



The Whipporwill

Cyrus C. Pratt
(1835-?)

Cyrus Cornelius Pratt (1835-?) was born in Johnson, Vermont. He went to Boston at age 12 to study music, was known as a vocalist with a number of Boston musical institutions. When he was 25, he moved to Springfield, Illinois. He was involved in musical business and managed a concert company called Harmonious Bards, partnering with Burr Robbins (1837-1908), a showman who later became known for his circus. The venture failed and he established musical concerts in connection with the U. S. Sanitary Commission (veteran's aid). He enlisted as Captain of Company A, 117th Illinois Volunteer Infantry but was discharged due to disability. He continued to conduct a sanitary concert troupe until the end of the war. After the war, he conducted musical conventions and institutes, moving to Kansas as agent for the King Iron Bridge & Manufacturing Company of Cleveland, Ohio. He then worked as a real estate agent, still conducting musical institutes throughout the South. He moved to Iowa City, Iowa, as agent for the Burlington Insurance Company, then back to Kansas to become secretary of the Vigilant Insurance Company. He was also secretary of the Broom Corn Alliance of Mitchell County, Kansas. He moved to Nampa, Idaho and was engaged in the mining business at the turn of the century then retired to Portland, Oregon. He died before 1920. His few known compositions were part-songs for pedagogy at his conventions and institutes.

When the silence of the night
Broods upon the vale and hill,
Then with plaintive voice and low,
Sings the happy whippoorwill.
Whippoorwill, whippoorwill.
When all else is hushed and still
Sings the happy whippoorwill,
whippoorwill, whippoorwill.

In some far sequestered grot,
All the livelong night he sings,
Where the air is calm and still,
Sings the happy whippoorwill.
Whippoorwill, whippoorwill.
This is what the darkness brings,
This the song he ever sings,
Whippoorwill, whippoorwill.

Oh, a lone, sad heart has he,
Filled with silence all the day,
But when night comes then he sings
Joyfully his whippoorwill.
Whippoorwill, whippoorwill.
This is what his warbling brings,
Visions of the coming Spring,
Whippoorwill, whippoorwill.

The Whippoorwill

C. C. Pratt

Con espressione
mf

S When the si - lence of the night Broods up - on the vale and hill,

A When the si - lence of the night Broods up - on the vale and hill,

T When the si - lence of the night Broods up - on the vale and hill,

B When the si - lence of the night Broods up - on the vale and hill,

5

S Then with plain - tive voice and low, Sings the hap - py whip - poor - will.

A Then with plain - tive voice and low, Sings the hap - py whip - poor - will.

T Then with plain - tive voice and low, Sings the hap - py whip - poor - will.

B Then with plain - tive voice and low, Sings the hap - py whip - poor - will.

9

S Whip - poor - will, *dim.* whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, *p* whip - poor - will.

A Whip - poor - will, *dim.* whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, *p* whip - poor - will.

T Whip - poor - will, *dim.* whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, *p* whip - poor - will.

B Whip - poor - will, *dim.* whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, *p* whip - poor - will.

The Whippoorwill

13

S When all else is hushed and still Sings the hap - py whip - poor - will,

A When all else is hushed and still Sings the hap - py whip - poor - will,

T 8 When all else is hushed and still Sings the hap - py whip - poor - will,

B When all else is hushed and still Sings the hap - py whip - poor - will,

Detailed description: This system contains the first four staves of music for the song. Each staff (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) has a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: 'When all else is hushed and still Sings the happy whip-poor-will,'. The music is in a simple, homophonic style with a steady rhythm.

17 *rall.* *pp*

S whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will.

A *rall.* *pp* whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will.

T 8 *rall.* *pp* whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will.

B *rall.* *pp* whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will.

Detailed description: This system contains the next four staves of music. The lyrics are: 'whip-poor-will, whip-poor-will, whip-poor-will, whip-poor-will.' The tempo is marked 'rall.' (rallentando) and the dynamics are 'pp' (pianissimo). The music features a slower, more expressive feel with some fermatas at the end of each phrase.

20 *mf*

S In some far se - quest - ered grot, All the live - long night he sings,

A *mf* In some far se - quest - ered grot, All the live - long night he sings,

T 8 *mf* In some far se - quest - ered grot, All the live - long night he sings,

B *mf* In some far se - quest - ered grot, All the live - long night he sings,

Detailed description: This system contains the final four staves of music. The lyrics are: 'In some far se-quest-ered grot, All the live-long night he sings,'. The dynamics are marked 'mf' (mezzo-forte). The music continues with a similar homophonic texture as the previous systems.

The Whippoorwill

24

S Where the air is calm and still, Sings the hap - py whip - poor - will.

A Where the air is calm and still, Sings the hap - py whip - poor - will.

T 8 Where the air is calm and still, Sings the hap - py whip - poor - will.

B Where the air is calm and still, Sings the hap - py whip - poor - will.

28

S Whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will.

A Whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will.

T 8 Whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will.

B Whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will.

32

S This is what the dark - ness brings, This the song he ev - er sings,

A This is what the dark - ness brings, This the song he ev - er sings,

T 8 This is what the dark - ness brings, This the song he ev - er sings,

B This is what the dark - ness brings, This the song he ev - er sings,

The Whippoorwill

36 *rall.* *pp*

S Whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will.

A *rall.* *pp*

A Whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will.

T *rall.* *pp*

T Whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will.

B *rall.* *pp*

B Whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will.

40 *mf*

S Oh, a lone, sad heart has he, Filled with si - lence all the day,

A *mf*

A Oh, a lone, sad heart has he, Filled with si - lence all the day,

T *mf*

T Oh, a lone, sad heart has he, Filled with si - lence all the day,

B *mf*

B Oh, a lone, sad heart has he, Filled with si - lence all the day,

44

S But when night comes then he sings Joy - ful - ly his whip - poor - will.

A

A But when night comes then he sings Joy - ful - ly his whip - poor - will.

T

T But when night comes then he sings Joy - ful - ly his whip - poor - will.

B

B But when night comes then he sings Joy - ful - ly his whip - poor - will.

The Whippoorwill

48

dim.

S Whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will. *p*

A Whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will. *p*

T Whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will. *p*

B Whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will. *p*

52

S This is what his war - bling brings, Vi - sions of the com - ing Spring,

A This is what his war - bling brings, Vi - sions of the com - ing Spring,

T This is what his war - bling brings, Vi - sions of the com - ing Spring,

B This is what his war - bling brings, Vi - sions of the com - ing Spring,

56

rall.

S Whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will. *pp*

A Whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will. *pp*

T Whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will. *pp*

B Whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will, whip - poor - will. *pp*

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

