



# SONGS OF THE RIVER

NO. 2

WATER-LILIES

Frederic H. Cowen  
(1852-1935)

**Sir Frederic Hymen Cowen** (1852-1935) was born Hymen Frederick Cohen in Kingston, Jamaica. His father became treasurer to “Her Majesty’s Opera” and the family moved to England when Frederic was age four. At age six, his composition *Minna-waltz* was published and, at age eight, an operetta, *Garibaldi*. His first public piano recital was when he was eleven. In 1865, he won the Mendelssohn Scholarship at the Leipzig Conservatorium. However, he did not accept the award and attended the institution as an independent student, since his parents were unwilling to give up control of him, as required by the scholarship. After returning to England, he became successful as a composer. His Symphony No. 3 in C minor (1880) became the most regularly and widely performed British symphony until Elgar’s First. From 1888-1892 he was conductor of Philharmonic Society of London after the resignation of Sir Arthur Sullivan (reappointed in 1899). In 1896, Cowen was appointed conductor of the Liverpool Philharmonic Society and of the Hallé Orchestra. He also conducted the Bradford Festival Choral Society, the Bradford Permanent Orchestra, and the Scottish Orchestra (Royal Scottish National Orchestra). Cowen received honorary doctorates from Cambridge and Edinburgh.

On the bosom of the river,  
As it gently flows, along,  
Waterlilies rest, and quiver,  
As they listen to its song!  
Gleaming on the crystal waters,  
Bright as jewels rich and rare,  
Flora's well-beloved daughters,  
Sweet it is to see them there!

Rising, falling, as the waters,  
Ever, to the ocean flow,  
Flora's well-beloved daughters,  
Fair the water-lilies grow!

'Mid their petals white and golden,  
Water-sprites delight to dwell,  
Closely in their cups en-folden,  
Lulled upon the ripples' swell!  
When at eve come mellowed whispers  
O'er the river's silvery breast,  
'Tis the water-sprites at vespers,  
Ere they softly sink to rest!

Rising, falling, as the waters,  
Ever, to the ocean flow,  
Flora's well-beloved daughters,  
Fair the water-lilies grow!

Edward Oxenford (1550-1604)  
[Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford]

# Water-lilies

F. H. Cowen

Andante con moto ♩ = 60

S On the bo - som of the ri - ver, As it gent - ly flows — a -

A On the bo - som of the ri - ver, As it

T On the bo - som of the ri - ver, As it

B On the bo - som of the ri - ver, As it

S long, Wa - ter - li - lies rest, and qui - ver, As they lis - ten to its

A flows, Wa - ter - li - lies qui - ver, As they lis - ten to its

T gent - ly flows a - long, Wa - ter - li - lies qui - ver, As they lis - ten to its

B flows, Wa - ter - li - lies qui - ver, Lis - ten to its

S song! Glean - ing on the crys - tal wa - ters, Bright as jew - els

A song! Glean - ing on the crys - tal wa - ters, Bright as jew - els

T song! Glean - ing, — gleam - ing on the crys - tal wa - ters, Bright as jew - els

B song! Glean - ing on the crys - tal wa - ters, Bright as

13 *mf* *poco rit.*

S rich and rare, Flo - ra's well - be - lov - ed daugh - ters, Sweet it is to

A rich and rare, Flo - ra's be - lov - ed daugh - ters, Sweet it is to

T rich and rare, Flo - ra's well - be - lov - ed daugh - ters, Sweet it is to

B jew - els rich and rare, Flo - ra's be - lov - ed daugh - ters, Sweet it is to

17 *a tempo* *p*

S see them there! As the

A see them there! *a tempo* *p* Ris - ing, fall - ing, as the wa - ters,

T see them there! *p* *a tempo* Ris - ing, ris - ing, fall - ing, as the wa - ters,

B see them there! *a tempo* *p* Ris - ing, fall - ing,

21 *p*

S wa - ters to the o - cean flow, As the

A Ev - er to the o - cean flow, Ris - ing, fall - ing, as the wa - ters,

T Ev - er to the o - cean flow, Ris - ing, fall - ing, as the wa - ters,

B Ev - - - er, Ris - ing, fall - ing,

## Water-lilies

25

S wa - ters ev - er flow, Flo - ra's well - be - lov - ed daugh - ters, Flo - ra's

A Ev - er to the o - cean flow, Flo - ra's well - be - lov - ed daugh - ters, Flo - ra's

T Ev - er to the o - cean flow, Flo - ra's well - be - lov - ed daugh - ters, Flo - ra's

