

# Loose the sail, rest the oar

J. Frederick Bridge (1844-1924)

Moderato con espress.

S *mp*  
Loose the sail, rest the oar, float a - way down,

A *mp*  
Loose the sail, rest the oar, float a - way down, a - way

T *mp*  
Loose the sail, rest the oar, float a - way down, a - way

B *mp*  
Loose the sail, rest the oar, float a - way down,

5  
S *cresc.* *mf* *dim.*  
Fleet - ing and glid - ing by tow'r and town;

A *cresc.* *mf* *dim.*  
down, Fleet - ing and glid - ing by tow'r, by tow'r and town, by tow'r and town;

T *cresc.* *mf* *dim.*  
down, Fleet - ing and glid - ing by tow'r, by tow'r and town, by tow'r and town;

B *cresc.* *mf* *dim.*  
Fleet - ing and glid - ing by tow'r and town;

9  
S *pp* *cresc.*  
Loose the sail, rest the oar, float a - way down,

A *pp* *cresc.*  
Loose the sail, rest the oar, float a - way down,

T *pp* *cresc.*  
Loose the sail, rest the oar, float a - way down,

B *pp* *cresc.*  
Loose the sail, rest the oar, float a - way down,

## Loose the sail, rest the oar

13

*cresc.* *mf*

S Fleet - ing and glid - ing by tow'r and town,

A Fleet - ing and glid - ing by tow'r and town, fleet - ing and

T Fleet - ing and glid - ing by tow'r and town, fleet -

B Fleet - ing and glid - ing by tow'r and town, fleet - ing and

17

*dim.*

S fleet - ing and glid - ing by tow'r and town.

A glid - ing, and glid - ing by tow'r and town.

T - - ing and glid - ing by tow'r and town.

B glid - ing, and glid - ing by tow'r and town.

21

*p*

S Life is so short at best! Life is so short at best!

A Life is so short at best! Life is so short at best!

T Life is so short at best! Life is so short at best! —

B Life is so short at best! Life is so short at best!

# Loose the sail, rest the oar

24

S snatch, while thou canst, thy rest, Sleep - ing by me.

A snatch, while thou canst, thy rest, Sleep - ing by me. *p* Life

T snatch, while thou canst, thy rest, Sleep - ing by me. *p* Life

B snatch, while thou canst, thy rest, Sleep - ing by me.

28

S Life is so short at best! snatch, while thou canst, thy rest, *mf*

A is so short at best! snatch, while thou canst, thy rest, *mf*

T is so short at best! snatch, while thou canst, thy rest, *mf*

B Life is so short at best! snatch, while thou canst, thy rest, *mf*

32

S Sleep - ing by me, sleep - - - - - ing by *dim.* *p*

A Sleep - ing by me, sleep - - - - - ing by *dim.* *p*

T Sleep - ing by me, sleep - - - - - ing, sleep - ing by *dim.* *p*

B Sleep - ing by me, sleep - - - - - ing by *dim.* *p*

# Loose the sail, rest the oar

37

S  
me, sleep - - - ing, sleep - ing by — me, sleep - ing by — me.

A  
me, sleep - - - ing by me, sleep - ing by me.

T  
me, sleep - - - ing by me, sleep-ing by me.

B  
me, sleep - - - ing by me, sleep-ing by me.

Novello, Ewer and Co.  
(1873)

## A Boat-Song (from *Hypatia*)

Loose the sail, rest the oar, float away down,  
Fleeting and gliding by tower and town.  
Life is so short at best! snatch, while thou canst, thy rest,  
Sleeping by me.

Rev. Charles Kingsley (1819-1875)

**Sir John Frederick Bridge** (1844-1924) was born in central England. At age 6, he was admitted as “practising boy” (probationer) to the choir at Rochester Cathedral when his father was appointed a vicar-choral. At age 14, he left the cathedral choir to apprentice with the organist of Rochester Cathedral. While still a student, he was appointed organist of the village church of Shorne and then Strood Parish Church. He studied composition with John Goss, of the Royal Academy of Music, and earned his Bachelor of Music degree at Oxford. He became organist of Holy Trinity Church, Windsor, then at Manchester Cathedral, and earned his Doctor of Music degree at Oxford. He then became organist and master of the choristers at Westminster Abbey. He was in charge of music for great state occasions, including Queen Victoria’s jubilee (1887), the Coronation of King Edward VII (1902), the national memorial service for Edward VII (1910), George V’s coronation (1911), and the re-inauguration of Henry VII’s Chapel as the chapel of the Order of the Bath (1913). For those, he organized and composed some and organized the music. He was professor of harmony and counterpoint at Royal College of Music, professor of music at Gresham College, and professor of music at the University of London. He was also the conductor of the Royal Choral Society, introducing many new works, including those by Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Parry.

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