

# Wedding cantata:

## 4. A Faery Song

A

Peter Bird

W. B. Yeats (1865-1939)

Adagio (♩ = 72)

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

PIANO

*pp*

We who are old,

*mp*

*Ped.*

7

S.

A.

T.

B.

PNO.

*p* *mp* *p* *mp*

old and gray, O so old! Thou-sands of years, thou-sands of

*p* *mp* *p* *mp*

old and gray, O so old! Thou-sands of years, thou-sands of

*p* *mp* *p* *mp*

old and gray, O so old! Thou-sands of years, thou-sands of

*p* *mp* *p* *mp*

old and gray, O so old! Thou-sands of years, thou-sands of

*mf*

*Ped.*



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31

S. *p* night, and the stars a - bove: *mp* Give to these chil - dren, new from the *mp*

A. *p* night, the stars a - bove: *mp* Give to these chil - dren, new from the *mp*

T. *p* night, the stars a - bove: *mp* Give to these chil - dren, new from the *mp*

B. *p* night, and the stars a - bove: *mp* Give to these chil - dren, new from the *mp*

PNO.

*Red.* *Red.* *Red.*

39

S. *mf* world, Rest far from men. Is an - y - thing bet -

A. *mf* world, Rest far from men. Is an - y - thing bet -

T. *mf* world, Rest far from men. Is an - y - thing bet -

B. *mf* world, Rest far from men. Is an - y - thing bet -

PNO.

*Red.* *Red.*

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4

47

S. *p* *mp* *mp*  
ter? Is an - y-thing bet- ter? Tell it us then: \_\_\_\_\_ Us who are

A. *p* *mp* *mp*  
ter? Is an - y-thing bet- ter? Tell it us then: \_\_\_\_\_ Us who are

T. *p* *mp* *mp*  
ter? Is an - y-thing bet- ter? Tell it us then: \_\_\_\_\_ Us who are

B. *p* *mp* *mp*  
ter? Is an - y-thing bet- ter? Tell us then: \_\_\_\_\_ Us who are

PNO. *mp*  
Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

**D**

55

S. *p*  
old, old and gray, O so old!

A. *p*  
old, old and gray, O so old!

T. *p*  
old, old and gray, O so old!

B. *p*  
old, old and gray, O so old!

PNO. *p*  
Ped. Ped. Ped.

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60

S. *mp* *mf* *mp* *p*  
Thou-sands of years, thou-sands of years, if all were told.

A. *mp* *mf* *mp* *p*  
Thou-sands of years, thou-sands of years, if all were told.

T. *mp* *mf* *mp* *p*  
8 Thou-sands of years, thou-sands of years, if all, all were told.

B. *mp* *mf* *mp* *p*  
Thou-sands of years, thou-sands of years, if all were told.

PNO. *mf*  
Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

## Wedding Cantata

### 1. Marriage Morning

Alfred, Lord Tennyson, 1809-1892

Light, so low upon earth,  
You send a flash to the sun.  
Here is the golden close of love;  
All my wooing is done.  
Oh, all the woods and the meadows:  
Woods where we hid from the wet,  
Stiles where we stayed to be kind,  
Meadows in which we met!  
Light, so low in the vale,  
You flash and lighten afar,  
For this is the golden morning of love  
And you are his morning star.  
Flash, I am ready; I start  
By meadow and stile and wood.  
Oh, lighten into my eyes and my heart,  
Into my heart and my blood!  
Heart, are you great enough  
For a love that never tires?  
O heart, are you great enough for love?  
(I have heard of thorns and briars.)  
Over the thorns and briars,  
Over the meadows and stiles,  
Over the world to the end of it;  
Flash of a million miles.

### 2. It's all I have to bring today

Emily Dickinson, 1830-1886

It's all I have to bring today—  
This, and my heart beside—  
This, and my heart, and all the fields—  
And all the meadows wide—  
Be sure you count—should I forget  
Some one the sum could tell—  
This, and my heart, and all the Bees  
Which in the Clover dwell.

### 3. The Privileged Lovers

Rumi, 1207-1273

The moon is now a dancer  
at this festival of love;  
This dance of light,  
This sacred blessing.  
Divine love beckons us  
to a world arising new  
for these lovers with their  
eyes of fiery passion.  
Chosen ones who  
have surrendered!  
Once only a light;  
now they are sunbeams reunited!  
They have left behind  
the world of foolish games.  
Divine love beckons us  
to a world arising new  
for these lovers with their  
eyes of fiery passion!

### 4. A Faery Song

William Butler Yeats, 1865-1939

WE who are old, old and gray,  
O so old!  
Thousands of years, thousands of years,  
If all were told:  
Give to these children, new from the world,  
Silence and love;  
And the long dew-dropping hours of the night,  
And the stars above:  
Give to these children, new from the world,  
Rest far from men.  
Is anything better, anything better?  
Tell us it then:  
Us who are old, old and gray,  
O so old!  
Thousands of years, thousands of years,  
If all were told.

To Jean, my lovely wife since 1972

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Adagio (♩ = 72)

mp

Ped.

5 **A**

mf

Ped.

10

f

Ped.

19 **B**

mf

Ped.

26

mf

Ped.

V.S.

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2

C

34

Ped.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 34 through 40. The music is in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. A 'Ped.' (pedal) marking is present under the first measure, with a bracket extending to the end of the system.

41

Ped. Ped.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 41 through 46. The right hand continues the melodic line with some slurs and ties. The left hand accompaniment includes chords and moving lines. Two 'Ped.' markings are present, one under measure 43 and another under measure 45, with brackets indicating their duration.

47

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 47 through 53. The right hand has a more active melodic line with eighth notes. The left hand accompaniment is more rhythmic. Five 'Ped.' markings are present, each with a bracket under a specific measure.

54

D

*mp*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 54 through 58. The time signature changes to 4/4. The right hand has a melodic line starting with a *mp* (mezzo-piano) dynamic. The left hand accompaniment is simpler, with chords and single notes. Four 'Ped.' markings are present, each with a bracket under a specific measure.

59

*mf*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 59 through 64. The time signature changes to 3/4. The right hand has a melodic line starting with a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic. The left hand accompaniment consists of chords and single notes. Four 'Ped.' markings are present, each with a bracket under a specific measure.