



# **A Song of Dynamics**

**Theodore F. Seward  
(1835-1902)**

**Theodore Frelinghuysen Seward** (1835-1902) was born in Florida, Orange County, New York, second cousin of U. S. Secretary of State, Senator, and NY Governor William H. Seward. He studied music under Lowell Mason and Thomas Hastings. He held organist positions in New London, Connecticut, and in Rochester, New York, before moving to New York City. His wife was a well known poet and activist Mary Holden Coggeshall Seward. He managed performances of the Fisk Jubilee Singers, wrote down more than one hundred of their plantation melodies, and toured Europe with them. He became interested in the British system of musical instruction and worked to establish the Tonic sol-fa system in the U.S. He wrote and lectured on the subject, taught the system in classes and public schools, and prepared a series of textbooks. He was the founder of the American tonic sol-fa Association, and of the American vocal music association. He also founded the Brotherhood of Christian Unity and the Don't Worry Club. He died in East Orange, New Jersey.

A song of dynamics let us sing;  
A song of dynamics, we will sing,  
From the soft to the loud make it ring.  
M is for *mezzo*, medium, moderate,  
F is for *forte*, loud and strong;  
Double F *fortissimo*,  
Louder still and stronger;  
Then *diminuendo* to the end;  
P for *piano*, gently now,  
Then *pianissimo* soft and low,

Then sing *crescendo*, loud and strong,  
Then *diminuendo* to the end;  
Swell each tone.  
Then all *legato* smoothly we'll sing;  
And then we'll sing *staccato* ha, ha, ha,  
And end our song with laughing,  
What a merry time we're having with our ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

# A Song of Dynamics

Theo. F. Seward

S  
A  
T  
B

A song of dy - nam - ics let us sing; A song of dy - nam - ics let us  
A song of dy - nam - ics let us sing, let us sing; A song of dy - nam - ics let us  
A song of dy - nam - ics let us sing, let us sing; A song of dy - nam - ics let us  
A song of dy - nam - ics let us sing, let us sing; A song of dy - nam - ics let us

S  
A  
T  
B

4  
sing; A song of dy - nam - ics, we will sing, From the  
sing, let us sing; A song of dy - nam - ics, we will sing, we will sing, From the  
sing, let us sing; A song of dy - nam - ics, we will sing, we will sing, From the  
sing, let us sing; A song of dy - nam - ics, we will sing, we will sing, From the



## A Song of Dynamics

7 *m*

S soft to the loud make it ring. *m* M is for *mez - zo*,

A soft to the loud make it ring, make it ring. *m* M is for *mez - zo*,

T soft to the loud make it ring, make it ring. *m* M is for *mez - zo*,

B soft to the loud make it ring, make it ring. M is for *mez - zo*,

10 *f*

S me - di - um, mod - er - ate, *f* F is for *for - te*, loud and strong;

A me - di - um, mod - er - ate, *f* F is for *for - te*, loud and strong;

T me - di - um, mod - er - ate, *f* F is for *for - te*, loud and strong;

B me - di - um, mod - er - ate, *f* F is for *for - te*, loud and strong;

13 *ff* *dim.*

S Dou - ble F *for - tis - si - mo*, Loud - er still and strong - er; Then *dim - in - u - en - do* to the

A Dou - ble F *for - tis - si - mo*, Loud - er still and strong - er; Then *dim - in - u - en - do* to the

T Dou - ble F *for - tis - si - mo*, Loud - er still and strong - er; Then *dim - in - u - en - do* to the

B Dou - ble F *for - tis - si - mo*, Loud - er still and strong - er; Then *dim - in - u - en - do* to the

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16

S end; *p* P for *pi - an - o*, gent - ly now,

A end, to the end; *p* P for *pi - an - o*, gent - ly now,

T end, to the end; *p* P for *pi - an - o*, gent - ly now,

B end, to the end; *p* P for *pi - an - o*, gent - ly now,

19

S Then *pp* *pi - an - is - si - mo* soft and low,

A Then *pp* *pi - an - is - si - mo* soft and low,

T Then *pp* *pi - an - is - si - mo* soft and low,

B Then *pp* *pi - an - is - si - mo* soft - er, soft - er, soft - er if you please,

22

S *cresc.* Then sing *cre - scen - do*, loud and strong,

A *cresc.* Then sing *cre - scen - do*, loud and strong,

T *cresc.* Then sing *cre - scen - do*, loud and strong,

B Hush! soft - er, that's ver - y well, *cresc.* Then sing *cre - scen - do*, loud and strong,

## A Song of Dynamics

26 *dim.*

S Then *di - min - u - en - do* to the end; *Swell*

A Then *di - min - u - en - do* to the end, to the end; *Swell*

T Then *di - min - u - en - do* to the end, to the end; *Swell*

B Then *di - min - u - en - do* to the end, to the end; *Swell*

29

S each tone.

A each tone.

T each tone.

B each tone.

*legato*

S Then all *le - ga - to* smooth - ly we'll sing;

A Then all *le - ga - to* smooth - ly we'll sing;

T Then all *le - ga - to* smooth - ly we'll sing;

B Then all *le - ga - to* smooth - ly we'll sing;

# A Song of Dynamics

*staccato*

S  
And then we'll sing *stac - ca - to* ha, ha, ha, And end our song with laugh - ing, What a

A  
And then we'll sing *stac - ca - to* ha, ha, ha, And end our song with laugh - ing, What a

T  
And then we'll sing *stac - ca - to* ha, ha, ha, And end our song with laugh - ing, What a

B  
And then we'll sing *stac - ca - to* ha, ha, ha, And end our song with laugh - ing, What a

<sup>39</sup>

S  
mer - ry time we're hav - ing with our ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

A  
mer - ry time we're hav - ing with our ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

T  
mer - ry time we're hav - ing with our ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

B  
mer - ry time we're hav - ing with our ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

Biglow & Main  
(1872)

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