



The Promise of Spring

SSAATTBB
unaccompanied

Adria L. Stolk

I. Under the Winter

Under the Winter, dear,
Summer's note lieth:
If it be so sweet to hear,
Song never dieth.

Soon in the forest, love,
Breezes shall bear it;
There, in the bough above,
Lo, thou shalt hear it.

(Song: 'Under the Winter, dear', Eugene Lee-Hamilton, pub. 1919)

II. Earliest Spring

Tossing his mane of snows in wildest eddies and tangles,
Lion-like March cometh in, hoarse, with tempestuous breath,
Through all the moaning chimneys, and 'thwart all the hollows and angles
Round the shuddering house, threatening of winter and death.

But in my heart I feel the life of the wood and the meadow
Thrilling the pulses that own kindred with fibres that lift
Bud and blade to the sunward, within the inscrutable shadow,
Deep in the oak's chill core, under the gathering drift.

Nay, to earth's life in mine some prescience, or dream, or desire
(How shall I name it aright?) comes for a moment and goes –
Rapture of life ineffable, perfect – as if in the brier,
Leafless there by my door, trembled a sense of the rose.

(*Earliest Spring*, William Dean Howells, pub. 1837)

III. On a Nightingale in April

The yellow moon is a dancing phantom, down secret ways of the flowing shade;
And the waveless stream has a murmuring whisper, where the alders wade.

Not a breath, not a sigh, save the slow stream's whisper, only the moon.

Out of the lands of Faerie a summons, a long strange cry that thrills thro' the glade -
The grey-green glooms of the elms are stirring, newly afraid.

Last heard, white music, where once Theocritus sang and play'd –
Thy Thracian song is the old new wonder – O moon-white maid!

(excerpts from *On a Nightingale in April*, Fiona MacLeod/William Sharp, pub. 1919)

Composed for the Genesis Chamber Singers

performance time: 9-10 minutes
© 2015, Adria L. Stolk

I. Under the Winter

Adria L. Stolck

With beauty and grace (♩=92)

The musical score is for a vocal ensemble and piano. It consists of nine staves. The vocal parts are Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, and Tenor 2. The piano part is for rehearsal only. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 6/4. The tempo is marked as ♩=92. The score begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The lyrics are: "Un - der the Win - - - ter, dear _____". The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand, with some chords and arpeggios.

4

mp

S 1 Sum - mer's note li - - -

mp

S 2 Sum - mer's note li - - -

mp

A 1 Sum - mer's note li - - - - eth _____

mp

A 2 Sum - mer's note li - - - - eth _____

p *mp*

T 1 Sum - mer's note _____ li - - - - eth _____

mp

T 2 Sum - mer's note li - - - - eth _____

mp

B 1 Sum - mer's note li - eth, sum - mer's note li - eth

p *mp*

B 2 Sum - mer's note _____ li - eth sum - mer's note li - eth

4

7

S 1
eth sweet song nev - er di - - - -

S 2
eth sweet song nev - er di - - - -

A 1
If it be so sweet to hear, song nev - er di - - - -

A 2
If it be so sweet to hear, song nev - er di - - - -

T 1
If it be sweet sweet song nev - er

T 2
If it be sweet sweet song nev - er

B 1
sweet song nev - er

B 2
sweet song nev - er

7

A

10

S 1

eth _____

S 2

eth _____

A 1

eth _____

A 2

eth _____

Soon in the for - - est,

T 1

di - - - eth _____

Soon, love, _____

T 2

di - - - eth _____

Soon, love, _____

B 1

di - - - eth _____

B 2

di - - - eth _____

10

13

mp

S 1

There, in the bough a - bove _____

mp

S 2

There, in the bough a - bove _____

mp

A 1

There, in the bough a - bove _____

A 2

love _____

mp

T 1

_____ bree-zes shall bear it _____ There in the bough, thou shalt

mp

T 2

_____ bree-zes shall bear it _____ thou shalt

p

mp

B 1

bree-zes shall bear it _____ There, in the bough a - bove

p

mp

B 2

bree-zes shall bear it _____ There, in the bough a - bove thou shalt

13

rit.

