



Six Four-part Songs

Poetry by William Duthie

No. 2.

The Fairy Ring

J. Lemmens
(1823-1881)

Jaak-Nicolaas (Jacques-Nicolas) Lemmens (1823-1881) was born in Zoerle-Parwijs, Waterloo, Belgium. He was first a pupil of his father and later studied organ at the Royal Brussels Conservatoire then in Breslau, Bohemia with a government stipend. In 1849 he was appointed organ professor at the Royal Brussels Conservatoire. In 1857 he married the English soprano Helen Sherrington, who became a leading English concert and operatic singer. From his marriage on, he lived in England and at their castle Linter Ports Zemst, Belgium. He focused on the study of Catholic church music, especially on a method for accompanying Gregorian chant. Lemmens gained international fame as an organ virtuoso, particularly through his performances of Bach. He established a seminary for Catholic organists and choirmasters in Malines (Mechelen), Belgium. He wrote many works for organ, works for piano, two symphonies, a Te Deum, motets, songs, and part-songs.

Lightly, dance ye, rovers from fairy land,
Star-like, twinkling fire-spirits bring,
Nightly dance we over this merry land,
Bounding round our fairy ring.

Hasten through green dells while starlight gleams,
Mortals wearied, now lie steep'd in dreams;
While springing, flashing, darting, so light and free,
Now laughing, shouting, singing so merrily,
Then springing, flashing, darting, light and free,
Still laughing, shouting, singing merrily:
Twinkling feet, laughing eyes, hands together bound,
While the primrose sleeps, drooping on the ground,
Sweep we o'er the grass in our magic, magic round.
Daisies mark our flight; gaily as we rove,
Lilies watch our love.

Lightly, dance ye, rovers from fairy land,
Star-like, twinkling fire-spirits bring,
Nightly dance we over this merry land,
Bounding round our fairy ring.

Swift as a stream,
Now away!
Morning rays gleam.
Thro' wood and dell at break of day,
Ye fays, away: away, away, away.

Gaily, fairies, sing we our roundelay,
Fragrant valleys echo with the sound,
Softly mingle voices of gnome and fay,
Chiming bell-like sweetly around.

Lullabies chant we where dull bees sleep,
Beetles wak'ning from green covert creep;
While happy, careless, joyous in our song,
Now dancing, leaping, springing as we throng,
So happy, careless, joyous in our song,
Still dancing, leaping, springing, on we throng;
Rosy lips, blushing cheeks, hair all floating free,
Streaming in the wind as we onward flee,
Through the grassy brake or the daisied lea.
Twilight o'er our heads, where the twin stars meet,
Glowworms light our feet.

Gaily, fairies, ring we our roundelay,
Fragrant valleys echo with the sound,
Softly mingle voices of gnome and fay,
Chiming, bell-like sweetly around.

Mortals, we hear,
Come away!
Daylight is near.
Our ring is made ere break of day,
Ye fays, away: away, away, away.

William Duthie

The Fairy King

J. Lemmens

Animato allegretto ♩ = 138

S
Light - ly, dance ye, ro - vers from fai - ry land,

A
Light - ly, dance ye, ro - vers from fai - ry land,

T
Light - ly, dance ye, ro - vers from fai - ry land,

B
Light - ly, dance ye, ro - vers from fai - ry land,

5
S
Star - like, twink - ling fire - spi - rits bring,

A
Star - like, twink - ling fire - spi - rits bring,

T
Star - like, twink - ling fire - spi - rits bring,

B
Star - like, twink - ling fire - spi - rits bring,

9
S
Night - ly dance we o - ver this mer - ry land, *cresc.*

A
Night - ly dance we o - ver this mer - ry land, *cresc.*

T
Night - ly dance we o - ver this mer - ry land, *cresc.*

B
Night - ly dance we o - ver this mer - ry land, *cresc.*

13

S Bound - ing round our fai - ry ring. Has - ten

A Bound - ing round our fai - ry ring. Has - ten

T Bound - ing round our fai - ry ring.

B Bound - ing round our fai - ry ring.

17

S through green dells while star - light gleams, Mor - tals

A through green dells while star - light gleams, Mor - tals

T through green dells while star - light gleams,

B through green dells while star - light gleams,

21

S wea - ried, now lie steep'd in dreams; While

A wea - ried, now lie steep'd in dreams; While

T Mor - tals now lie steep'd in dreams; While

B Mor - tals now lie steep'd in dreams; While

25

S *pp* spring - ing, flash - ing, dart - ing, *sf* light and free, *p* Now laugh - ing, shout - ing, sing - ing

A *pp* spring - ing, flash - ing, dart - ing, *sf* light and free, *p* Now laugh - ing, shout - ing, sing - ing

T *pp* spring - ing, While spring - ing, flash - ing, dart - ing, *sf* light and free, *p* so

B *pp* spring - ing, While spring - ing, flash - ing, dart - ing, *sf* light and free, *p* so

28

S *sf* mer - ri - ly, *p* Then spring - ing, flash - ing, dart - ing, *sf* light and free, *p* Still

