



Break, Break, Break

**Edward B. Birge
(1868-1952)**

Maestoso

Piano

5

Pno.

Break, Break, Break

9

S Break, break, break, On thy cold gray stones, O

A Break, break, break, On thy cold gray stones, O

T Break, break, break, On thy cold gray stones, O

B Break, break, break, On thy cold gray stones, O

Pno. *ff*

12

S Sea! Break, break, break, On thy *dim.*

A Sea! Break, break, break, On thy *dim.*

T Sea! Break, break, break, On thy *dim.*

B Sea! Break, break, break, On thy *dim.*

Pno. *mf* *ff* *dim.*

15

S cold gray stones, O Sea! And I would that my tongue could

A cold gray stones, O Sea! And I would that my tongue could

T cold gray stones, O Sea! And I would that my tongue could

B cold gray stones, O Sea! And I would that my tongue could

Pno. *mf* *poco agitato*

18

S ut - ter The thoughts, the thoughts that a -

A ut - ter The thoughts, the thoughts that a -

T ut - ter The thoughts, the thoughts that a -

B ut - ter The thoughts, the thoughts that a -

Pno. *mf* *cresc.* *ff*

Break, Break, Break

21

S rise in me, — the thoughts that a-rise in me. *molto rit e dim.* *a tempo*

A rise in me, that a-rise in me. *molto rit e dim.* *a tempo*

T rise in me, the thoughts that a-rise in me. *molto rit e dim.* *a tempo*

B rise in me, that a-rise in me. *molto rit e dim.* *a tempo*

Pno. *molto rit e dim.* *a tempo*

25 *poco animato*

S O, — well for the fish - er-man's *f*

A O, — well for the fish - er-man's *f*

T

B

Pno. *poco animato*

29

S
boy, That he shouts with his sis - ter at play! O, —

A
boy, That he shouts with his sis - ter at play! O, —

T
O, —

B
O, —

Pno.

32

S
well for the sail - or lad, That he sings in his boat on the

A
well for the sail - or lad, That he sings in his boat on the

T
well for the sail - or lad, That he sings in his boat on the

B
well for the sail - or lad, That he sings in his boat on the

Pno.

Break, Break, Break

35 *maestoso* *f*

S bay! And the state - ly ships go on To their

A bay! And the state - ly ships go on To their

T bay! And the state - ly ships go on To their

B bay! And the state - ly ships go on To their

Pno. *maestoso* *f*

38

S ha - ven un - der the hill; But O for the touch of a

A ha - ven un - der the hill; But O for the touch of a

T ha - ven un - der the hill; But O for the touch of a

B ha - ven un - der the hill; But O for the touch of a

Pno.

Break, Break, Break

42 *cresc.* *pp*

S van - - - ish'd hand, And the sound of a voice that is

A van - - - ish'd hand, And the sound of a voice that is

T van - - - ish'd hand, And the sound of a voice that is

B van - - - ish'd hand, And the sound of a voice that is

Pno. *cresc.* *pp*

45 *ten.*

S still, the sound of a voice that is still! —

A still, the sound of a voice that is still!

T still, the sound of a voice that is still!

B still, the sound of a voice that is still!

Pno.

Break, Break, Break

S
A
T
B

Pno.

p *mf*

S
A
T
B

Pno.

53 *f* *cresc.* *ff*

58 *ff*

S Break, break, break At the foot of thy crags, O

A Break, break, break At the foot of thy crags, O

T Break, break, break At the foot of thy crags, O

B Break, break, break At the foot of thy crags, O

Pno.

61 *mf* *ff*

S Sea! Break, break, break At the

A Sea! Break, break, break At the

T Sea! Break, break, break At the

B Sea! Break, break, break At the

Pno.

64

S foot of thy crags, O Sea! But the ten - der grace of a

A foot of thy crags, O Sea! But the ten - der grace of a

T foot of thy crags, O Sea! But the ten - der grace of a

B foot of thy crags, O Sea! But the ten - der grace of a

Pno.

67

S day that is dead Will nev - er, will nev - er come

A day that is dead Will nev - er, will nev - er come

T day that is dead Will nev - er, will nev - er come

B day that is dead Will nev - er, will nev - er come

Pno.

70 *dying away*
S back to me. *pp*

70 *dying away*
A back to me. *pp*

70 *dying away*
T back to me. *pp*

70 *dying away*
B back to me. *pp*

70 *dim.*
Pno. *pp*

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Edward Bailey Birge (1868-1952) was born in Northampton, Massachusetts, into a musical family. His father conducted the band and chorus of the Florence Musical Association and his mother was a concert pianist. He studied violin and piano at an early age and, in high school, directed a glee club. He attended Brown University, directing an orchestra and glee club, as well as teaching high school. He taught in the public schools and later in a normal school in New England, then was appointed director of music in the public school of Indianapolis, Indiana. He served on the faculty of Indiana University as Head of the Public School Music Department and Director of the University Chorus. He was also organist and choirmaster of Trinity Episcopal Church. He was superintendent of the American Institute of Normal Methods and a founding member of the Music Supervisors National Conference, which later became the Music Educators National Conference (MENC). He composed a concert-overture, a children's cantata, school-music, and a children's song series. He authored the first history of American music education.

Break, break, break,
On thy cold gray stones, O Sea!
And I would that my tongue could utter
The thoughts that arise in me.

O, well for the fisherman's boy,
That he shouts with his sister at play!
O, well for the sailor lad,
That he sings in his boat on the bay!

And the stately ships go on
To their haven under the hill;
But O for the touch of a vanish'd hand,
And the sound of a voice that is still!

Break, break, break
At the foot of thy crags, O Sea!
But the tender grace of a day that is dead
Will never come back to me.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)

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