Two Homer Sonnets
for Clarinet Quartet

1. On First Looking Into Chapman's Homer

Transposed to clarinet pitch from the choral version. The harmonies are influenced by the rule (in concert pitch) that nouns starting with a letter in the range A-H are centred on a chord of that pitch (B=Bb, H=B).

Keats's confusion of Cortez with Bilboa is appropriately represented.

John Keats

Moderato (.polls = 72)
Key: Db major (concert pitch)
Eb major (clarinet pitch)

John Kilpatrick

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Much have I travelled in the realms of gold,
And many goodly states and kingdoms seen;
Round many western islands have I been
Which bards in fealty to Apollo hold.
Oft of one wide expanse had I been told
That deep-brow'd Homer ruled as this demesne;
Yet did I never breathe its pure serene
Till I heard Chapman speak out loud and bold:
Then felt I like some watcher of the skies
When a new planet swims into this ken;
Or like stout Cortez, when with eagle eyes
He star'd at the Pacific: and all his men
Look'd at each other with a wild surmise -
Silent upon a peak in Darien.
2. To Homer

Transposed to clarinet pitch from the choral version. The harmonies are influenced by a rule (in concert pitch) that nouns starting with a letter in the range A-H are centred on a chord of that pitch (B=Bb, H=B).

Keats

Allegro moderato \( \dot{=} 108 \)

Key: B Major (concert pitch)
C# major (clarinet pitch)

John Kilpatrick
Standing aloof in giant ignorance,
Of thee I hear and of the Cyclades,
As one who sits ashore and longs per chance
To visit dolphin-coral in deep seas.
So thou wast blind; but then the veil was rent,
For Jove uncurtain'd Heaven to let thee live,
And Neptune made for thee a spumy tent,
And Pan made sing for thee this forest-hive;
Aye on the shores of darkness there is light,
And precipices show untrodden green;
There is a budding morrow in midnight;
There is a triple sight in blindness keen;
Such seeing hadst thou, as it once befel
To Dian, Queen of Earth, and Heaven, and Hell.
Much have I travelled in the realms of gold,  
And many goodly states and kingdoms seen;  
Round many western islands have I been  
Which bards in fealty to Apollo hold.

Oft of one wide expanse had I been told  
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Keats

Allegro moderato \( \dot{\jmath} = 108 \)
Key: B Major (concert pitch)
C# major (clarinet pitch)

Maestoso \( \dot{\jmath} = 92 \)

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