16 *mf*

S 1 Lo, thou shalt hear it, Lo, thou shalt hear it

S 2 Lo, thou shalt hear it, Lo, thou shalt hear it

A 1 Lo, thou shalt hear it, Lo, thou shalt hear it

A 2 Lo, thou shalt hear it, Lo, thou shalt hear it

T 1 hear it

T 2 hear it

B 1 hear it

B 2 hear it

16

a tempo

18

S 1 *p* ah _____ Sum-mer's note li - eth

S 2 *p* ah _____ Sum-mer's note li - eth

A 1 *p* ah _____ Sum-mer's note li - eth

A 2 *mp* un - der the Win - - - ter dear *p*

T 1 *mp* un - der the Win - ter, dear, _____ sum - mer's note *p*

T 2 *p* un - der Win - ter, dear, _____ sum - mer's note *p*

B 1 *p* un - der Win - ter dear _____ sum-mer's note li - eth *p*

B 2 *p* un - der Win - ter sum-mer's note li - eth *p*

18

21 *mp* *p*

S 1 Sum - mer, Win - ter, dear

S 2 Sum - - mer, Win - ter, dear

A 1 Sum - mer, un - der Win - ter, dear

A 2 Sum - mer, un - der Win - ter, dear

T 1 *mp* *p* Sum - mer's note li - eth, Win - ter, dear

T 2 *mp* *p* Sum - mer, Win - - - - ter dear

B 1 *p* un - der Win - ter, dear

B 2 *p* Win - - - - ter dear

21

II. Earliest Spring

Restrained, still (♩ = 56)

Soprano 1
p
Rose, _____ rose _____

Soprano 2
p
Rose, rose, rose, rose _____

Alto 1
p
Rose, _____ rose, _____

Alto 2
p
Rose, _____

Tenor 1
p
Rose, rose _____

Tenor 2
p
Rose, rose _____

Bass 1

Bass 2

Piano (rehearsal)

The score is written for a vocal ensemble and piano. It consists of eight staves. The vocal parts (Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2) are in treble clef, and the bass parts (Bass 1, Bass 2) are in bass clef. The piano part is in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The music is in 4/4 time, with a tempo of 56 beats per minute. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo marking is 'Restrained, still' with a quarter note equal to 56. The lyrics are 'Rose, rose, rose, rose'. The piano part features a rehearsal mark. The vocal lines are marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The piano part has a rehearsal mark.

5

S 1
leaf - less there by my door

S 2
leaf - less there by my door

A 1
leaf - less there by my door

A 2
rose Trem-bled a sense

T 1
Trem-bled a sense

T 2
Trem - bled a sense

B 1
p
Trem - bled a

B 2
p
Trem - bled a

Pno.

9 *p* ($\text{♩} = \text{♩.}$) *accel. to new tempo*

S 1
Rose, rose, _____ rose _____

S 2
Rose, _____ rose, _____ rose _____

A 1
Rose, _____ rose _____

A 2

T 1

T 2

B 1
mp
sense of the rose _____

B 2
mp
sense of the rose _____

Pno.

♩ = 69, with energy

13

Musical score for voices and piano. The score is written for Soprano 1 (S 1), Soprano 2 (S 2), Alto 1 (A 1), Alto 2 (A 2), Tenor 1 (T 1), Tenor 2 (T 2), Bass 1 (B 1), Bass 2 (B 2), and Piano (Pno.). The tempo is marked as ♩ = 69, with energy. The score includes lyrics for the vocal parts: "t - t - toss-ing", "Toss - ing", "toss - ing his mane of snow", and "t - toss - ing his". The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a harmonic accompaniment in the left hand. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and accents.

18 *mf*

S 1
mane of snow

S 2
mane of snow *mf* snow, in wild - est

A 1
mf toss - ing his mane *mf* snow, in wild - est

A 2
mf toss - ing his mane *mf* snow, in wild - est

T 1
mane of snow *mf* Toss - ing his mane of snow

T 2
mf snow, in wild - est

B 1
mf Toss - ing his mane of snow

B 2
mf Toss - ing his mane of snow

Pno.

22

S 1

S 2

ed - dies and tan - gles

A 1

ed - dies and tan - gles

A 2

ed - dies and tan - gles March com - eth in

T 1

hoarse, with tem - pest - u - ous

T 2

ed - dies and tan - gles

B 1

mf
Li - on - like March com - eth in, hoarse, with tem - pest - u - ous

B 2

mf
Li - on - like March com - eth in, hoarse, with tem - pest - u - ous

Pno.

B

26

mp through all the moan-ing chim - neys and all the hol-lows and an-gles

mp through all the moan-ing chim - neys and all the hol-lows and an-gles

mp through all the moan-ing chim - neys and all the hol-lows and an-gles

mp through all the moan-ing chim - neys and all the hol-lows and an-gles

T 1 breath _____

T 2 _____

B 1 breath, _____

B 2 breath, _____

Pno.

