



The Humble-Bee

**W. H. Neidlinger
(1863-1924)**

William Harold Neidlinger (1863-1924) was born in Brooklyn, New York, and studied with Dudley Buck and Carl Christian Müller. He was organist at St. Michael's Church, conducted the Amphion Male Chorus, the Cecilia Women's Chorus in Brooklyn, and the Treble Clef Club and Mannheim Glee Club in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1896, he went to London and studied with E. Dannreuther. He briefly lived in Paris working as a singing teacher before returning to America in 1901. For a number years he was an important singing teacher in Chicago, Illinois. He turned his attention toward working with children with disabilities and established a school for children lacking motor skills, especially speech and vocal disabilities, in East Orange, New Jersey. He died in Orange, New Jersey. His compositional output includes operas, songs, hymns and part-songs. His most successful works were those for children, especially "Small Songs for Small Singers," a standard work for kindergartens. His best known piece is the Christmas song "The Birthday of a King."

BURLY, dozing humble-bee,
 Where thou art is clime for me.
 Let them sail for Porto Rique,
 Far-off heats through seas to seek;
 I will follow thee alone,
 Thou animated torrid-zone!
 Zigzag steerer, desert cheerer,
 Let me chase thy waving lines;
 Keep me nearer, me thy hearer,
 Singing over shrubs and vines.

Insect lover of the sun,
 Joy of thy dominion!
 Sailor of the atmosphere;
 Swimmer through the waves of air;
 Voyager of light and noon;
 Epicurean of June;
 Wait, I prithee, till I come
 Within earshot of thy hum,—
 All without is martyrdom.

When the south wind, in May days,
 With a net of shining haze
 Silvers the horizon wall,
 And with softness touching all,
 Tints the human countenance
 With a color of romance,
 And infusing subtle heats,
 Turns the sod to violets,
 Thou, in sunny solitudes,
 Rover of the underwoods,
 The green silence dost displace
 With thy mellow, breezy bass.

Hot midsummer's petted crone,
 Sweet to me thy drowsy tone
 Tells of countless sunny hours,
 Long days, and solid banks of flowers;
 Of gulfs of sweetness without bound
 In Indian wildernesses found;
 Of Syrian peace, immortal leisure,
 Firmest cheer, and bird-like pleasure.

Aught unsavory or unclean
 Hath my insect never seen;
 But violets and bilberry bells,
 Maple-sap and daffodils,
 Grass with green flag half-mast high,
 Succory to match the sky,
 Columbine with horn of honey,
 Scented fern, and agrimony,
 Clover, catchfly, adder's-tongue
 And brier-roses, dwelt among;
 All beside was unknown waste,
 All was picture as he passed.

Wiser far than human seer,
 Yellow-breeched philosopher!
 Seeing only what is fair,
 Sipping only what is sweet,
 Thou dost mock at fate and care,
 Leave the chaff, and take the wheat.
 When the fierce northwestern blast
 Cools sea and land so far and fast,
 Thou already slumberest deep;
 Woe and want thou canst outsleep;
 Want and woe, which torture us,
 Thy sleep makes ridiculous.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

The Humble-Bee

W. H. Neidlinger

Briskly

S *mf*
Bur - ly, doz - ing, hum - ble - bee, — Where thou art is clime for me.

A *mf*
Bur - ly, doz - ing, hum - ble - bee, doz - ing bee,

T *mf*
Bur - ly bee, doz - ing bee,

B *mf*
Bur - ly bee, doz - ing bee,

5
S
Let them sail for Por - to Ri - que, Far - off heats through

A
Let them sail for Por - to Ri - que, Far - off heats through

T
Let them sail, Far - off heats through

B
Let them sail, Far - off heats through

8
S
seas to seek, — I will fol - low thee a - lone, — Thou —

A
seas to seek; I will fol - low thee a - lone,

T
seas to seek, I will fol - - - low

B
seas to seek, — I will fol - - - low

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11

S an - i - ma - ted tor - rid - zone! Let me chase thy wav - ing

A thee a - lone! Fol - - - low

T thee a - lone! Fol - - - low

B thee a - lone! Fol - - - low

Detailed description: This system contains the first four staves of music. The Soprano staff (S) begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The lyrics 'an - i - ma - ted tor - rid - zone!' are written below the notes. The second measure of the Soprano staff contains the lyrics 'Let me chase thy wav - ing'. The Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B) staves follow with similar lyrics: 'thee a - lone!' and 'Fol - - - low'. The bass staff has an '8' below the first measure. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some notes beamed together.

14

S lines; Sing - ing o - ver shrubs and vines.

A thee o - ver shrubs and vines.

T thee o - ver shrubs and vines.

B thee o - ver shrubs and vines.

Detailed description: This system contains the next four staves of music. The Soprano staff (S) starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The lyrics 'lines; Sing - ing o - ver shrubs and vines.' are written below the notes. The Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B) staves follow with similar lyrics: 'thee o - ver shrubs and vines.'. The bass staff has an '8' below the first measure. The music continues with quarter and eighth notes, maintaining the melodic line from the previous system.

