



It is not  
always May

John Francis Barnett  
(1837-1916)

**John Francis Barnett** (1837-1916) was the son of music professor Joseph Alfred Barnett. He received a queen's scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music and studied piano in Germany. He became an accomplished pianist and established himself as a composer with a symphony in A minor (1864). His compositions include works for orchestra, strings and piano as well as a few cantatas and an oratorio. He was also a professor at the Guildhall School of Music and Royal College of Music.

*No hay pajaros en los nidos de antano*  
-Spanish Proverb

The sun is bright,— the air is clear,  
The darting swallows soar and sing,  
And from the stately elms I hear  
The bluebird prophesying Spring.

So blue yon winding river flows,  
It seems an outlet from the sky,  
Where, waiting till the west wind blows,  
The freighted clouds at anchor lie.

All things are new;— the buds, the leaves,  
That gild the elm-tree's nodding crest,  
And even the nest beneath the eaves;—  
There are no birds in last year's nest!

All things rejoice in youth and love,  
The fulness of their first delight!  
And learn from the heavens above  
The melting tenderness of night.

Maiden, that hear'st this simple rhyme,  
Enjoy thy youth, it will not stay;  
Enjoy the fragrance of thy prime,  
For oh, it is not always May!

Enjoy the Spring of Love and Youth,  
To some good angel leave the rest;  
For Time will teach thee soon the truth,  
There are no birds in last year's nest!

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)

# It is not always May

John Francis Narnett

Andante con moto ♩ = 126  
*p dolce e legato*

S  
The sun is bright,— the air is clear, The dart - ing swal - lows soar and sing, And

A  
The sun is bright,— the air is clear, The dart - ing swal - lows soar and sing, And

T  
The sun is bright,— the air is clear, The dart - ing swal - lows soar and sing, And

B  
The sun is bright,— the air is clear, The dart - ing swal - lows soar and sing, And

5  
S  
from the state - ly elms I hear The blue - bird pro - phe - sy - ing Spring. So

A  
from the state - ly elms I hear The blue - bird pro - phe - sy - ing Spring. So

T  
from the state - ly elms I hear The blue - bird pro - phe - sy - ing Spring. So

B  
from the state - ly elms I hear The blue - bird pro - phe - sy - ing Spring. So

9  
S  
blue yon wind - ing riv - er flows, It seems an out - let from the sky, Where,

A  
blue yon wind - ing riv - er flows, It seems an out - let from the sky, Where,

T  
blue yon wind - ing riv - er flows, It seems an out - let from the sky, Where,

B  
blue yon wind - ing riv - er flows, It seems an out - let from the sky, Where,

## It is not always May

13

S wait - ing till the west wind blows, The freight - ed clouds at an - chor lie.

A wait - ing till the west wind blows, The freight - ed clouds at an - chor lie.

T wait - ing till the west wind blows, The freight - ed clouds at an - chor lie.

B wait - ing till the west wind blows, The freight - ed clouds at an - chor lie.

*dim.* *p* *poco rit.*

S All things are new;— the buds, the leaves, That gild the elm - tree's nod - ding crest, And

A All things are new;— the buds, the leaves, That gild the elm - tree's nod - ding crest, And

T All things are new;— the buds, the leaves, That gild the elm - tree's nod - ding crest, And

B All things are new;— the buds, the leaves, That gild the elm - tree's nod - ding crest, And

*p* *a tempo* *pp*

21

S e'en the nest be - neath the eaves;— There are no birds in last year's nest! All

A e'en the nest be - neath the eaves;— There are no birds in last year's nest! All

T e'en the nest be - neath the eaves;— There are no birds in last year's nest! All

B e'en the nest be - neath the eaves;— There are no birds in last year's nest! All

*cresc.* *p*

25

S things re-joyce in youth and love, The ful - ness of their first de - light! And

A things re-joyce in youth and love, The ful - ness of their first de - light! And

T things re-joyce in youth and love, The ful - ness of their first de - light! And

B things re-joyce in youth and love, The ful - ness of their first de - light! And

*cresc.* *f*

29

S learn — from the heav'ns a - bove The melt - ing ten - der - ness of night.

A learn — from the heav'ns a - bove The melt - ing ten - der - ness of night.

T learn — from the heav'ns a - bove The melt - ing ten - der - ness of night.

B learn from the heav'ns a - bove The melt - ing ten - der - ness of night.

*dim.* *p* *poco rit.*

33

S Maid - en, thathear'st this sim - ple rhyme, En - joy thy youth, it

A Maid - en, thathear'st this sim - ple rhyme, En - joy thy youth, it

T Maid - en, thathear'st this sim - ple rhyme, En - joy thy youth, it

B Maid - en, thathear'st this sim - ple rhyme, En - joy thy youth, it

*pp*

## It is not always May

36

S will not stay; En - joy the fra - grance of thy prime, For oh, it is not

A will not stay; En - joy the fra - grance of thy prime, For oh, it is not

T will not stay; En - joy the fra - grance of thy prime, For oh, it is not

B will not stay; En - joy the fra - grance of thy prime, For oh, it is not

*cresc.* *p*

40

S al - ways May! En - joy the Spring of Love and Youth, To

A al - ways May! En - joy the Spring of Love and Youth, To

T al - ways May! En - joy the Spring of Love and Youth, To

B al - ways May! En - joy the Spring of Love and Youth, To

*pp*

43

S some good an - gel leave the rest; For Time will teach thee

A some good an - gel leave the rest; For Time will teach thee

T some good an - gel leave the rest; For Time will teach thee

B some good an - gel leave the rest; For Time will teach thee

*cresc.*

46

S *f* soon the truth, *pp* There are \_\_\_\_\_ no birds in last \_\_\_\_\_ year's nest! *rall.*

A *f* soon the truth, *pp* There are no birds \_\_\_\_\_ in last year's nest! *rall.*

T *f* soon the truth, *pp* There are no birds \_\_\_\_\_ in last year's nest! *rall.*

B *f* soon the truth, *pp* There are no birds \_\_\_\_\_ in last year's nest! *rall.*

Detailed description: This is a musical score for four voices: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins at measure 46. The Soprano part starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic, followed by a piano (*pp*) dynamic, and ends with a *rall.* (ritardando) marking. The lyrics for the Soprano are: "soon the truth, There are \_\_\_\_\_ no birds in last \_\_\_\_\_ year's nest!". The Alto, Tenor, and Bass parts follow a similar pattern, with the Tenor part starting on a lower octave (indicated by an '8' below the staff). The lyrics for the Alto, Tenor, and Bass are: "soon the truth, There are no birds \_\_\_\_\_ in last year's nest!". The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

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(1880)

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