31 *mf* *f*

S 1
round the shud-der-ing house, threat-ing of win-ter

S 2
round the shud-der-ing house, threat-ing of win-ter

A 1
round the shud-der-ing house threat-ing of win-ter

A 2
round the shud-der-ing house threat-ing of win-ter

T 1
round the shud-der-ing house, threat-ing of win-ter

T 2
round the shud-der-ing house, threat-ing of win-ter

B 1
round the shud-der-ing house threat-ing of win-ter

B 2
round the shud-der-ing house threat-ing of win-ter

Pno.

39

S 1

S 2

A 1

A 2

T 1
wood and mead - ow ___ thrill - ing the puls - es that own kin - dred with fi - bres that lift ___

T 2
wood and mead - ow ___ thrill - ing the puls - es that own kin - dred with fi - bres that lift ___

B 1
___ I ___ feel ___

B 2
___ I ___ feel ___

Pno.

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a vocal ensemble and piano. It consists of nine staves. The vocal parts are Soprano 1 (S 1), Soprano 2 (S 2), Alto 1 (A 1), Alto 2 (A 2), Tenor 1 (T 1), Tenor 2 (T 2), Bass 1 (B 1), and Bass 2 (B 2). The piano part (Pno.) is at the bottom. The score is in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). Measures 39-42 are shown. Measures 39 and 40 are in 4/4 time, while measures 41 and 42 are in 6/4 time. The vocal parts have lyrics: 'wood and mead - ow ___ thrill - ing the puls - es that own kin - dred with fi - bres that lift ___'. The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a harmonic accompaniment in the left hand. There are various musical notations including rests, notes, beams, and a triplet in measure 40.

D

42

S 1 *f* sun-ward with-in the in - scrut - a - ble shad - ow _____
 S 2 *f* sun-ward with-in the in - scrut - a - ble shad - ow _____
 A 1 *mf* bud and blade, *f* sun - ward, sun - ward _____
 A 2 *mf* bud and blade, *f* sun - ward, sun - ward *mp* Deep in the
 T 1 *mf* bud and blade *f* sun - ward _____
 T 2 *mf* bud and blade *f* sun - ward _____ *mp* Deep, _____
 B 1 *mf* bud and blade _____ *f* sun - ward _____
 B 2 *mf* bud and blade _____ *f* sun - ward _____
 Pno.

46

S 1

S 2

A 1

A 2

T 1

T 2

B 1

B 2

Pno.

oak's chill core _____

mp deep un-der gathering drift _____ some pre - sci - ence, dream, or de

_____ deep un-der gathering drift _____ some pre - sci - ence, dream, or de

Nay, to earth's life in mine some pre - sci - ence, dream, or de

Nay, to earth's life in mine some pre - sci - ence, dream, or de

poco a poco ritardando

51 *mp*

S 1 comes, _____ and goes _____ *mp* Per - fect

S 2 comes, _____ and goes _____ *mp* Per - fect

A 1 comes for a mo-ment and goes _____ *mp* Per - fect

A 2 comes for a mo-ment and goes _____ *mp* Per - fect

T 1 sire _____ Rap- ture of life in - ef - fa-ble, _____ *mp*

T 2 sire _____ Rap- ture of life in - ef - fa-ble, _____ *mp*

B 1 sire _____ Rap - ture _____ *mp*

B 2 sire _____ Rap - ture _____ *mp*

Pno.

E

Restrained, still (♩ = 56)

56

S 1 *pp* *p*
Rose, _____ rose _____

S 2 *pp* *p*
Rose, rose, rose, rose _____

A 1 *pp* *p*
Rose, _____ rose _____

A 2 *p* *pp* *p*
the bri - - - er Rose, -

T 1 *p* *pp* *p*
the bri - - - er Rose,

T 2 *p* *pp*
as if _ in the bri - - - er

B 1 *p* *pp*
as if _ in the bri - - - er

B 2 *p* *pp*
bri - - - er

Pno.

61

S 1
leaf - less there by my door -

S 2
leaf - less there by my door -

A 1
leaf - less there by my door -

A 2
rose, trem - bled a

T 1
rose

T 2
p Rose, rose

B 1
pp Trem-bled a sense

B 2
pp trem-bled a sense

Pno.

