



# Starry Crowns of Heaven

Joseph Barnby  
(1838-1896)

**Sir Joseph Barnby** (1838-1896) was born at York, as a son of organist Thomas Barnby. He was a chorister at York Minster and was educated at the Royal Academy of Music. In 1856, he competed for the first Mendelssohn Scholarship and tied for first place with Arthur Sullivan. After a second test, Sullivan won. Barnby held organist positions at Mitcham, St. Michael's, Queenhithe, and St. James' the Less, Westminster, St. Andrew's, Wells Street, London, and St. Anne's, Soho. In London, he also was conductor of "Barnby's Choir," well known for their many performances. In 1871 he was appointed, in succession to Charles Gounod, conductor of the Royal Albert Hall Choral Society, holding that position until his death. He was director of music at Eton College then principal of the Guildhall School of Music. His works include oratorio, many services and anthems, and 246 hymn tunes, many part-songs, and organ pieces. He is the subject of a popular story (probably apocryphal) about a young contralto who, at the end of a Handel solo, put in a high note instead of the less effective note usually sung. Barnby, the conductor, was shocked, and asked whether Miss – thought she was right to improve on Handel. "Well, Sir Joseph," she said, "I've got an 'E' and I don't see why I shouldn't show it off." To which Barnby replied, "I believe you have two knees, but I hope you won't show them off here."

# Starry Crowns of Heaven

J. Barnby

Larghetto ♩ = 69

S  
Star - ry Crowns of Heav - en Set in az - ure night!

A  
Star - ry Crowns of Heav - en Set in az - ure night!

T  
Star - ry Crowns of Heav - en Set in az - ure night!

B  
Star - ry Crowns of Heav'n, Lin - ger

S  
Lin - ger yet a lit - tle Ere you hide your light:—

A  
Lin - ger yet a lit - tle Ere you hide your light:—

T  
Lin - ger yet a lit - tle Ere you hide your light:—

B  
yet a lit - tle Ere you hide your light:— —Nay,



## Starry Crowns of Heaven

9

S *f* *>* —Nay; let Star - light fade a-way, *cresc.* Nay; let Star - light fade a-way

A *f* *>* —Nay; let Star - light fade a - way, *cresc.* let Star - light fade a -

T *f* *>* —Nay; let Star - light fade a-way, *cresc.* Nay, nay; let Star - light fade a -

B *f* *>* nay; let Star - light fade a - way, *cresc.* let Star - light fade a -

13

S *ff* Her - ald - ing the day, *rit.* Her - ald - ing the day!

A *ff* way Her - ald - ing, *rit.* Her - ald - ing the day!

T *ff* way Her - ald - ing, *rit.* Her - ald - ing the day!

B *ff* way Her - ald - ing, *rit.* Her - ald - ing the day!

17

S *pp* Blossoms, gen - tle blossoms, *cresc.* Do not with - er yet; *dim.*

A *pp* Blossoms, gen - tle blossoms, *cresc.* Do not with - er yet; *dim.*

T *pp* Blossoms, gen - tle blossoms, *cresc.* Do not with - er yet; *dim.*

B *pp* *cresc.* Do not with - er yet; *dim.* Still for

# Starry Crowns of Heaven

21 *pp*

S Still for you — the sun shines, Still the dews are wet:—

A Still for you — the sun shines, Still the dews are wet:—

T *pp* Still for you — the sun shines, Still the dews are wet:—

B *pp* you the sun shines, Still — the dews are wet:— —Nay,

25 *f* >

S —Nay; but fade and with - er fast, *cresc.* Nay; but fade and with - er fast,

A *f* > —Nay; but fade and with - er fast, *cresc.* but fade and with - er

T *f* > —Nay; but fade and with - er fast, *cresc.* Nay, nay; but fade and with - er

B > nay; but fade and with - er fast, *cresc.* but fade and with - er

29 *ff*

S Fruit — must come at last, *rit.* Fruit must come at last!

A fast, *rit.* 3 Fruit must come, — Fruit must come at last!

T *ff* fast, *rit.* 3 Fruit must come, — Fruit must come — at last!

B *ff* fast, *rit.* 3 Fruit must come, — Fruit must come at last!

## Starry Crowns of Heaven

33

S Joy, so true and ten - der, Dare you not a - bide?

A Joy, so true and ten - der, Dare you not a - bide?

T Joy, so true and ten - der, Dare you not a - bide?

B Joy, so true and ten - der, Will you

*pp* *cresc.* *dim.*

37

S Will you spread your pin - ions, Must you leave our side?

A Will you spread your pin - ions, Must you leave our side?

T Will you spread your pin - ions, Must you leave our side?

B spread your pin - ions, Must you leave our side? —Nay,

*pp* *cresc.* *f* *>*

41

S —Nay; an An - gel's shin - ing grace, Nay; an An - gel's shin - ing grace

A —Nay; an An - gel's shin - ing grace, an An - gel's shin - ing

T —Nay; an An - gel's shin - ing grace, Nay, nay; an An - gel's shin - ing

B nay; an An - gel's shin - ing grace, an An - gel's shin - ing

*f* *>* *cresc.*

# Starry Crowns of Heaven

7

45 *ff* Waits \_\_\_\_\_ to fill \_ your place! \_\_\_\_\_ Waits to fill \_\_\_\_\_ your place!

*rit.* *ff* grace Waits, \_\_\_\_\_ Waits to fill \_\_\_\_\_ your place!

*rit.* *ff* grace Waits, \_\_\_\_\_ Waits to fill \_\_\_\_\_ your place!

*rit.* *ff* grace Waits \_\_\_\_\_ to fill \_\_\_\_\_ your place!

Novello, Ewer and Co.  
(1860-1885)

## GIVE PLACE

### Starry Crowns of Heaven

Set in azure night!

Linger yet a little

Ere you hide your light:—

—Nay; let Starlight fade away

Heralding the day!

Blossoms, gentle blossoms,

Do not wither yet;

Still for you the sun shines,

Still the dews are wet:—

—Nay; but fade and wither fast,

Fruit must come at last!

Joy, so true and tender,

Dare you not abide?

Will you spread your pinions,

Must you leave our side?

—Nay; an Angel's shining grace

Waits to fill your place!

Adelaide Anne Proctor (1825-1864)

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