



Six Four-part Songs

Poetry by William Duthie

No. 6.

The Corn Field

J. Lemmens

(1823-1881)

Jaak-Nicolaas (Jacques-Nicolas) Lemmens (1823-1881) was born in Zoerle-Parwijs, Waterloo, Belgium. He studied organ in Belgium at the Royal Brussels Conservatoire then in Germany. In 1849 he was appointed organ teacher 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. 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. In 1878 he became the first director of the School of Religious Music (*École de musique religieuse*). He wrote many works for organ and a number of part-songs.

REVIEW

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Six Four-part Songs (SATB)

By J. Lemmens

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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.

We roamed upon one happy day
Where golden wheat was growing,
Where cornflowers, star-like, gemmed the way,
And poppies red were glowing.

We crossed the field, and reached the stile,
With green boughs shaded over,
And watched the merry birds awhile
Among the purple clover.

How blest were we that happy day,
Where golden wheat was growing,
Where, star-like, cornflowers gemmed the way,
And poppies scarlet glowing.

Sunlight within the crimson West
In gloried rays was sinking;
With blissful thoughts, our hearts at rest,
On heaven and love were thinking.

We sought within each other’s eyes,
With pure and fond emotion,
And read at once their bright replies—
Our bosom’s deep devotion.

We sat upon the rustic gate,
Among the sweet climbing flowers;
No lordly hearts in pompous state
So happy were as ours.

“One word,” I cried, “as pure and blest
As are the heavens above you!”
She drooped her head upon my breast,
And whispered, “Yes, I love you!”

William Duthie

The Corn Field

J. Lemmens

Allegro ma non troppo ♩ = 132

S *p* We roam'd up - on one hap - py day Where gold - en wheat — was

A *p* We roam'd up - on one hap - py day Where gold - en wheat was

T *p* We roam'd up - on one hap - py day Where gold - en

B *p* We roam'd up - on one hap - py day Where gold - en

4 S grow - ing, Where corn - flow'rs, star - like, gemm'd the way, And

A grow - ing, Where corn - flow'rs, star - like, gemm'd the way, And

T wheat was grow - ing, Where corn - flow'rs, star - like, gemm'd the

B wheat was grow - ing, — Where corn - flow'rs, star - like, gemm'd the

7 S pop - pies red — were glow - ing. We cross'd the field, and

A pop - pies red were glow - ing. We cross'd the field, — and

T way, And pop - pies red — were glow - ing. We cross'd the field, and

B way, And pop - pies red were glow - ing. We cross'd the

The Corn Field

10

S reach'd the stile, With green boughs sha - ded o - ver, And

A reach'd the stile, With green boughs sha - ded o - ver, And watch'd the

T reach'd the stile, With green boughs sha - ded o - ver, And

B field, and reach'd the stile, sha - ded o - ver,

13

S watch'd the mer - ry birds a - while A - mong the pur - ple

A mer - ry, mer - ry birds a - while A - mong the pur - ple

T watch'd the mer - ry birds a - while A - mong the pur - ple

B And watch'd the mer - ry birds A - mong the pur - ple

16

S clo - ver. And watch'd the mer - ry birds a - while A -

A clo - ver. And watch'd the mer - ry birds a - while A -

T clo - ver. And watch'd the mer - ry birds a - while A -

B clo - ver. And watch'd the mer - ry birds a - while A -

cresc.

The Corn Field

19

S mong the pur - ple clo - ver. How blest were we that

A mong the pur - ple clo - ver. How blest were we that

T mong the pur - ple clo - ver. How blest were we that

B mong the pur - ple clo - ver. How blest were we that

22

S hap - py day, Where gold - en wheat was grow - ing, Where,

A hap - py day, Where gold - en wheat was grow - ing, Where,

T hap - py day, Where gold - en wheat was grow - ing, Where,

B hap - py day, Where gold - en wheat was grow - ing, Where,

25

S star - like, corn - flow'rs gemm'd the way, — And pop - pies scar - let glow - ing.

A star - like, corn - flow'rs gemm'd the way, And pop - pies scar - let glow - ing.

T star - like, corn - flow'rs gemm'd the way, And pop - pies scar - let glow - ing.

B star - like, corn - flow'rs gemm'd the way, And pop - pies scar - let glow - ing.