A *sf* mer - ri - ly, *p* Then spring - ing, flash - ing, dart - ing, *sf* light and free, *p* Still

T *sf* light and free, *p* Now laugh - ing, *sf* Now laugh - ing, shout - ing, sing - ing

B *sf* light and free, *p* Now laugh - ing, *sf* Now laugh - ing, shout - ing, sing - ing

31

S laugh - ing, shout - ing, sing - ing mer - ri - ly: *cresc.* Twink - ling feet, laugh - ing eyes,

A laugh - ing, shout - ing, sing - ing mer - ri - ly: *cresc.* Twink - ling feet, laugh - ing eyes,

T mer - ri - ly, so mer - ri - ly, *cresc.* Twink - ling feet, laugh - ing eyes,

B mer - ri - ly, so mer - ri - ly, *cresc.* Twink - ling feet, laugh - ing eyes,

34 *f* *dim.*

S hands to - ge - ther bound, While the prim - rose sleeps, droop - ing on the

A hands to - ge - ther bound, While the prim - rose sleeps, droop - ing on the *dim.*

T hands to - ge - ther bound, to - ge - - - ther *dim.*

B hands to - ge - ther bound, *dim.*

37

S ground, Sweep we o'er the grass in our ma - gic, ma - - - gic

A ground, Sweep we o'er the grass in our ma - gic, ma - - - gic

T bound, to - ge - ther bound, *cresc.*

B *cresc.*

Dai - sies mark our

40

S round. watch our love.

A round. *cresc.* Lil - ies watch our love, *f* watch our love.

T *cresc.* gai - ly as we rove, Lil - ies watch our love, *f* watch our love.

B flight; gai - ly as we rove, Lil - ies watch our love, *f* watch our love.

43

S Light - ly, dance ye, ro - vers from fai - ry land,

A Light - ly, dance ye, ro - vers from fai - ry land,

T Light - ly, dance ye, ro - vers from fai - ry land,

B Light - ly, dance ye, ro - vers from fai - ry land,

47

S Star - like, twink - ling, fire - spi - rits bring,

A Star - like, twink - ling, fire - spi - rits bring,

T Star - like, twink - ling, fire - spi - rits bring,

B Star - like, twink - ling, fire - spi - rits bring,

51

S Night - ly dance we o - ver this mer - ry land, *cresc.*

A Night - ly dance we o - ver this mer - ry land, *cresc.*

T Night - ly dance we o - ver this mer - ry land, *cresc.*

B Night - ly dance we o - ver this mer - ry land, *cresc.*

55

S Bound - ing round our fai - - ry

A Bound - ing round our fai - - ry

T Bound - ing round our fai - - ry

B Bound - ing round our fai - - ry

58

S ring. Swift as a stream,

A ring. Swift as a stream, Now a - way!

T ring. Now a - way!

B ring. Swift as a stream,

61

S morn - ing rays gleam. Thro' wood and dell at break of

A gleam. Thro' wood and dell at break of

T morn - ing rays gleam. Thro' wood and dell at break of

B morn - ing rays gleam. Thro' wood and dell at break of

64

S day, Ye fays, a - way: a - way, a - way, a - way. _____

A day, Ye fays, a - way: a - way, a - way, a - way. _____

T day, Ye fays, a - way: a - way, a - way, a - way. _____

B day, Ye fays, a - way: a - way, a - way, a - way. _____

67

S Gai - ly, fai - ries, sing we our roun - de - lay,

A Gai - ly, fai - ries, sing we our roun - de - lay,

T Gai - ly, fai - ries, sing we our roun - de - lay,

B Gai - ly, fai - ries, sing we our roun - de - lay,

71

S Fra - grant val - leys e - cho with the sound,

A Fra - grant val - leys e - cho with the sound,

T Fra - grant val - leys e - cho with the sound, _____

B Fra - grant val - leys e - cho with the sound, _____

75 *cresc.*

S Soft - ly min - gle voi - ces of gnome and fay,

A Soft - ly min - gle voi - ces of gnome and fay,

T Soft - ly min - gle voi - ces of gnome and fay,

B Soft - ly min - gle voi - ces of gnome and fay, _____

79

S Chim - ing bell - like sweet - ly a - round. _____ Lul - la -

A Chim - ing bell - like sweet - ly a - round. _____ Lul - la -

T Chim - ing bell - like _____ sweet - ly a - round. _____

B Chim - ing _____ bell - like sweet - ly a - round. _____

83

S bies chant we where dull bees sleep, Bee - tles

A bies chant we where dull bees sleep, Bee - tles

T Lul - la - bies where dull _____ bees sleep,

B Lul - la - bies where dull bees sleep,

87

S wak'n - ing from green co - vert creep; While *sf* >

A wak'n - ing from green co - vert creep; While *sf* >

T Bee - tles from green co - vert creep; While *sf* >

B Bee - tles from green co - vert creep; While *sf* >

91

S hap - py, care - less, joy - ous in our song, Now danc - ing, leap - ing, spring - ing *pp sf p sf p*

A hap - py, care - less, joy - ous in our song, Now danc - ing, leap - ing, spring - ing *pp sf p sf p*

