

# **An Analysis of *R. Paul Drummond's Sigh No More, Ladies***

**By**  
**Dr. Amy Dunker**  
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**Voicing:** SSA a cappella (Soprano II divisi, Alto divisi on last note) (Four Soli Parts)

**Composer:** R. Paul Drummond

**Text Author:** William Shakespeare and Don Eidson

**Language:** English

**Harmonic Language:** Tonal (G Major, Ab Major) (With Chromaticism and chords with added seconds)

**Meter:** 4/4 3/4

**Texture:** Melody and Accompaniment, Homophony

**Ornamentation:** Turns (Solo III Only)

**Theatrical Elements:** Speaking Text and Visual Expression

**Duration:** ca. 2 ½ Minutes

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**Copyright Date:** 1996

**Dedication:** For Richard Eichenberger and the Women of McCluer North High School,  
Florissant, Missouri

## **Composer Biography:**

Dr. Robert Paul Drummond (d. 2007), long-time ACDA member and Central Methodist University professor of music and director of choral activities since 1981, held a doctorate of arts in choral conducting and literature from the University of Northern Colorado. He held a master's degree in music from Eastern New Mexico University and a bachelor's degree in music education from North Texas State University.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> American Choral Directors Association <http://www.acdaonline.org/news/drummond-memorium.shtml>  
(accessed 01/27/08).

**Form:**

Introduction 1	ms. 1 – 8	4/4	G Major
A	ms. 9 – 24	4/4	G Major
B	ms. 25 – 64	3/4	G Major
A'	ms. 65 – 80	4/4	Ab Major
Introduction 2	ms. 81 – 88	4/4	Ab Major
A''	ms. 89 – 112	4/4	Ab Major

**Theme 1 (Soprano I, ms. 9 – 12):**

*mf* "Determined" 10

S1. Sigh no more, la - dies, sigh no more, Men were de- ceiv - ers ev - er.

**Theme 2 (Solo I, ms. 25 – 31):**

Solo 1: *mf* 25 (d = d.)

S1. One eye on Marge and one on Meg, Our Kate has

S1. got their num-ber.

**Theatrical Element (ms. 101 – 104):**

The musical score for Soprano I (S1.) consists of a single line of music in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo and dynamics are marked as *f* (forte) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The lyrics are: "They're good for... [Director is surprised, confused and frustrated!] They're good...for... [In the silence one timid soul says: 'Propagation!' All are shocked!]. Above the staff, there are stage directions: "[Looking around at each other questioningly!]" above the first measure, "[An argument ensues . . . Director clears throat to end it!]" above the second measure, and "Lunga" above the final measure. The music features a long note in the second measure and a fermata over the final note.

**Tessitura:**

Soprano I	D4 – Ab5
Soprano II	C#4 – D#5 (Eb5)
Alto	G#3 – Eb5
Solo I	D4 – D5
Solo II	F#4 – F#5
Solo III	G#4 – D#5
Solo IV	D4 – D5

**Text:**

*Sigh No More, Ladies*

**Sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more,  
Men were deceivers ever;  
One foot in sea, and one on shore,  
To one thing constant never.**

Then sigh not so,  
But let them go,  
And be you blith and bonny,  
Converting all your sounds of woe  
Into Hey nonny, nonny.

Sing no more ditties, sing no mo  
Of dumps so dull and heavy;  
The fraud of men was ever so,  
Since summer first was leavy.

Then sigh not so,  
But let them go,  
And be you blith and bonny,  
Converting all your sounds of woe  
Into Hey nonny, nonny.<sup>2</sup>

(From *Much Ado About Nothing*)

*\*Bolded Text used by R. Paul Drummond as an introduction and a refrain*

**Text by Don Eidson:**

*Introduction (Shakespeare)*

Then sigh no more for the morrow,  
And we will be here for them to see;  
The wiser for all our sorrow.  
One eye on Marge, and one on Meg,  
Our Kate has got their number.  
And then they see a shapely leg,  
Their tho'ts are not on slumber.

*Refrain (Shakespeare)*

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.theotherpages.org/poems/shake01.html> (accessed 02/20/08).

I say to all their sex, we'll close the door  
And live in peace forever.  
And ever.

Ah!

At one o'clock he says hello,  
By two he says we're lovers.  
By three o'clock he vows he's true  
And sighs beneath the covers.  
Then sigh no more for the morrow.  
By vespers he has taken flight  
And left us sighing thusly.

Ah!

Sigh no more ladies, sigh no more,  
And cease your agitation.  
If men are good for nothing else,  
They're good for.....  
They're good for.....  
Propagation.

One foot in sea, and one on shore,  
Good for one thing but nothing more!  
Sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more.

*Dr. Amy Dunker is an Associate Professor of Music at Clarke College in Dubuque, IA, USA where she teaches composition, theory, aural skills, trumpet and directs the new music ensemble.*

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