The Corn Field

29

S Sun - light with - in the crim - son West In glo - ried rays__ was

A Sun - light with - in the crim - son West In glo - ried rays was

T Sun - light with - in the crim - son West In glo - ried

B Sun - light with - in the crim - son West In glo - ried

32

S sink - ing; With bliss - ful thoughts, our hearts__ at rest, On

A sink - ing; With bliss - ful thoughts, our hearts at rest, On

T rays was sink - ing; With bliss - ful thoughts, our hearts__ at

B rays was sink - ing;__ With bliss - ful thoughts, our hearts at

35

S heav'n__ and love__ were think - ing. We sought with - in each

A heav'n and love were think - ing. We sought with - in each

T rest, On heav'n and love__ were think - ing. We sought with - in each

B rest, On heav'n and love were think - ing. We sought with -

The Corn Field

38

S o - ther's eyes, With pure and fond e - mo - tion, And

A o - ther's eyes, With pure and fond e - mo - tion, And read at

T o - ther's eyes, With pure and fond e - mo - tion, And

B in each o - ther's eyes, fond e - mo - tion,

41

S read at once their bright re - plies— Our bo - som's deep de -

A once their bright, their bright re - plies— Our bo - som's deep de -

T read at once their bright re - plies— Our bo - som's deep de -

B And read their bright re - plies— Our bo - som's deep de -

44

S vo - tion. And read at once their bright re - plies— Our

A vo - tion. And read at once their bright re - plies— Our

T vo - tion. And read at once their bright re - plies— Our

B vo - tion. And read at once their bright re - plies— Our

The Corn Field

47

S bo - som's deep de - vo - tion. How blest were we that

A bo - som's deep de - vo - tion. How blest were we that

T bo - som's deep de - vo - tion. How blest were we that

B bo - som's deep de - vo - tion. How blest were we that

50

S hap - py day, Where gold - en wheat was grow - ing, Where,

A hap - py day, Where gold - en wheat was grow - ing, Where,

T hap - py day, Where gold - en wheat was grow - ing, Where,

B hap - py day, Where gold - en wheat was grow - ing, Where,

53

S star - like, corn - flow'rs gemm'd the way, — And pop - pies scar - let glow - ing.

A star - like, corn - flow'rs gemm'd the way, And pop - pies scar - let glow - ing.

T star - like, corn - flow'rs gemm'd the way, And pop - pies scar - let glow - ing.

B star - like, corn - flow'rs gemm'd the way, And pop - pies scar - let glow - ing.

The Corn Field

57

S We sat up - on the rus - tic gate, 'Mong the sweet climb - ing

A We sat up - on the rus - tic gate, 'Mong the sweet climb - ing

T We sat up - on the rus - tic gate, A - mong the

B We sat up - on the rus - tic gate, 'Mong the sweet

60

S flow - ers; No lord - ly hearts in pom - pous state So

A flow - ers; No lord - ly hearts in pom - pous state So

T climb - ing flow - ers; No lord - ly hearts in pom - pous

B climb - ing flow - ers; No lord - ly hearts in pom - pous

63

S hap - py were as ours. "One word," I cried, "as

A hap - py were as ours. "One word," I cried, "as

T state So hap - py were as ours. "One word," I cried, "as

B state So hap - py were as ours. "One word," I

The Corn Field

66

S pure — and blest As are the heav'ns a - bove you!" She

A pure — and blest As are — the heav'ns a - bove you!" She drooped her

T pure and blest — As are the heav'ns a - bove you!" She

B cried, "as pure and blest, — heav'ns a - bove you!"

69

S drooped her head up - on — my breast, And whis - pered, "Yes, — I

A head, her head up - on — my breast, — And whis - pered, "Yes, I

T drooped her head up - on my breast, — And whis - pered, "Yes, I

B She drooped up - on — my breast, And whis - pered, "Yes, I

72

S love — you!" She drooped her head up - on my breast, And

A love — you!" She — drooped her head up - on my breast, — And

T love — you!" She — drooped her head up - on my breast, — And

B love — you!" She drooped her head up - on — my breast, And

The Corn Field

75

S whis - pered, "Yes, I love you!" Oh! blest were we that

A whis - pered, "Yes, I love you!" Oh! blest were we that

T whis - pered, "Yes, I love you!" Oh! blest were we that

B whis - pered, "Yes, I love you!" Oh! blest were we that

78

S hap - py day, Where gold - en wheat was grow - ing, Where,

A hap - py day, Where gold - en wheat was grow - ing, Where,

T hap - py day, Where gold - en wheat was grow - ing, Where,

B hap - py day, Where gold - en wheat was grow - ing, Where,

81

S star - like, corn - flow'rs gemm'd the way, And pop-pies scar - let glow - ing.

A star - like, corn - flow'rs gemm'd the way, And pop-pies scar - let glow - ing.

T star - like, corn - flow'rs gemm'd the way, And pop-pies scar - let glow - ing.

B star - like, corn - flow'rs gemm'd the way, And pop-pies scar - let glow - ing.

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

