



Six Irish Airs  
(no opus [#6])

# My gentle harp

Charles Villiers Stanford  
(1852-1924)

My gentle harp once more I waken  
The sweetness of thy slumbering strain;  
In tears our last farewell was taken,  
And now in tears we meet again.  
No light of joy hath o'er thee broken,  
But like those harps whose heavenly skill,  
Of slavery, dark as thine, hath spoken,  
Thou hangest upon the willows still.

Then who can ask for notes of pleasure,  
My drooping harp! from chords like Thine!  
Alas, the lark's gay morning measure  
As ill would suit the swan's decline!  
Or how shall I, who love, who bless thee,  
Invoke thy breath for freedom's strains,  
When even the wreaths in which I dress thee,  
Are sadly mixed, half flowers, half chains.

But come, if yet thy frame can borrow  
One breath of joy, oh, breathe for me.  
And show the world, in chains and sorrow,  
How sweet thy music still can be;  
How gaily, even 'mid gloom surrounding,  
Thou yet canst wake at pleasure's thrill,  
like Memnon's broken image sounding  
'Mid desolation tuneful still.

Thomas Moore

# My gentle harp

Lento

Air: The Caoine or Dirge

S *p* My gen - tle harp once more I wa - ken The sweet - ness of thy slum - b'ring

A *p* My gen - tle harp once more I wa - ken The sweet - ness of thy slumb'ring

T *p* My gen - tle harp once more I wa - ken The sweet - ness of thy slumb'ring

B *p* My gen - tle harp once more I wa - ken The sweet - ness of thy slumb'ring

5 S strain; In tears our last fare - well was ta - ken, And now in tears we meet a -

A strain; In tears our last fare - well was ta - ken, And now in tears we meet a -

T strain; In tears our last fare - well was ta - ken, And now in tears we meet a -

B strain; In tears our last fare - well was ta - ken, And now in tears we meet a -

9 S gain. No light of joy hath o'er<sup>3</sup> thee bro - ken, But like those harps whose heav'n - ly

A gain. No light of joy hath o'er thee bro - ken, But like those harps whose

T gain. No light of joy hath o'er thee bro - ken, But like those harps whose

B gain. No light of joy hath o'er thee bro - ken, But harps whose

## My gentle harp

13

S skill, Of slav - 'ry, dark as thine,<sup>3</sup> hath spo - ken, Thou hang'st up -

A skill, Of slav - 'ry, dark as thine,<sup>3</sup> hath spo - ken, Thou hang'st up -

T skill, Of slav - 'ry, dark as thine,<sup>3</sup> hath spo - ken, Thou hang'st up -

B skill, Of slav - 'ry, dark as thine, hath spo - ken, Thou

16

S on the wil - lows still. Then who can ask for notes of

A on the wil - lows still. Then who can ask for notes of

T on the wil - lows still. Then who can ask for notes of

B on the wil - lows still. Then who can ask for notes of

20

S plea - sure, My droop - ing harp! from chords like Thine! A - las, the

A plea - sure, My droop - ing harp! from chords like Thine! A - las, the

T plea - sure, My droop - ing harp! from chords like Thine! A - las, the

B plea - sure, My droop - ing harp! from chords like Thine! A - las, the

23

S lark's gay morn - ing mea - sure As ill would suit the swan's de -

A lark's gay morn - ing mea - sure As ill would suit the swan's de -

T lark's gay morn - ing mea - sure As ill would suit the swan's de -

B lark's gay morn - ing mea - sure As ill would suit the swan's de -

26

S cline! Or how shall I, who love, who bless thee, In - voke thy

A cline! Or how shall I, who love, who bless thee, In - voke thy

T cline! Or how shall I, who love, who bless thee, In - voke thy

B cline! Or how shall I, who love, who bless thee, thy

29

S breath for free - dom's strains, When ev'n the wreaths in which I

A breath for strains, When ev'n the wreaths in which I

T breath for strains, When ev'n the wreaths in which I

B breath for strains, When ev'n the wreaths in which I

32

S dress thee, Are sad - ly mix'd, <sup>3</sup> half flow'rs, half chains.

A dress thee, Are sad - ly mix'd, half flow'rs, half chains.

T dress thee, Are sad - ly mix'd, half flow'rs, half chains.

B dress thee, Are mix'd, half flow'rs, half chains.

35

S But come, if yet thy frame can bor - row One breath of joy, oh, breathe for

A But come, if yet thy frame can bor - row One breath of joy, oh, breathe for

T But come, if yet thy frame can bor - row One breath of joy, oh, breathe for

B But come, if yet thy frame can bor - row One breath of joy, oh,

39

S me. And show the world, in chains and sor - row, How sweet thy

A me. And show the world, in chains and sor - row, How sweet thy

T me. And show the world, in chains and sor - row, How sweet thy

B breathe And show the world, in chains and sor - row, How sweet thy

42

S mu - sic still can be; How gai - ly, ev'n 'mid gloom sur -

A mu - sic still can be; How gai - ly, ev'n 'mid gloom sur -

T mu - sic still can be; How gai - ly, ev'n 'mid gloom sur -

B mu - sic still can be; How gai - ly, ev'n 'mid gloom sur -

45

S round - ing, Thou yet canst wake at plea - sure's thrill, like Mem - non's

A round - ing, Thou yet canst wake at plea - sure's thrill, like Mem - non's

T round - ing, Thou yet canst wake at plea - sure's thrill, like Mem - non's

B round - ing, Thou yet canst wake at plea - sure's thrill, like Mem - non's

48

**Pii Lento**

S bro - ken im - age sound - ing 'Mid des - o - la - tion tune - ful still.

A bro - ken im - age sound - ing 'Mid des - o - la - tion tune - ful still.

T bro - ken im - age sound - ing 'Mid des - o - la - tion tune - ful still.

B bro - ken im - age sound - ing 'Mid des - o - la - tion tune - ful still.

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