



Opus 119
No. 3

The Blue Bird

Charles Villiers Stanford
(1852-1924)

L'OISEAU BLEU

The lake lay blue below the hill.
O'er it, as I looked, there flew
Across the waters, cold and still,
A bird whose wings were palest blue.

The sky above was blue at last,
The sky beneath me blue in blue.
A moment, ere the bird had passed.
It caught his image as he flew.

Mary Elizabeth Coleridge (1861-1907)

The Blue Bird

C. V. Stanford

Larghetto tranquillo

S *pp* blue

A *pp* The lake lay blue _____ be - low the hill, _____ The

T *pp* The lake lay blue _____ be - low the hill, _____ The

B *pp* The lake lay blue _____ be - low the hill, _____ The

The first system of the musical score is for four voices: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The Soprano part has a whole rest followed by a whole note 'blue' on the final measure. The other three parts (Alto, Tenor, Bass) have a piano (*pp*) dynamic marking. They all sing the lyrics: 'The lake lay blue _____ be - low the hill, _____ The'. The Alto part has a melodic line with a slur over the first four notes and another slur over the last two notes. The Tenor and Bass parts have a similar melodic line.

S 5 blue

A lake lay blue _____ be - low the hill, _____ be -

T lake lay blue _____ be - low the hill, _____ be -

B lake lay blue _____ be - low the hill, _____ be -

The second system of the musical score continues the four voices. The Soprano part starts with a measure number '5' above the staff and has a whole rest followed by a whole note 'blue'. The Alto, Tenor, and Bass parts continue with the lyrics: 'lake lay blue _____ be - low the hill, _____ be -'. The Alto part has a melodic line with a slur over the first four notes and another slur over the last two notes. The Tenor and Bass parts have a similar melodic line.

9

S O'er it, as I looked, there flew A - cross the wa - ters, cold and

A low the hill, lay blue,

T low the hill, lay blue,

B low the hill, lay blue,

13

S still, A bird whose wings

A cold and still, there flew A bird whose

T cold and still, there flew A bird whose

B cold and still, there flew A bird whose

17

S were pa - lest blue.

A wings were pal - est blue. The

T wings were pal - est blue. The

B wings were pal - est blue. The

21

S *p* blue,

A sky a - bove _____ was blue at last, _____ The

T sky a - bove _____ was blue at last, _____ The

B sky a - bove _____ was blue at last, _____ The

cresc.

25

S *mf* blue.

A sky be - neath me blue in blue, _____ was

T sky be - neath me blue in blue, _____ was

B sky be - neath me blue in blue, _____ was

mf

29

S A mo - ment, ere the bird had passed,

A blue in blue, _____ blue in

T blue in blue, _____ blue in

B blue in blue, _____ blue in

pp

33

S It caught, _____ his im - - - - age, his

A blue. It caught, it caught _____ his im - age, _____

T blue. It caught, _____ it caught _____ his im - age, _____

B blue. It caught, it caught his im - age

37 *Piú lento*

S im - age, as he flew. _____

A _____ his im - age as he flew. *ppp* The

T _____ his im - age as he flew. _____ *ppp* The

B as _____ he flew. _____ *ppp* The

41 *quasi niente* *ppp*

S _____ *ppp* blue.

A lake lay blue _____ lake be - low the hill. _____

T lake lay blue _____ lake be - low the hill. _____

B lake lay blue _____ lake be - low the hill. _____

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