



Aesop, supposedly a slave in Ancient Greece, lived sometime during the sixth century BC, but his wisdom is timeless, as is seen in these stories that are still enjoyed by both children and adults all over the world. I have used the translation made in the nineteenth century by the Reverend George Fyler Townsend, and have set only five out of more than six hundred that were supposedly written by Aesop. At the beginning of each story in my setting, the title is spoken, as is the moral that comes at the end. I imagined these lines being spoken with great character, unpitched, and in the mood of the song. The final song in the set, 'The Goose and the Swan', is appropriately about singing. I have underpinned this song with a wonderful harmonic progression taken from 'Du bist die Ruh' by the king of all songwriters, Franz Schubert.

Bob Chilcott

*Duration: c. 16 minutes*

Contents:

1. The Hare and the Tortoise
2. The Mountain in Labour
3. The Fox and the Grapes
4. The North Wind and the Sun
5. The Goose and the Swan