T hap - py, While hap - py, care - less, joy - ous in our song, While *pp sf p sf*

B hap - py, While hap - py, care - less, joy - ous in our song, While *pp sf p sf*

94

S as we throng; So hap - py, care - less, joy - ous in our song, Still > *sf p*

A as we throng; So hap - py, care - less, joy - ous in our song, Still > *sf p*

T in our song, Now danc - ing, Now danc - ing, leap - ing, spring - ing > *sf p*

B in our song, Now danc - ing, Now danc - ing, leap - ing, spring - ing > *sf p*

97

S danc - ing, leap - ing, spring - ing, on we throng; *cresc.* Ro - sy lips, blush - ing cheeks,

A danc - ing, leap - ing, spring - ing, on we throng; *cresc.* Ro - sy lips, blush - ing cheeks,

T as we throng, now as we throng; *cresc.* Ro - sy lips, blush - ing cheeks,

B as we throng, now as we throng; *cresc.* Ro - sy lips, blush - ing cheeks,

100

S hair all float - ing free, Stream - ing in the wind as we on - ward *dim.*

A hair all float - ing free, Stream - ing in the wind as we on - ward *dim.*

T hair all float - ing free, all float - ing *dim.*

B hair all float - ing free, _____ *dim.*

103

S flee, Through the gras - sy brake or the dai - sies, dai - - sies

A flee, Through the gras - sy brake or the dai - sies, dai - - sies

T free, all float - ing free, *cresc.*

B _____ Twi - light o'er our

106

S
lea. light our feet.

A
lea. *cresc.* Glow - worms light our feet, light our feet.

T
cresc. where the twin stars meet, *f* Glow - worms light our feet, light our feet.

B
heads, where the twin stars meet, *f* Glow - worms light our feet, light our feet.

109

S
p Gai - ly, fai - ries, ring we our roun - de - lay,

A
p Gai - ly, fai - ries, ring we our roun - de - lay,

T
p Gai - ly, fai - ries, ring we our roun - de - lay,

B
p Gai - ly, fai - ries, ring we our roun - de - lay,

113

S
Fra - grant val - leys e - cho with the sound,

A
Fra - grant val - leys e - cho with the sound,

T
Fra - grant val - leys e - cho with the sound,

B
Fra - grant val - leys e - cho with the sound,

117

S Soft - ly min - gle voi - ces of gnome and fay, *cresc.*

A Soft - ly min - gle voi - ces of gnome and fay, *cresc.*

T Soft - ly min - gle voi - ces of gnome and fay, *cresc.*

B Soft - ly min - gle voi - ces of gnome and fay, *cresc.*

121

S Chim - ing, bell - like sweet - ly a -

A Chim - ing, bell - like sweet - ly a -

T Chim - ing, bell - like sweet - ly a -

B Chim - ing, bell - like sweet - ly a -

124

S round. *p* Mor - tals, we hear,

A round. *p* Mor - tals, we hear, *pp* Come a - way!

T round. *p* Come a - way!

B round. *p* Mor - tals, we hear,

127 *pp* *cresc.*

S day - light is near. Our ring is made ere break of

A near. Our ring is made ere break of

T *pp* *cresc.*

B *pp* *cresc.*

day - light is near. Our ring is made ere break of

130 *ff*

S day, Ye fays, a - way: a - way, a - way, a - way. _____

A day, Ye fays, a - way: a - way, a - way, a - way. _____

T *ff*

B *ff*

day, Ye fays, a - way: a - way, a - way, a - way. _____

REVIEW
The Musical Times
June 1, 1869

Six Four-part Songs (SATB)
By J. Lemmens
Poetry by William Duthie

1. Drops of Rain
2. The Fairy Ring
3. The Light of Life
4. Oh, welcome him
5. Sunshine through the clouds
6. The Corn Field

There is much character in the first of these part-songs, the pattering of the rain-drops being admirably represented by staccato notes for the voices; and the cantabile melody for the upper three voices, whilst the bass obstinately maintains the "pit, pat," may be made very effective with a good choir. No. 2, "The Fairy Ring," commences with an agreeable, but peculiar melody, halting on the second beat of the bar in 3/4 rhythm. The voice parts throughout this Fairy song are uniformly well written; and there is a light and graceful character about the treatment of the words which will always please an audience. No. 3, "The Light of Life," is, in our opinion, the best of the set. The animated subject at the commencement peaks the words with remarkable fidelity; and throughout the composition there are several effective points of imitation, the concluding phrase of the verse being especially worthy of note. No. 4, "Oh, welcome him," is somewhat common-place, but effective in parts, especially where the bass takes the solo, in G minor, to the words, "The night was dark," and afterwards holds on the D as a dominant pedal. No. 5, "Sunshine through the clouds," has an appropriately tranquil theme, which is harmonized with care and judgment. The change to 2/4 rhythm has a good effect. No. 6, "The Corn Field," is a flowing melody, in 6/8 rhythm, in the treatment of which some happy contrapuntal effects occur. There is much interest in this song; and it will amply repay careful study. The whole of the compositions in this book are highly favourable specimens of the author's power to write effective and healthy part-music.

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