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**Title**

BORDER SONGS for soprano, Eb Alto Saxophone, Piano

**Permalink**

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/6131297d>

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# Border Songs

Marjorie M. Rusche; original text, excerpts from  
Robert Frost's Mending Wall, Lord Alfred Tennyson's Ulysses,  
American folk song I Am A Poor Wayfaring Stranger,  
immigrant interviews, Jeremiah 8:15, and articles on border issues

Marjorie M. Rusche

**Andante** ♩ = 108

*freely*

(sing while walking on stage or through audience; or standing in place on stage)

*p*

Soprano

13 **Tempo giusto**

S  
— In that bright world \_\_\_\_\_ to which I go. \_\_\_\_\_

A. Sx.

Pno.

**A** *mf*

S  
Some-thing there is that

18 **A** *p* *mp* *mf* *p*

A. Sx.

**A** *mp* *mf*

Pno.

Red. \* Red. \*

22 *f*

S  
does-n't love a wall. Some-thing there is that

A. Sax. *f*

Pno. *f*

Lead. \* Lead. \* Lead. \* Lead. \* Lead.

26 *mf*

S  
does-n't love a wall. Be - fore I built a

A. Sax. *mp*

Pno. *sfzp*

\* Lead. \*

**B**

30

S  
wall I'd ask Be - fore I built a wall I'd ask to

A. Sx.

Pno. *mp*

34

S  
know ——— What ——— I was wall - ing

A. Sx.

Pno.

*Red.\* Red.\* Red.\* Red.\* Red.\* Red.\**

38

S

in \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ wall - ing out!

A. Sax.

38

Pno.

38

*f*

*Red. \* Red. \* Red. \**

[C]

S

Some-thing there is that does - n't love a wall.

A. Sax.

42

Pno.

42

*mf*

*Red. \* Red. \**

45 *f*

S

That wants it down. down.

45 *f*

A. Sx.

45 *f*

Pno.

Lead. \* Lead. \* Lead. \* Lead. \* Lead. \* Lead. \* Lead. \*

**D**

S

**D**

49 *mf*

A. Sx.

**D** *mf*

49 *mf*

Pno.

52 *mf*

S  
I had to. I had to leave my home. I had to

A. Sx.

Pno.

56 **E** *p*

S  
leave my home. I lost I lost eve - ry-thing.

A. Sx.

Pno.

*pp*

ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* una corde



61 *mp*

S  
I lost \_\_\_\_\_ eve - ry-thing.

(pitch bend)

A. Sx.  
*mp* *p*

trills start on the written note;  
trill up to the letter name above

Pno.  
*p* *pp*

67 **F**

S

A. Sx.  
*pp* *mp*

Pno.  
*p* *mp*

*Red. \* Red. \** *Red. \** *Red. \**

tre corde

71

S

A. Sax.

Pno.

*mf*

*mf*

74

S

A. Sax.

Pno.

Walk - ing a - lone. — Walk - ing in a

*mf*

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* \*

77 *f* **G**

S car - a - van, Thou - sands. Thou - sands. Thou -

A. Sx. *f* **G**

Pno. *f* **G**

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

81 *mf*

S sands of mi - grants. En - ter - ing

A. Sx. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

86 H

S  
Pa - na - ma through the Dar - i - en Gap.

A. Sax.

Pno.

Red. \*

*f*

90 *f*

S  
Flash

A. Sax.

Pno.

93

S  
floods \_\_\_\_\_ Flash floods \_\_\_\_\_

A. Sx.

Pno.

95

S  
A steam - ing steam - ing jun - gle \_\_\_\_\_

trills start on the written note;  
trill up to the letter name above

A. Sx.

Pno.

ped. \* ped. \* ped. \* ped. \* ped. \* ped. \* ped. \* ped. \* 1/2 ped. ad.lib.

99 I

S path. Wild beasts and

A. Sx.

Pno.

102

S wild - er men rob you rape you.

A. Sx.

Pno.

102

ped. \* ped. \* ped. \* no ped.

106 *p* *>* *pp*

S  
Death draws near - er.