65

S 1 *mp* rose

S 2 *mp* rose

A 1 *mp* rose

A 2 *mp* sense rose

T 1 *p* trem - bled a sense of the *mp* rose

T 2 *p* trem - bled a sense of the *mp* rose

B 1 *mp* rose

B 2 *mp* rose

Pno.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 24, contains measures 65 through 68. It features eight vocal staves (S 1, S 2, A 1, A 2, T 1, T 2, B 1, B 2) and a piano accompaniment (Pno.). The music is in 5/4 time and begins with a key signature of two flats. The vocal parts have lyrics: 'rose' for all parts, 'sense' for A 2, and 'trem - bled a sense of the rose' for the tenors. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *p* (piano). The piano accompaniment includes a triplet in the bass line in measure 65.

III. On a Nightingale in April

With a sense of mystery (♩ = 72)

The musical score is arranged in a grand staff format with the following parts:

- Soprano 1:** Lyrics: "Yel - low moon" (with a long line indicating a sustained note).
- Soprano 2:** Lyrics: "Yel - low moon" (with a long line indicating a sustained note).
- Alto 1:** Lyrics: "Yel - low moon" (with a long line indicating a sustained note).
- Alto 2:** Lyrics: "Moon - white" and "maid" (with a long line indicating a sustained note).
- Tenor 1:** Lyrics: "Moon - white" and "maid" (with a long line indicating a sustained note).
- Tenor 2:** Lyrics: "Moon - white" and "maid" (with a long line indicating a sustained note).
- Bass 1:** No lyrics.
- Bass 2:** No lyrics.
- Piano (rehearsal):** Accompaniment for the vocalists.

The score is written in the key of D major (two sharps) and 3/4 time. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 72. The dynamic marking *p* (piano) is used throughout. The vocal parts feature long lines under the lyrics, indicating sustained notes. The piano accompaniment is marked as rehearsal.

5

A musical score for voices and piano. The score is written for Soprano 1 (S 1), Soprano 2 (S 2), Alto 1 (A 1), Alto 2 (A 2), Tenor 1 (T 1), Tenor 2 (T 2), Bass 1 (B 1), Bass 2 (B 2), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 6/8, which changes to 4/4 in the second measure of each part. The lyrics are: "the yellow moon is a dancing phantom moon white maid moon-white maid moon-white maid". The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a more rhythmic line in the left hand, with some chords and arpeggios. The vocal parts have various melodic lines, some with slurs and accents. The bass parts have a steady accompaniment.

S 1 the yellow moon is a dancing phantom

S 2 the yellow moon is a dancing phantom

A 1 the yellow moon

A 2 moon white maid

T 1 moon-white maid

T 2 moon-white maid

B 1 moon-white maid

B 2 moon-white maid

Pno.

9

S 1

S 2

A 1

A 2

T 1

T 2

B 1

B 2

Pno.

flow - - - ing shade

se - cret ways of the flow - ing shade

Down se - cret ways, flow - - - ing

Down se - cret ways flow - - - ing

se - cret ways of the flow - ing shade

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

A

13

mp

S 1 and the wave - less stream has a mur - mur - ing whis - per

S 2

A 1 and the wave - less stream has a mur - mur - ing whis - per

A 2 *mp* whis - per,

T 1

T 2 *mp* shade whis - per,

B 1 shade

B 2

Pno.

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a vocal ensemble and piano. The page is numbered 28 and contains a section labeled 'A' starting at measure 13. The music is in the key of D major (two sharps) and features a complex time signature that changes from 6/8 to 4/2 and back to 6/8. The vocal parts are for Soprano 1 (S 1), Soprano 2 (S 2), Alto 1 (A 1), Alto 2 (A 2), Tenor 1 (T 1), Tenor 2 (T 2), Bass 1 (B 1), and Bass 2 (B 2). The piano accompaniment (Pno.) is written in grand staff. The lyrics are: 'and the wave - less stream has a mur - mur - ing whis - per'. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp* (mezzo-piano) and accents. There are also performance instructions like slurs and a triplet of eighth notes in the piano part.

16 *mf*

S 1 where the al - ders wade

S 2 where the al - ders wade

A 1 where al - ders wade

A 2 where al - ders wade

T 1 where the al - ders wade

T 2 where al - ders wade

B 1 where al - ders wade

B 2 where al - ders wade

Pno.

20

S 1

S 2

A 1 *mp* Not a breath, not a sigh, *p* On - ly the

A 2 *mp* Not a breath, not a sigh, *p* On - ly the

T 1 *mp* Not a breath, not a sigh, *p* On - ly the

T 2 *mp* save the slow stream's whis - per

B 1 *mp* save the slow stream's whis - per

B 2 *mp* save the slow stream's whis - per

Pno.

