



Four Songs
Opus 68
No. 3

Scythe Song

Arthur Foote
(1853-1937)

Arthur William Foote (1853-1937) was born in Salem, Massachusetts. He began studying music at the age of 12 and, at age 14, enrolled in a harmony class at the New England Conservatory. He entered Harvard, where he studied counterpoint and fugue with John Knowles Paine and led the Harvard Glee Club. Originally intending on a career in law, he decided to pursue music, returning to Harvard and receiving the first M.A. in music to be given by an American university. Residing in Boston, he was primarily a pedagogue, but also was active as composer, organist, and piano recitalist. He was an editor of *Hymns of the Church Universal* (1890), co-authored *Modern Harmony in its Theory and Practice* (1905), and wrote two short manuals, *Some Practical Things in Piano Playing* (1909) and *Modulation and Related Harmonic Questions* (1919). He is known as a member of the "Boston Six." The other five were George Whitefield Chadwick, Amy Beach, Edward MacDowell, John Knowles Paine, and Horatio Parker. He composed a large body of works including orchestral works, chamber music and songs. He died in Boston, Massachusetts.

Mowers, weary and brown, and blithe,
What is the word methinks ye know,
Endless over-word that the Scythe
Sings to the blades of the grass below?
Scythes that swing in the grass and clover,
Something, still, they say as they pass;
What is the word that, over and over,
Sings the Scythe to the flowers and grass?

Hush, ah hush, the Scythe was saying,
Hush, and heed not, and fall asleep;
Hush, they say to the grasses swaying;
Hush, they sing to the clover deep!
Hush— 't is the lullaby Time is singing—
Hush, and heed not, for all things pass;
Hush, ah hush! and the Scythes are swinging
Over the clover, over the grass!

Andrew Lang (1844-1912)

Scythe Song

Arthur Foote

With a swaying movement ♩ = 132

S Mow - ers, wear - y and brown, and blithe, What is the word me -

A Mow - ers, wear - y and brown, and blithe, What is the word me -

T Mow - ers, wear - y and brown, and blithe, What is the word me -

B Mow - ers, wear - y and brown, and blithe, What is the word me -

S thinks ye know, End - less o - ver - word that the Scythe

A thinks ye know, End - less o - ver - word that the Scythe

T thinks ye know, End - less o - ver - word that the Scythe

B thinks ye know, End - less o - ver - word that the Scythe

S *pp* Sings to the blades of the grass be - low? Sings to the blades of the *espress.*

A *pp* Sings to the blades of the grass be - low? Sings to the blades of the *espress.*

T *pp* Sings, sings to the blades of the grass be - low? the blades of the *espress.*

B *pp* Sings to the grass be - low? Sings to the blades of the *espress.*

Scythe Song

10 *rit.* *p a tempo*

S grass be - low? Scythes that swing in the grass and clo - ver,

A grass be - low? Scythes that swing in the grass and clo - ver,

T grass be - low? Scythes that swing in the grass and clo - ver,

B grass? Scythes that swing in the grass and clo - ver,

13 *pp*

S Some - thing, still, they say as they pass; What is the word that, o - ver and o - ver,

A Some - thing, still, they say as they pass; What is the word that, o - ver and

T Some - thing, still, they say as they pass; What is the word that, o - ver and o - ver,

B Some - thing, still, they say as they pass; What is the word that, o - ver and

17 *f*

S Sings the Scythe, the Scythe to the flow - ers,

A o - ver, Sings the Scythe to the flow - ers, Sings, sings to the

T Sings the Scythe to the flow - ers and grass, Sings, sings to the

B o - ver, Sings the Scythe to the flow'rs, to the flow - ers sings,

Scythe Song

20

S *p* to the flow - ers, o - ver and o - ver sings to the grass? *rit.* *pp*

A *p* flow - ers, o - ver and o - ver sings to the grass? *rit.* *pp*

T *p* flow - ers, the flow - ers, o - ver and o - ver sings to the grass? *rit.* *pp*

B *p* Sings to the flow - ers, o - ver and o - ver sings to the grass? *rit.* *pp*

Rather more slowly ♩ = 96

23

S *ppp* Hush, ah hush, the Scythe was say - ing, Hush, and heed not, and

A *ppp* Hush, ah hush, the Scythe was say - ing, Hush, and heed not, and

T *ppp* Hush, ah hush, — the Scythe was say - ing, Hush, — and heed not, and

B *ppp* Hush, hush, hush, — and

26

S fall a - sleep; Hush, they say to the grass - es sway - ing;

A fall a - sleep; Hush, — they say to the grass - es sway - ing;

T fall — a - sleep; — Hush, they say to the grass - es sway - ing;

B fall a - sleep; — Hush, — hush,

Scythe Song

29

S Hush, they sing to the clo - ver deep! Hush, ah hush, the

A Hush, they sing, Hush, hush, the

T Hush, to the clo - ver deep! Hush, ah hush, the

B hush, to the clo - ver deep! Hush, hush, the

32

S Scythe was say - ing, Hush, and heed not, and fall a - sleep!

A Scythe was say - ing, Hush, hush, ah hush!

T Scythe was say - ing, Hush, and heed not, and fall a - sleep!

B Scythe was say - ing, Hush, hush!

pp *rit.*

Tempo I

35

S Hush - 'tis the lull - a - by Time is sing - ing - Hush, and heed not, for

A Hush - 'tis the lull - a - by Time is sing - ing - Hush, and heed not, for

T Hush - 'tis the lull - a - by Time is sing - ing - Hush, and heed not, for

B Hush - 'tis the lull - a - by Time is sing - ing - Hush, and heed not, for

ppp

Scythe Song

38

S all things pass; Hush, ah hush! and the Scythes are swing - ing

A all things pass; Hush, ah hush! and the Scythes are swing - ing

T all things pass; Hush, ah hush! and the Scythes are swing - ing

B all things pass; Hush, ah hush! and the Scythes are swing - ing

41

S *ppp* O - ver the clo - ver, o - ver the grass! O - ver the clo - ver,

A *ppp* O - ver the clo - ver, o - ver the grass! O - ver the clo - ver,

T *ppp* O - ver the clo - ver, o - ver the grass! the clo - ver,

B *ppp* O - ver the grass! O - ver the clo - ver,

44

S *espress.* o - ver the grass! *Slower and slower; morendo* Hush, and heed not, for all things pass.

A *espress.* o - ver the grass! *Slower and slower; morendo* Hush, and heed not, for all things pass.

T *espress.* o - ver the grass! *Slower and slower; morendo* Hush, and heed not, for all things pass.

B *espress.* o - ver the grass! *Slower and slower; morendo* Hush, and heed not, for all things pass.

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