A. Sx.  
*p* *pp*

Pno.  
*p* *>* *pp* *p*

[J] *pp*

S  
We looked for peace,

A. Sx.  
112 *p* *mp*

Pno.  
112 *mp* *pp* slow roll  
Red. \* Red. \*

una corde





**K**

S

Drug car - tels. Mi -

**K**

A. Sx.

**K**

Pno.

Lead. \* Lead. \* Lead. \* Lead. \* Lead. \* Lead. \* Lead. \* Lead. \* Lead. \* Lead. \*

131

S

- grant smug - glers. We looked for peace, but found on - ly

131

A. Sx.

*fp* > *pp* *mf*

131

Pno.

*pp* *p* *mp* *mf*

Lead. \* Lead. \* Lead. \* Lead. \* Lead. \*

S *ff* 136  
ter - ror.

A. Sx. *ff* 136

Pno. *ff* 136

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* no ped. Ped. \* Ped. \*

S [L] *f*  
Death draws near - er. Death draws near - er. at the

A. Sx. [L] *f* 140

Pno. [L] *f* 140

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

146

S  
bor - der. Float -

A. Sx.  
*mp* *mf* *f*

Pno.  
*mp* *mf* *f*

1/2 ped. ad.lib.

150

S  
ing Bor - der Bar - riers. Spools

A. Sx.

Pno.

154

S

of Con - cer - ti - na wire

A. Sx.

Pno.

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

157

S

Saw blade bu - oys in the

A. Sx.

Pno.

no ped. Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* no ped.

159

S

Ri - o Grande. Trapped. Trapped. Bleed - ing, Sink - ing,

A. Sx.

Pno.

*mp*

163

S

Sink - ing. A child

A. Sx.

Pno.

*mp* *p* *poco rall.*

*p* *pp* *pp* *poco rall.*

*pp* *pp*

169 *a tempo* (hollow) *pp* O

S  
died. — died.

A. Sx. *a tempo* *ppp* niente *pp* O

Pno. *a tempo* *ppp* *pp* O

una corde

174

S

A. Sx. *sfz* *mf*

Pno. *mf* *mf*

tre corde

177

S

A. Sx.

Pno.

**P**

S

*mf*

I crossed the

**P**

A. Sx.

**P**

*mp*

180

Pno.

*mp*

Red. \* Red. \* Red. \* Red. \*





192 *f*

S  
Will I be — a - ble to stay? I'm

A. Sx.

Pno.

Leo. \* Leo. \* Leo. \* Leo. \* Leo. \* Leo. \*

196 **R**

S  
in - be - tween worlds. — Or, in ev - ery

A. Sx.

Pno.

Leo. \* Leo. \* Leo. \* Leo. \* Leo. \* Leo. \*

(♪ = ♪)

200

S

world. \_\_\_\_\_

A. Sx.

200

*p*

Pno.

200

*p*

Ped. \*

Ped. \*

Ped. \*

205

S

*mf*

There lies the port; \_\_\_\_\_ the ves - sel puffs her

A. Sx.

205

Pno.

205

*mf*

Ped. \* no ped. Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

[S]

[S]

[S]

209

S

sail: \_\_\_\_\_ There gloom the dark broad seas. \_\_\_\_\_

A. Sx.

Pno.

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

213

S

\_\_\_\_\_ Death clos - es all; \_\_\_\_\_ but

A. Sx.

Pno.

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

217 *f*

S  
some - thing ere the end, Some work of \_\_\_\_\_ no - ble note may

A. Sx.

Pno.

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

220

S  
yet be done

A. Sx.

Pno.

*mf* *p*

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

225 *mp*

S

The lights be-gin to twin - kle from the

A. Sx.

*tr* *mp*

Pno.

*mp*

Ped. \* no ped. Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

U

S

rocks; The long day wanes: the slow moon climbs. \_\_\_\_\_

U

A. Sx.

229

U

Pno.

229

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

233

S

the deep moans — round with man - y

A. Sx.

*p*

Pno.

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

237

S

voic - - - ces. —

A. Sx.

*mp*

*sva* — — — *loco*

Pno.

