The Road Not Taken

BJ BROOKS

SA Voices with Piano

Duration: 3:35

RANGES:

Soprano

Alto

FREE MP3 rehearsal and accompaniments
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Performance Notes

*The Road Not Taken* explores interpretive ambiguity. The surface level examines the meaning of the text, and its musical implications. Text painting and my own interpretation of the poem’s meaning are considered in the contour and content of the phrases. An examination of the “two roads” of tonal and neo-tonal concepts occurs in the musical background concurrently with the readily interpreted surface layer. As the text suggests a traveler’s contemplation of choice in direction, the music responds with subtle changes away from the tonal idiom, with its defining harmonic goals, to a neo-tonal octatonic pitch organization with less familiar harmonic goals.

This dichotomy is highlighted metaphorically in m. 17 with Wagner’s “Tristan” chord signifying the change or choice in the historic direction of musical goals. The work as a whole ends with ambiguity as suggested by the text - no one road is the “correct” choice.

About the Composer

Dr. BJ Brooks was born in Portales, New Mexico in 1975. Guided in his early piano compositions by piano teacher Cheryl Pachak-Brooks, he was later instructed in large ensemble techniques by band director and arranger Pat Henry.

BJs numerous compositions for ensembles, solo performers and the electro-acoustic medium are performed by a wide variety of ensembles. Many of his compositions are included as educational material at the University of North Texas Conductor’s Collegium as well as in *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band* series.

An active clinician, BJ holds a bachelor’s degree from Eastern New Mexico University, a Master’s degree from West Texas A&M University, and a Doctorate from Texas Tech University. He was instructed in composition by Dr. Jon Jonsson, Dr. Stephen Duncan, Dr. Norman Nelson and Dr. Peter Fischer. Dr. Brooks is Associate Professor of Music Theory and Composition at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas.

A complete listing of his band works is located in *The Heritage Encyclopedia of Band Music*.
The Road Not Taken
for SA Voices with Piano

ROBERT FROST
from Mountain Interval, 1914

B. J. BROOKS

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To Coda

Be one traveler long I stood and
I kept the first for another day! Yet

looked down one as far as I could knowing how way leads to way,

To Coda
to where it bent in the under-growth;

Then took the other, just as fair,

and having perhaps the better claim, be-

CM9332
cause it was grassy and needed wear; Though as for that the passing there had

worn them really about the same,
with a sigh, with a sigh

with a sigh

some - where a - ges and

some - where a - ges and

a - ges hence: a - ges hence:

a - ges hence:
roads diverged in a wood, and I,
I took the one less traveled by,
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