



Opus 127  
No. 8

# To a Tree

Charles Villiers Stanford  
(1852-1924)

## LINES TO A TREE

THOU art the sun, and the wind, and the driving shower.  
Thou hast worn the snow, and clothed thyself in her flower:  
Lo, there is living in thee the ancient Light!  
The sons of the morning sang *Hosanna* at thy creation.  
Old thou art — and young— as an ever-enduring nation.  
Thou art a thousand shapes of the day and a thousand shapes of the night!

Thou that shadowest ever a bounded circlet of earth,  
Who shall sing thy end that sang thy wonderful birth?  
Haply the fire that was once thy friend shall turn to thy foe,  
Fall on thee, lightning swift, as the gleam of a sword and the flash,  
Rend thy cherishing bark till it burst in twain with a crash,  
Scorch the leaves of thy crown and lay thee low!

[following stanza omitted in musical setting]  
Solemn sentinel, leaving never thy chosen post.  
Haply the waves shall carry thee, wind-blown and tempest-tost,  
No more a nest of the birds, but a home for wandering men,  
Merchants, warriors, mighty captains of them that roam,  
Thou shalt sink, as they sink, to the stillness under the foam,  
Fishes, silent and swift, glide in thy branches then!

Haply thou shalt be made the sails of a grinding mill,  
Thou shalt rejoice in the sun and the wind be thy playfellow still,  
Whirling and whirling to change into bread the golden corn!  
Haply of thee shall be made at the last a quivering flame;  
That shall return in light, in the glory of light that came,  
Fire shall befriend thee yet, O marvellous child of the morn!

Mary Elizabeth Coleridge (1861-1907)

# To a Tree

C. V. Stanford

*Allegro non troppo*

S  
THOU art the sun, and the wind, and the driv - ing shower. \_\_\_\_\_ Thou hast

A  
THOU art the sun, and the wind, and the driv - ing shower. \_\_\_\_\_ Thou hast

T  
THOU art the sun, and the wind, and the driv - ing shower. \_\_\_\_\_ Thou hast

B  
THOU art the sun, and the wind, and the driv - ing shower. \_\_\_\_\_ Thou hast

4  
S  
worn the snow, and clothed thy - self in her flower: \_\_\_\_\_

A  
worn the snow, and clothed thy - self in \_\_\_\_\_ her flower: \_\_\_\_\_

T  
worn the snow, and clothed thy - self in \_\_\_\_\_ her flower: \_\_\_\_\_

B  
worn the snow, and clothed thy - self in her flower: \_\_\_\_\_

7 *sf*

S Lo, there is liv - ing in thee the an - cient Light!

A *sf* Lo, there is liv - ing in thee the an - - - cient

T *sf* Lo, there is liv - ing in thee the an - - - cient

B *sf* Lo, there is liv - ing in thee the an - - - cient

10

S The sons of the morn - ing

A Light! The sons of the morn - ing sang Ho -

T Light! The sons of the morn - ing sang Ho -

B Light! The sons of the morn - ing sang Ho -

13

S sang Ho - san - - - na at thy cre - a -

A san - - - - - na at thy cre - a -

T san - - - - - na at thy cre - a -

B san - - - - - na at thy cre - a -

16

S *mf* > - - tion. Old thou art— and young— as an

A *mf* > - - tion. Old thou art— and young— as an

T *mf* > - - tion. Old thou art— and young— as an

B *mf* > - - tion. Old— thou art— and young—

19

S *f* ev - er - en - dur - - - ing na - tion. *mf* Thou— art a

A *f* ev - er - en - dur - - - ing na - tion. *mf* Thou— art a

T *f* ev - er - en - dur - - - ing na - tion. *mf* Thou— art a

B *f* — as an ev - er - en - dur - - - ing na - tion. *mf* Thou— art a

23

S *f* thou - sand shapes of the day and a thou - sand shapes of the night!

A *f* thou - sand shapes of the day and a thou - sand shapes of the night!

T *f* thou - sand shapes of the day and a thou - sand shapes of the night!

B *f* thou - sand shapes of the day and a thou - sand shapes of the night!

27 *p* *legato*

S Thou that sha - - - dow - est e - - - ver a

A *p* *legato*  
Thou that sha - - - dow - est e - ver a

T *p* *legato*  
Thou that sha - dow - est e - - - ver a

B *p* *legato*  
Thou — that sha - dow - est e - - - ver a

30

S bound - ed cir - clet of earth, Who shall sing thy

A bound - - - ed cir - clet of earth, Who shall

T bound - - - ed cir - clet of earth, Who shall

B bound - ed cir - clet of earth, Who shall

33 *p* *poco rall.*

S end that sang thy won - der - ful birth?

A *poco rall.*  
sing thy end that sang thy won - der - ful birth?

T *poco rall.*  
sing thy end that sang thy won - der - ful birth?

B *poco rall.*  
sing thy end that sang thy won - der - ful birth?