B Ev - - - er, Flo - ra's well - be - lov - ed daugh - ters, Flo - ra's

*cresc.*

29

S well - be - lov - ed daugh - ters, Fair the wa - ter - li - lies grow, fair the

A well - be - lov - ed daugh - ters, Fair the wa - ter - li - lies grow, fair the

T well - be - lov - ed daugh - ters, Fair the wa - ter - li - lies grow, fair the

B well - be - lov - ed daugh - ters, Fair the wa - ter - li - lies grow, fair the

*mf*

33

S li - lies, fair the li - lies grow, fair the

A li - lies, fair the li - lies grow, fair the li - lies, the

T li - lies, fair the li - lies grow, fair the wa - ter - li - lies, the

B li - lies, fair the li - lies grow, fair the li - - - lies, the

*f*

37 *poco rit.*

S li - lies grow! 'Mid their pe - tals white and

A li - lies grow! 'Mid their pe - - - tals

T li - lies grow! 'Mid their pe - - - tals

B li - lies grow! 'Mid their pe - - - tals

41

S gold - en, Wa - ter - sprites de - light to dwell, Close - ly in their cups en -

A white and gold - en, Sprites do dwell, In their

T white and gold - en, Wa - ter - Sprites de - light to dwell, In their

B white and gold - en, Sprites do dwell, In their

45

S fold - en, Lull'd up - on the rip - ples' swell!

A cups en - fold - en, Lull'd up - on the rip - ples' swell!

T cups en - fold - en, Lull'd up - on the rip - ples' swell! When at

B cups en - fold - en, Lull'd on the rip - ples' swell!

48 *p* *poco cresc.*

S When at eve come mel - low'd whis - pers O'er the ri - ver's

A When at eve come mel - low'd whis - pers O'er the ri - ver's

T 8 eve, at eve come mel - low'd whis - pers O'er the ri - ver's

B *p* *poco cresc.*  
When at eve come mel - low'd whis - pers O'er the

51 *p*

S sil - v'ry breast, 'Tis the wa - ter - sprites at ves - pers, Ere they soft - ly

A sil - v'ry breast, 'Tis wa - ter - sprites at ves - pers, Ere they soft - ly

T 8 sil - v'ry breast, 'Tis the wa - ter - sprites at ves - pers, Ere they soft - ly

B *p*  
ri - ver's sil - v'ry breast, 'Tis wa - ter - sprites at ves - pers, Ere they soft - ly

55 *poco rit.* *a tempo* *p*

S sink to rest! As the

A *poco rit.* *a tempo* *p*  
sink to rest! Ris - ing, fall - ing, as the wa - ters,

T *poco rit.* *a tempo* *p*  
sink to rest! Ris - ing, ri - sing, fall - ing, as the wa - ters,

B *poco rit.* *a tempo* *p*  
sink to rest! Ris - ing, fall - ing,



59

S wa - ters to the o - cean flow, \_\_\_\_\_ As the

A Ev - er to the o - cean flow, \_\_\_\_\_ Ris - ing, fall - ing, as the wa - ters,

T Ev - er to the o - cean flow, \_\_\_\_\_ Ris - ing, fall - ing, as the wa - ters,

B Ev - - - - er, Ris - ing, fall - ing,

63

S wa - ters ev - er flow, \_\_\_\_\_ Flo - ra's well - be - lov - ed

A Ev - er to the o - cean flow, \_\_\_\_\_ Flo - ra's well - be - lov - ed

T Ev - er to the o - cean flow, \_\_\_\_\_ Flo - ra's well - be - lov - ed

B Ev - - - - er, Flo - ra's well - be - lov - ed

66

S daugh - ters, Flo - ra's well - be - lov - ed daugh - ters, Fair the

A daugh - ters, Flo - ra's well - be - lov - ed daugh - ters, Fair the

T daugh - ters, Flo - ra's well - be - lov - ed daugh - ters, Fair the

B daugh - ters, Flo - ra's well - be - lov - ed daugh - ters, Fair the

## Water-lilies

69

S wa - ter - li - lies grow, fair the li - lies, fair the

A wa - ter - li - lies grow, fair the li - lies, fair the

T wa - ter - li - lies grow, fair the li - lies, fair the

B wa - ter - li - lies grow, fair the li - lies, fair the

72

S li - lies grow, fair the li - lies grow! *poco rit.*

A li - lies grow, fair the li - lies, the li - lies grow! *poco rit.*

T li - lies grow, fair the wa - ter - li - lies, the li - lies grow! *poco rit.*

B li - lies grow, fair the li - - - lies, the li - lies grow! *poco rit.*



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