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a choral and piano ensemble. It features eight staves: Soprano 1 (S 1), Soprano 2 (S 2), Alto 1 (A 1), Alto 2 (A 2), Tenor 1 (T 1), Tenor 2 (T 2), Bass 1 (B 1), and Bass 2 (B 2). A grand staff for piano (Pno.) is at the bottom. The music is in a key with two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature. The lyrics are: 'Not a breath, not a sigh, On - ly the save the slow stream's whis - per'. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *p* (piano). The score includes various musical notations such as rests, notes, and slurs.

B

24 *p*

S 1 Moon - - - white _____ maid _____

S 2 Moon - white _____ maid

A 1 moon _____ *mp* Out _____ of the lands of _____

A 2 moon _____ *mp* Out _____ of the lands of _____

T 1 moon _____ *mp* Out _____ of lands

T 2

B 1

B 2

Pno.

28

S 1 *mp* *mf*
A long strange cry thrills thro' the

S 2 *mp* *mf*
A long strange cry thrills thro' the

A 1 *mf*
Fae - rie a sum - mons thro' the glade

A 2 *mf*
Fae - rie a sum - mons glade

T 1 *mf*
Fae - rie a sum - mons thro' the glade

T 2 *mp* *mf*
A long strange cry that thrills thro' the glade

B 1 *mp* *mf*
long cry thro' the glade

B 2 *mp* *mf*
long strange cry thro' the glade

Pno.

32

mp

S 1 glade The grey - green glooms of the elms are stir - ring,

S 2 glade The grey - green glooms of the elms are stir - ring,

A 1 The grey - green glooms of the elms are stir - ring,

A 2 The grey - green glooms of the elms are stir - ring,

T 1 The grey - green glooms, stir - ring,

T 2 The grey - green glooms, stir - ring,

B 1 The grey - green glooms, stir - ring,

B 2 The grey - green glooms, stir - ring,

Pno.

37 *p* *mp* *poco rit.*

S 1 Moon - white maid

S 2 Moon - white maid

A 1 *p* New - ly a - fraid

A 2 *p* New - ly a - fraid

T 1 *p* New - ly a - fraid

T 2 *p* New - ly a - fraid

B 1 *p* New - ly a - fraid

B 2 *p* New - ly a - fraid

Pno.

With warmth and sweetness

41

S 1

S 2

A 1 *mp*
Last heard, white mu - sic,

A 2 *mp*
Last heard, white mu - sic,

T 1 *mp*
Last heard, white mu - sic,

T 2 *mp*
where — once The - oc - ri - tus sang and played —

B 1 *mp*
where — once The - oc - ri - tus sang and played —

B 2 *mp*
white mu - sic, — sang and played —

Pno.

poco rit.

45

mp

S 1
Thy _____ Thrac - ian song is the old new won - der, _____

mp

S 2
Thy _____ Thrac - ian song is the old new won - der, _____

mp

A 1
Thy _____ Thrac - ian song is the old new won - der, _____

p

A 2
ooh _____

p

T 1
ooh - - - - ooh _____

p

T 2
ooh - - - - ooh _____

B 1

B 2

Pno.

Piano accompaniment with treble and bass clefs.

a tempo

48

The musical score consists of ten staves. The first seven staves are for voices: Soprano 1 (S 1), Soprano 2 (S 2), Alto 1 (A 1), Alto 2 (A 2), Tenor 1 (T 1), Tenor 2 (T 2), and Bass 1 (B 1). The eighth and ninth staves are for Bass 2 (B 2) and Piano (Pno.). The music is in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It features a dynamic shift from *p* (piano) to *pp* (pianissimo) at measure 50. The lyrics are: "moon - white" for S 1, S 2, A 1, T 2, and B 2; "moon - white maid" for A 2, T 1, and B 1. The piano accompaniment consists of a simple harmonic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

52 *p* *mf* *p*

S 1 O - - - moon - - - white _____ maid!

S 2 O - - - moon - - - white _____ maid!

A 1 O - - - moon - - - white _____ maid!

A 2 O - - - moon - - - white _____ maid!

T 1 O moon - - - white _____ maid!

T 2 O moon - - - white _____ maid!

B 1 O moon - - - white _____ maid!

B 2 O moon - - - white _____ maid!

Pno.