37 *a tempo (con fuoco)*

S *f* Hap - ly the fire that was once thy friend shall turn to thy

A *a tempo (con fuoco)* *f* Hap - ly the fire that was once thy friend shall turn to thy

T *a tempo (con fuoco)* *f* Hap - ly the fire that was once thy friend shall turn to thy

B *a tempo (con fuoco)* *f* Hap - ly the fire once thy friend shall turn to thy

40

S foe, Fall on thee, light - ning swift, as the gleam of a

A foe, Fall on thee, light - ning swift, as the gleam of a

T foe, Fall on thee, light - ning swift, as the gleam of a

B foe, Fall on thee, light - ning swift, as the gleam of a

43 *sf*

S sword and the flash, Rend thy cher - ish - ing bark till it burst in

A *sf* sword and the flash, Rend thy cher - ish - ing bark till it burst in

T *sf* sword and the flash, Rend thy cher - ish - ing bark till it burst in

B *sf* sword and the flash, Rend thy cher - ish - ing bark till it burst in

46

S  
twain with a crash, Scorch \_\_\_\_\_ the leaves \_\_\_\_\_ of thy

A  
twain with a crash, Scorch \_\_\_\_\_ the leaves,

T  
twain with a crash, Scorch \_\_\_\_\_ the leaves \_\_\_\_\_ of thy

B  
twain with a crash, Scorch \_\_\_\_\_ the leaves,

49

S  
crown \_\_\_\_\_ and lay thee,

A  
scorch \_\_\_\_\_ the leaves \_\_\_\_\_ of thy crown \_\_\_\_\_ and

T  
crown, scorch \_\_\_\_\_ the leaves \_\_\_\_\_ and

B  
scorch \_\_\_\_\_ the leaves \_\_\_\_\_ of thy crown \_\_\_\_\_ and

53

S  
and lay thee, and lay \_\_\_\_\_ thee \_\_\_\_\_ low!

A  
lay thee, and lay \_\_\_\_\_ thee \_\_\_\_\_ low!

T  
lay thee, and lay \_\_\_\_\_ thee \_\_\_\_\_ low!

B  
lay thee, lay \_\_\_\_\_ thee \_\_\_\_\_ low!

60

S *mf*  
Hap - ly thou shalt be made the sails of a grind - ing mill,

A *mf*  
Hap - ly thou shalt be made — the sails of a grind - ing mill,

T *mf*  
Hap - ly thou shalt be made the sails of a grind - ing mill,

B *mf*  
Hap - ly thou shalt be made — the sails of a grind - ing mill,

63

S *cresc.*  
Thou shalt re-joyce in the sun and the wind be thy play - fel-low still,

A *cresc.*  
Thou shalt re-joyce in the sun and the wind be thy play - fel-low still,

T *cresc.*  
Thou shalt re-joyce in the sun and the wind be thy play - fel-low still,

B *cresc.*  
Thou shalt re-joyce in the sun and the wind be thy play - fel-low still,

66

S *f*  
Whirl-ing and whirl - ing to change in - to bread the gold - en corn!

A *f*  
Whirl-ing and whirl - ing to change in - to bread the gold - en corn! —

T *f*  
Whirl-ing and whirl - ing to change in - to bread the gold - en corn!

B *f*  
Whirl-ing and whirl - ing to change in - to bread the gold - en corn!

70

S *f* Hap - ly of thee \_\_\_\_\_ shall be made at the last a qui - ver-ing

A *f* Hap - ly of thee \_\_\_\_\_ shall be made at the last a qui - ver-ing

T *f* Hap - ly of thee \_\_\_\_\_ shall be made at the last a qui - ver-ing

B *f* Hap - ly of thee \_\_\_\_\_ shall be made a qui - ver-ing

73

S *sf* flame; That shall re - turn \_\_\_\_\_ in light, in the glo - ry of

A *sf* flame; \_\_\_\_\_ That shall re - turn in light, in the glo - ry of

T *sf* flame; That shall re - turn in light, in the glo - ry of

B *sf* flame; That shall re - turn in light, in the glo - ry of

76

S *ff* light \_\_\_\_\_ that came, Fire \_\_\_\_\_ shall be -

A *ff* light \_\_\_\_\_ that came, Fire \_\_\_\_\_ shall be -

T *ff* light \_\_\_\_\_ that came, Fire \_\_\_\_\_ shall be -

B *ff* light \_\_\_\_\_ that came, Fire \_\_\_\_\_ shall be -

79

S friend thee yet, fire shall be - friend thee yet, O

A friend thee yet, fire shall be - friend thee yet, O

T friend thee yet, fire shall be - friend thee yet, O

B friend thee yet, fire shall be - friend thee yet,

82

S mar - vel - lous child of the morn!

A mar - vel - lous child of the morn!

T mar - vel - lous child of the morn!

B O mar - vel - lous child of the morn!

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