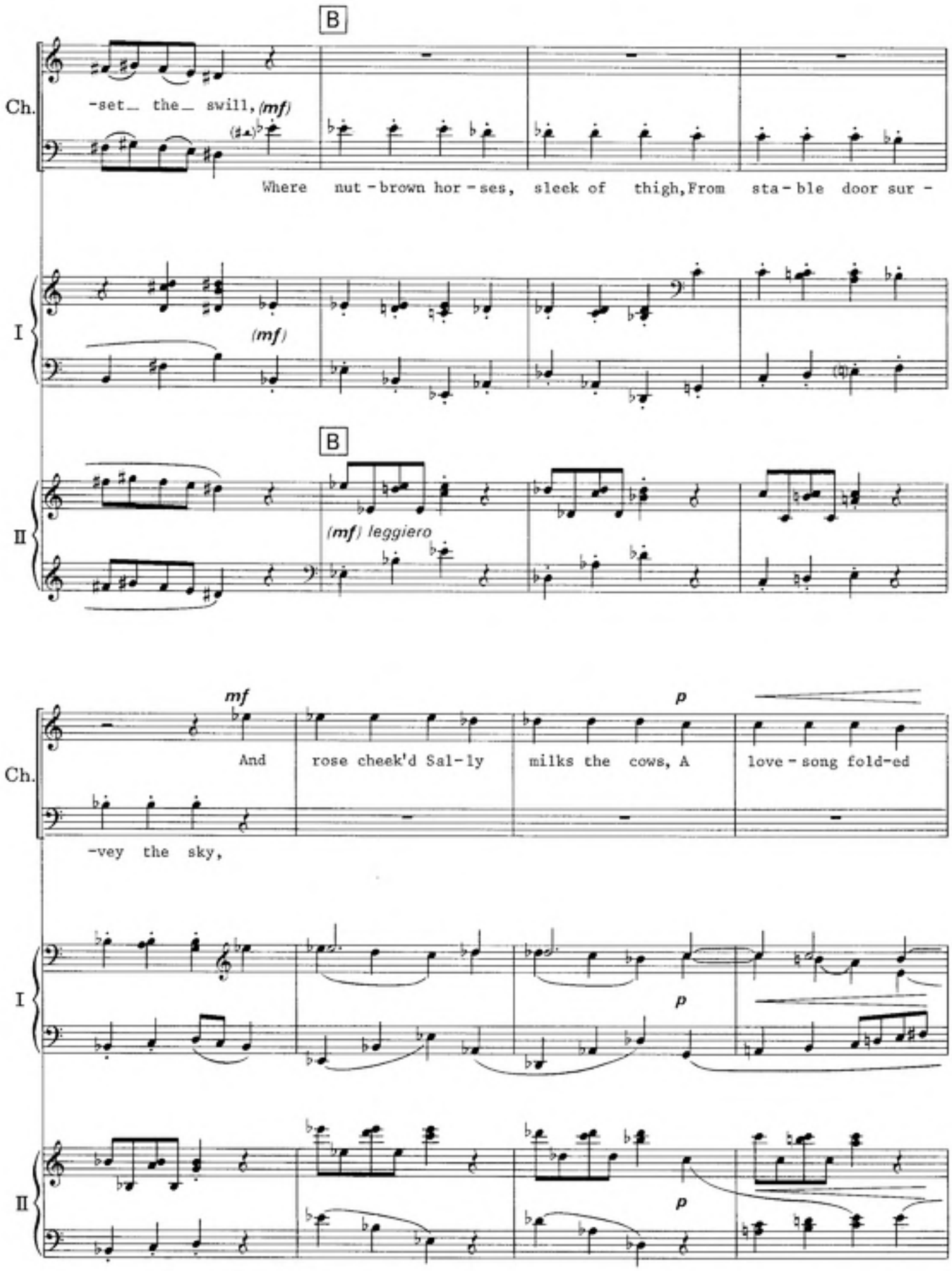

A
mf
f
mf
Chorus
From ramb - ling farms where cocks crow loud And pom - pous geese look
mf
f
mf
I
mf
f
mf
A
II
mf
f
mf
f
mf
Ch.
fat_ and_ proud, Where grunt - ing pigs pur - sue their will And pale pink snouts up -
f
mf
I
f
mf
II
f
mf


B
Ch.
-set the swill, (mf)
Where nut-brown hor-ses, sleek of thigh, From sta-ble door sur-
I
(mf)
B
II
(mf) leggiero
mf
And rose cheek'd Sal-ly milks the cows, A love-song fold-ed
p
-vey the sky,
I
p
II
p

SYNOPSIS

The first part takes place around 1810 in and outside John Crome's house. Neighbours are preparing to go to Norwich Fair. The Crome s are poor and, after some angry words with his wife, John grudgingly agrees to her novel suggestion that by chopping a painting in half they can sell it twice over. Mrs. Crome then sets off to the Fair with one half, leaving John with the other. He expresses his disappointment with the married state and prays for the safety of his bisected painting.

A short instrumental interlude depicts the passage of time from 1810 to 1910 and the next scene takes us to the National Gallery in London where a conducted tour is in progress. The guide relates the strange story of Crome's painting, 'Mousehold Heath'. The ghosts of Mr. and Mrs. Crome overhear his (her) words and John, realising with astonishment that the painting is now worth a great deal of money, has a neat trick up his ghost-like sleeve. For its happy consequence, we return, after a speech-chorus Interlude ('Johnnie Crome, go back home'), to 1810 and to John Crome's house.

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For **Production Notes** *see page 50.*

This work was commissioned for the Farnham Festival 1969 and first performed there on 12 May 1969.

The late Christopher Hassall's libretto was not originally written for stage use and has been adpated for this purpose with the kind permission of Mrs. Eve Hassall.

Crome's painting of 'Mousehold Heath' is reproduced on the cover by permission of The Tate Gallery, London.

Percussion and double-bass parts are on hire. Chorus parts are on sale. The two pianists play from the present score.

PERCUSSION

4 Players

Cymbals	Jingles
2 suspended (soft and hard sticks)	Tam-Tam
and 2 for clashing	Wire Brush (on S.D. and Cymbal)
Finger Cymbals	Claves
Triangle	Scraper
Side Drum	3 Temple Blocks (1 player)
Bass Drum	Glockenspiel
Tambourine	Chromatic Xylophone
Tabor (or medium Tom-Tom)	Chromatic Metallaphone
Wood Block	Metal Sheet
	2 Tubular Bells
plus, for Interlude 1 only -	Sandpaper Blocks (5 players)
	Train Whistles (4 players)
	1-2 Motor Horns (1-2 players)

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