



SONGS OF THE RIVER

NO. 3
FESTING

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 unwilling to give up control of him, as required by the prize. 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, and was knighted in 1911.

Upon the river’s silvery breast,
Beneath some overhanging tree,
A cool and leafy canopy.
For there the sunrays cannot fall,
And reign triumphant over all,
The golden shower awhile is stayed,
And hearts all hail the welcome shade!

O it is sweet awhile to rest,
As sinks the sun within the West;
To watch each gold and crimson beam,
Disport upon the flowing stream;
To hear the ripples whisper low,
As soothingly they ebb and flow,
And seem to sing, amid their play,
sing farewell to the dying day!

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

Nesting

F. H. Cowen

Lento espressivo ♩ = 48

S O it is sweet a - while to rest Up - on the riv - er's sil - v'ry breast,

A O it is sweet a - while to rest Up - on the riv - er's sil - v'ry breast,

T O it is sweet a - while to rest Up - on the riv - er's sil - v'ry breast,

B O it is sweet a - while to rest Up - on the riv - er's sil - v'ry breast,

5 S Be - neath some o - ver - hang - ing tree, A cool and lea - fy ca - no -

A Be - neath some o - ver - hang - ing tree, A cool and lea - fy ca - no -

T Be - neath some o - ver - hang - ing tree, A cool and lea - fy ca - no -

B Be - neath some o - ver - hang - ing tree, A cool and lea - fy ca - no -

8 S py. There the sun - rays can - not fall,

A py. There the sun - rays can - not, can - not fall,

T py. There the sun - - - rays can - not fall,

B py. For there the sun - rays can - not fall, can - not fall,

Resting

12

S And reign tri - umph - ant o - ver all, The

A And reign tri - umph - ant o - ver, o - ver all, The

T And reign tri - umph - ant o - ver, o - ver all, The

B And reign tri - umph - ant o - ver all, o - ver all, The

15 *cresc.*

S gold - en show'r a - while is stay'd, And hearts all hail, And

A *cresc.* gold - en show'r a - while is stay'd, And hearts all hail

T *cresc.* gold - en show'r a - while is stay'd, And hearts all hail, hearts all

B *cresc.* gold - en show'r a - while is stay'd, And hearts all hail,

18 *dim.* *poco rit.*

S hearts all hail the wel - come shade, the wel - come

A *dim.* the wel - come shade, and hearts all hail the wel - come

T *dim.* hail the wel - come shade, and hearts all hail the wel - come

B *p* hail the shade, hail the wel - come

21 *a tempo* *p* *tranquillo*

S shade! O it is sweet, yes! it is sweet,

A shade! O it is sweet, yes! it is sweet,

T shade! O it is sweet, yes! it is sweet, yes! it is

B shade! yes! it is

24

S — yes! it is sweet, sweet to rest!

A — yes! it is sweet, sweet to rest!

T sweet, 'tis sweet, sweet to rest!

B sweet, 'tis sweet, sweet to rest!

28 *p*

S O it is sweet a - while to rest, As sinks the sun with - in the West;

A O it is sweet a - while to rest, As sinks the sun with - in the West;

T O it is sweet a - while to rest, As sinks the sun with - in the West;

B O it is sweet a - while to rest, As sinks the sun with - in the West;

Resting

32

S To watch each gold and crim - son beam, Dis - port up - on the flow - ing

A To watch each gold and crim - son beam, Dis - port up - on the flow - ing

T To watch each gold and crim - son beam, Dis - port up - on the flow - ing

B To watch each gold and crim - son beam, Dis - port up - on the flow - ing

35

S stream; Hear the rip - ples whis - per low, —

A stream; Hear the rip - ples whis - per, whis - per low, —

T stream; Hear the rip - ples whis - per, whis - per low, —

B stream; To hear the rip - ples whis - per low, whis - per low, As

39

S Sooth - ing - ly they ebb, — they ebb and flow, And

A Sooth - ing - ly they ebb and flow, they ebb and flow, And

T Sooth - ing - ly they ebb and flow, they ebb and flow, And

B sooth - ing - ly they ebb, they ebb and flow, ebb and flow, And

42 *cresc.* *f* *dim.*

S seem to sing, a - mid their play, and seem to sing A fare - well to the dy - ing

A seem to sing, a - mid their play, and seem to sing fare - well to

T seem to sing, a - mid their play, and seem to sing fare - well to the dy - ing

B seem to sing, a - mid their play, and seem to sing, sing fare -

46 *p* *poco rit.* *a tempo* *p* *tranquillo*

S day, the dy - ing day! O it is sweet,

A day, a fare - well to the dy - ing day! O it is sweet,

T day, a fare - well to the dy - ing day! O it is sweet, yes! it is

B well to the dy - ing day!

50 *dim.* *pp* *poco rall.*

S yes! it is sweet, yes! it is sweet, sweet to rest!

A yes! it is sweet, yes! it is sweet, sweet to rest!

T sweet, yes! it is sweet, 'tis sweet, sweet to rest!

B yes! it is sweet, 'tis sweet, sweet to rest!

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