17

S *p* When the south wind, in May days, With a net of shin - ing

A *p* When the south wind, in May days, With a net of shin - ing

T *p* When the shin - ing

B *p* When the shin - ing

Detailed description: This system contains the final four staves of music. The Soprano staff (S) starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The lyrics 'When the south wind, in May days, With a net of shin - ing' are written below the notes. The Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B) staves follow with similar lyrics: 'When the shin - ing'. The Soprano and Alto staves have a dynamic marking of *p* (piano). The Tenor and Bass staves have a dynamic marking of *p* (piano). The bass staff has an '8' below the first measure. The music concludes with a final note on a whole note.

The Humble-Bee

20

S haze Sil - vers the ho - ri - zon wall, And with

A haze Sil - vers the ho - ri - zon wall, And with

T haze, _____ Soft - - - - ly _____

B haze, Soft - - - - ly

23

S soft - ness touch - es all, Thou, in sun - ny sol - i - tudes,

A soft - ness touch - es all, Thou, in sun - ny

T touch - es all, _____ Thou in sun - ny

B touch - es all, Thou in sun - ny

27

S Rov - er of the un - der - woods, The green si - lence dost dis - place With *rit.*

A sol - i - tudes, The si - lence dost dis - place With *rit.*

T sol - i - tudes, The si - lence dost dis - place With *rit.*

B sol - i - tudes, The si - lence dost dis - place With *rit.*

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31 *a tempo*
mf
 S mel - low, breez - y bass. Bur - ly, doz - ing
a tempo
mf
 A mel - low bass. Bur - ly, doz - ing
a tempo
mf
 T mel - low bass. Bur - ly
a tempo
mf
 B mel - low bass. Bur - ly

34
 S hum - ble bee, Where thou art is clime for me.
 A hum - ble bee, doz - - - ing bee,
 T bee, doz - - - ing bee,
 B bee, doz - - - ing bee,

37 *accel.* *rit.*
 S Let me chase thy wav - ing lines; Sing - ing o - ver shrubs and
accel. *rit.*
 A Bur - ly bee o - ver shrubs and
accel. *rit.*
 T Bur - ly bee o - ver shrubs and
accel. *rit.*
 B Bur - ly bee o - ver shrubs and

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Tempo 1

40

S vines. Hot mid sum - mer's pet - ted crone, Sweet to

A vines. Hot mid sum - mer's pet - ted crone,

T vines. Pet - ted crone,

B vines. Pet - ted crone,

43

S me thy drow - sy tone Tells of count - less sun - ny hours,

A pet - ted crone, Tells of count - less sun - ny hours,

T pet - ted crone, Sweet thy tone,

B pet - ted crone, Sweet thy tone,

47

S Long days, sol - id banks of flow - ers; Aught un - sav - 'ry

A Long days, sol - id banks of flow - ers; Aught un - sav - 'ry

T Long days, sol - id banks of flow - ers; Aught un -

B Long days, sol - id banks of flow - ers; Aught un -

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50

S or un - clean Hath my in - sect nev - er seen;

A or un - clean, nev - - - er seen,

T clean, nev - - - er seen;

B clean, nev - - - er seen;

53

S Clo - ver, catch - fly, ad - der's - tongue, Bri - er ro - ses, dwelt a -

A Banks of flow'rs; ro - ses, dwelt a -

T Banks of flow'rs; ro - ses, dwelt a -

B Banks of flow'rs; ro - ses, dwelt a -

56

S mong; Wis - er far than hu - man seer, Yel - low -

A mong; Wis - er far than hu - man seer, Yel - low -

T mong; Wise phi - - - -

B mong; Wise phi - - - -

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59

S breech'd phi - los - o - pher! See - ing on - ly

A breech'd phi - los - o - pher! See - ing on - ly

T los - - - o - - - pher! See - - - -

B los - - - o - - - pher! See - - - -

62

S what is fair, Thou dost mock at fate and care.

A what is fair, Thou dost mock at fate and care.

T ing what is fair.

B ing what is fair.

65

S When the fierce north - west - ern blast Cools sea and land so far and fast,

A When the blast Cools all so fast, Thou

T When the blast Cools all so fast, Thou

B When the blast Cools all so fast, Thou

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69 *rit.*

S Thou al - rea - dy slum - b'rest deep; Woe and want thou canst out -

A slum - - - b'rest, slum - b'rest deep; Woe and want thou canst out -

T slum - - - b'rest, slum - b'rest deep; Woe and want thou canst out -

B slum - - - b'rest, slum - b'rest deep; Woe and want thou canst out -

72 *a tempo* *mf*

S sleep; Bur - ly, doz - ing hum - ble bee, Where

A sleep; Bur - ly, doz - ing hum - ble bee,

T sleep; Bur - ly bee,

B sleep; Bur - ly bee,

75 *accel.*

S thou art is clime for me. Let me chase thy wav - ing

A doz - - - ing bee, Bur - - - ly

T doz - - - ing bee, Bur - - - ly

B doz - - - ing bee, Bur - - - ly

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78

S lines; Sing - ing o - ver shrubs and vines.

A bee o - ver shrubs and vines.

T bee o - ver shrubs and vines.

B bee o - ver shrubs and vines.

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