



Softly and Low

**Theodore Wood
(1824-1895)**

Theodore Wood (1824-1895) was born in New York. He became a teacher of music and was superintendent of music in the public schools at Albany, Saratoga, Sandy Hill, and Lansingburgh, New York. He taught privately, gave class instruction in vocal music, and was music leader at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Albany. He led singing conventions throughout the region and was often assisted by his brother Robert M. Wood, who was also a musician. He later left New York and moved to North Carolina. He taught classes on congregational music at churches in a number of locations including Asheville and Pine Bluff. He died in Morganton, North Carolina. He wrote music for pedagogical use, arranged songs for performance by musical troupes and published the "Heavenly choir: a collection of hymns and tunes for all occasions of worship, congregational, church, prayer, praise, choir, Sunday school, and social Meetings (1876)."

Softly and low,
As streamlets flow,
Our sad notes faintly swell;
The heaving breast
That may not rest,
Breathes forth farewell, farewell.

As o'er the deep,
The lone birds sweep,
And on its white foam dwell,
O'er life's dark sea,
On, on ye flee;
Loved ones, farewell, farewell.

The lone heart
Must widely part
From those it loves full well;
But memory's gleam,
Shall light life's dream;
Dear friends, farewell, farewell.

And in yon skies,
Where ne'er shall rise
The fearful parting knell;
Life's fever past,
We'll meet at last,
Dear friends, farewell, farewell.

Softly and Low

Theodore Wood

Expressivo. Dolce.

S Soft - ly and low, As stream - lets flow, Our sad notes faint - ly

A Soft - ly and low, As stream - lets flow, Our sad notes faint - ly

T Soft - ly and low, As stream - lets flow, Our sad notes faint - ly

B Soft - ly and low, As stream - lets flow, Our sad notes faint - ly

7
S swell; The heav - ing breast That may not rest, Breathes

A swell; The heav - ing breast That may not rest, Breathes

T swell; The heav - ing breast That may not rest, Breathes

B swell; The heav - ing breast That may not rest, Breathes

Softly and Low

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S forth _____ fare - well, fare - well, Breathes forth fare -

A forth _____ fare - well, _____ fare - well, Breathes forth fare -

T 8 forth _____ fare - well, fare - well, Breathes forth fare -

B forth _____ fare - well, _____ fare - well, Breathes forth fare -

A tempo.

18 *rit.* *dim.*

S well, fare - well. As o'er the deep, The lone _____ birds

A *rit.* *dim.* well, fare - well. As o'er the deep, The lone birds

T *rit.* *dim.* well, fare - well. As o'er the deep, The lone _____ birds

B *rit.* *dim.* well, fare - well. As o'er the deep, The lone birds

24

S sweep, And on its white _____ foam dwell, _____ O'er life's _____ dark

A sweep, And on its white foam dwell, _____ O'er life's dark

T 8 sweep, And on its white _____ foam dwell, _____ O'er life's _____ dark

B sweep, And on its white foam dwell, _____ O'er life's dark

Softly and Low

30

S sea, On, on ye flee; Loved ones, fare - well, fare -

A sea, On, on ye flee; Loved ones, fare - well, fare -

T sea, On, on ye flee; Loved ones, fare - well, fare -

B sea, On, on ye flee; Loved ones, fare - well, fare -

36

S well, Loved ones fare - well, fare - well. *rit.* *dim.*

A well, Loved ones fare - well, fare - well. *rit.* *dim.*

T well, Loved ones fare - well, fare - well. *rit.* *dim.*

B well, Loved ones fare - well, fare - well. *rit.* *dim.*

A tempo.

42

S The lone heart Must wide - ly part From those it loves full

A The lone heart Must wide - ly part From those it loves full

T The lone heart Must wide - ly part From those it loves full

B The lone heart Must wide - ly part From those it loves full

Softly and Low

48

S well; But mem - o - ry's gleam, Shall light life's dream; Dear

A well; But mem - o - ry's gleam, Shall light life's dream; Dear

T well; But mem - o - ry's gleam, Shall light life's dream; Dear

B well; But mem - o - ry's gleam, Shall light life's dream; Dear

54

S friends, fare - well, fare - well, Dear friends, fare -

A friends, fare - well, fare - well, Dear friends, fare -

T friends, fare - well, fare - well, Dear friends, fare -

B friends, fare - well, fare - well, Dear friends, fare -

60

rit. *dim.*

S well, fare - well. And in yon skies, Where ne'er shall

A well, fare - well. And in yon skies, Where ne'er shall

T well, fare - well. And in yon skies, Where ne'er shall

B well, fare - well. And in yon skies, Where ne'er shall

A tempo.

Softly and Low

66

S rise The fear - ful part - ing knell; Life's fe - ver

A rise The fear - ful part - ing knell; Life's fe - ver

T rise The fear - ful part - ing knell; Life's fe - ver

B rise The fear - ful part - ing knell; Life's fe - ver

72

S past, We'll meet at last, Dear friends, fare - well, fare -

A past, We'll meet at last, Dear friends, fare - well, fare -

T past, We'll meet at last, Dear friends, fare - well, fare -

B past, We'll meet at last, Dear friends, fare - well, fare -

78

S well, Dear friends, fare - well, fare - well. *rit.* *dim.*

A well, Dear friends, fare - well, fare - well. *rit.* *dim.*

T well, Dear friends, fare - well, fare - well. *rit.* *dim.*

B well, Dear friends, fare - well, fare - well. *rit.* *dim.*

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