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*







256

S *mf* X It may be that the

A. Sx. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

Leo. \* Leo. \* Leo. \* Leo.

261

S gulfs — will wash us down; It may be we shall touch — the

A. Sx.

Pno.

\* Leo.

267 Y

S  
Hap - py Isles.                      Though much is tak-en                      much a - bides; \_\_\_\_\_

A. Sx.

Pno.

\*                      *Red.*                      \*

273 *f*

S  
That which we are, \_\_\_\_\_ we are; \_\_\_\_\_

A. Sx.

Pno.

*f*

*f*

*Red.*                      \* *Red.*

278

S  
One e - qual tem-per of he - ro - ic

A. Sax.

Pno.

\* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

283

S  
hearts, \_\_\_\_\_ Made weak by time and fate,

A. Sax.

Pno.

*p*

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

286

S

but strong — in will — To strive, to

*f*

A. Sx.

*mf*

Pno.

*Ped.* \* *Ped.* \* *Ped.* \* *Ped.* \* *Ped.* \* *Ped.* \*

290

S

seek, — to find, — and

*f*

A. Sx.

*f*

Pno.

*Ped.* \* *Ped.* \* *Ped.* \* *Ped.* \*

294 *poco rall.* *a tempo* (♩ = ♩)

S  
not \_\_\_\_\_ to yield. \_\_\_\_\_ (♩ = ♩)

A. Sax. *poco rall.* *a tempo* *tr* *mf*

Pno. *poco rall.* *a tempo* *mf*

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* no ped.

297

S

A. Sax. 297

Pno. 297

300

S

A. Sx.

Pno.

*fp*

*p*

1/2 ped. ad.lib.

(mournful then triumphant;  
embroider pitches ad.lib.)

303

S

A. Sx.

Pno.

*mf*

I am a poor \_\_\_\_\_

(bluesy, loose, slide into your pitches;  
molto vibrato)

*mp* *mf*

*mp* *mf*

308

S  
 — way - far - ing stran - ger — A trav - 'ling thru — this world of

A. Sax.  
 308

Pno.  
 308

313

S  
 woe, — There is no sick - ness, toil — nor —

A. Sax.  
 313

Pno.  
 313

*mf*

AA

AA

AA

Red. \* Red. \* Red. \*

317

S  
dan - ger \_\_\_\_\_ In that bright world \_\_\_\_\_ to which I

A. Sax.  
317

Pno.  
317

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

321

S  
go. \_\_\_\_\_ I'm go - ing there \_\_\_\_\_

A. Sax.  
321

Pno.  
321

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*



325

S

to meet my moth - er, She said she'd meet

BB

A. Sx.

325

BB

Pno.

325

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped.

329

S

me when I come; I'm just a - go -

329

A. Sx.

329

Pno.

\* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped.

333 CC *p*

S  
- ing o - ver Jor - dan, I'm just a - go - ing

A. Sx. CC *p*

Pno. *p*

333 *mf*

S  
o - ver home. I'm just a - go - ing o - ver home.

A. Sx. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

*Lead.* \* *Lead.* \* *Lead.* \* *Lead.* \*

\* *Lead.* \* *Lead.* \*

341 *rall.* ***ff***

S  
I'm just a - go - ing o - ver home.

A. Sx.

*rall.* ***ff***

*rall.*  
*slow roll*

Pno. ***ff***

*Ped.* \* *Ped.* \* *Ped.* \* *Ped.* \* *Ped.* \* *Ped.* \*

Detailed description of the musical score: The page contains three staves. The top staff is for Soprano (S), the middle for Alto Saxophone (A. Sx.), and the bottom for Piano (Pno.). The Soprano part begins at measure 341 with a 'rall.' and 'ff' marking. The lyrics are 'I'm just a - go - ing o - ver home.' The Alto Saxophone part also begins at measure 341 with a 'rall.' and 'ff' marking. The Piano part begins at measure 341 with a 'rall.' and 'slow roll' marking, followed by a 'ff' dynamic. The piano accompaniment consists of chords with a 'Ped.' marking and an asterisk at the end of each measure. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb).