

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912)

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

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pear





Thou, .

That

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send'st

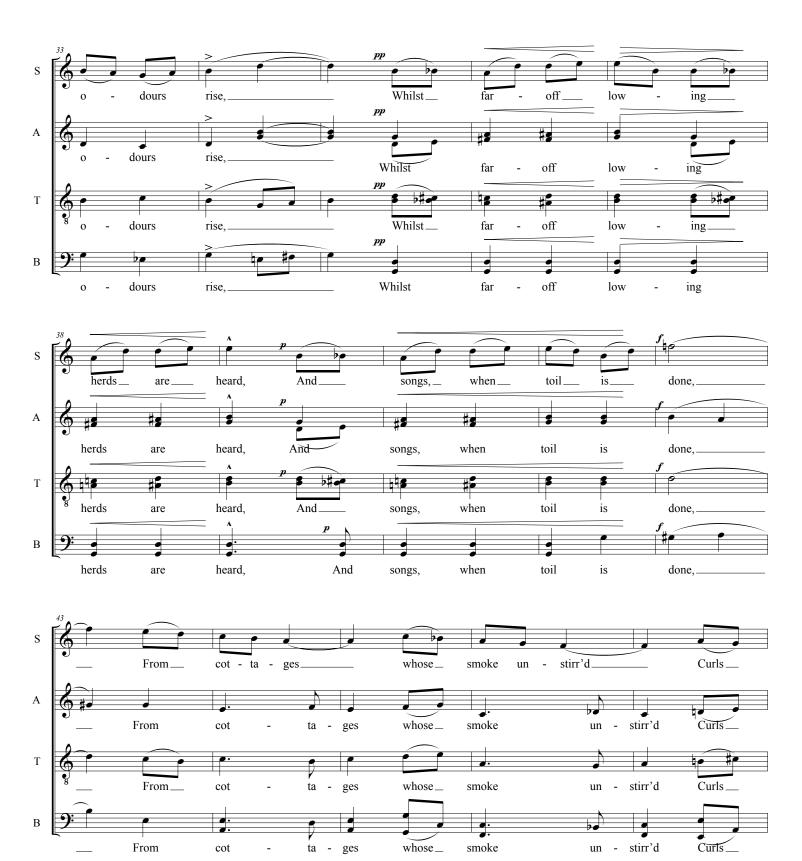
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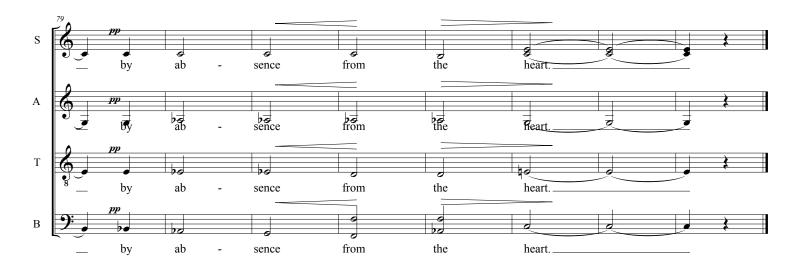
bove,











Star that bringest home the bee,
And sett'st the weary labourer free!
If any star shed peace, 'tis Thou,
That send'st it from above,
Appearing when heaven's breath,
heav'n's breath and brow
Are sweet as hers we love.

Come to the luxuriant skies,
Whilst the landscape's odours rise,
Whilst far-off lowing herds are heard
And songs, when toil is done,
From cottages whose smoke unstirr'd
Curls yellow in the sun.

Star of love's soft interviews,
Parted lovers on thee muse;
Their remembrancer in Heav'n
Of thrilling vows thou art,
Too delicious to be riven
By absence from the heart.

Thomas Campbell (1777-1844)

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912) was born in 1875 in London. His parents were Dr. Daniel Peter Hughes Taylor, a Sierra Leonean Creole, and Alice Hare Martin, an English woman. Dr. Taylor returned to Africa not knowing he had a son in London. His middle name Coleridge was after the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge and he later assumed the name Coleridge-Taylor. He was raised in Croydon (London) by his mother and her father. Taylor studied violin at the Royal College of Music and composition under Charles Villiers Stanford. He was appointed a professor at the Crystal Palace School of Music and conducted the orchestra at the Croydon Conservatoire. Coleridge-Taylor earned a reputation as a composer and was later helped by Edward Elgar. Music editor and critic August Jaeger considered Taylor was "a genius." Coleridge-Taylor made three tours of the United States, which increased his interest in his racial heritage, and at one stage seriously considered migrating there. In 1904, he was received by President Theodore Roosevelt at the White House, an unusual honor in those days for a man of African descent and appearance. He was given the title "the African Mahler" from the white orchestral musicians in New York in 1910. Coleridge-Taylor was greatly admired by African Americans; in 1901, a 200-voice African-American chorus was founded in Washington, D.C., named the Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Society. Coleridge-Taylor's greatest success was his cantata *Hiawatha's Wedding-feast*. He composed orchestral works, chamber music, anthems, part-songs and other works. He died of pneumonia at age 37.

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David Anderson SHORCHOR Music 1706 NE 177th St. Shoreline, WA 98155 USA

