



The Lesson of the Leaves

Alfred Alexander
(1844-?)

Allegretto ♩ = 72

S *mf* Glanc-ing in the sun - light, Danc - ing in the breeze, See the new - born leaf - lets

A *mf* Glanc-ing in the sun - light, Danc - ing in the breeze, See the new - born leaf - lets

T *mf* Glanc-ing in the sun - light, Danc - ing in the breeze, See the new - born leaf - lets

B *mf* Glanc-ing in the sun - light, Danc - ing in the breeze, See the leaf - lets

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S On the sum - mer trees: Joy - ing in ex - ist - ence, Whis-p'ring - ly they play,

A On the sum - mer trees: Joy - ing in ex - ist - ence, Whis-p'ring - ly they play,

T On the sum - mer trees: Joy - ing in ex - ist - ence, Whis-p'ring - ly they play, Toy - ing

B On the sum - mer trees: Joy - ing in ex - ist - ence, Whis-p'ring - ly they play, Toy - ing

7

S Toy - ing with each oth - er Thro' the gold - en day: And when eve-ning's eye - lids

A Toy - ing with each oth - er Thro' the gold - en day: And when eve - ning's eye - lids

T with each oth - er Thro' the gold - en day: And when eve-ning's eye - lids

B with each oth - er Thro' the gold - en day: And when

10

S Close up - on the hill, Cast - ing lov - ing glanc - es On the an-sw'ring rill,

A Close up - on the hill, Cast - ing lov - ing glanc - es On the rill, Cast - ing

T Close up - on the hill, Cast - ing lov - ing glanc - es On the rill, Cast - ing

B eve - ning's eye - lids Close up - on, up - on the hill,

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S — on the an - sw'ring rill:

A lov - ing glanc - es on the rill, the an - sw'ring rill:

T lov - ing glanc - es on the rill, the an - sw'ring rill:

B On the rill:

15

S Thus they dance and flut - ter All the sum - mer thro',

A Thus they dance and flut - ter All the sum - mer thro', Light, and *cresc.*

T Thus they dance, they dance and flut - ter All the sum - mer thro', Light, and *cresc.*

B Thus they dance, they dance and flut - ter All the sum - mer thro',

17

S *cresc.* Light, and gay, and glad - some, Leaf - lets green and new, light, and *f*

A gay, gay, and glad - some, Leaf - lets green and new, light, and *f*

T gay, gay, and glad - some, Leaf - lets green and new,

B *cresc.* Light, and gay, Leaf - lets green and new,

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19

S gay, light, and gay, — and — glad - some, Leaf - lets green and new, leaf - lets green — and

A gay, light, and gay, — and — glad - some, Leaf - lets green and new, leaf - lets green and

T light, and gay, and glad - some, — Leaf - lets green and new, leaf - lets green — and

B light, and gay, and glad - some, Leaf - lets new, leaf - lets green and

22 *Allegro*

S new: "Life is all, is all be - fore us — life is full, is full — of

A new: "Life is all be - fore us — life is full, is full of

T new: "Life is all be - fore us — life is full, is full of

B new: "Life is all be - fore us — life is full, is full of

26

S glee!" Is the joy - ous cho - rus heard from ev - 'ry —

A glee, is full — of glee!" Is the cho - rus heard from ev - 'ry

T glee, is full — of glee!" Is the joy - ous cho - rus heard from ev - 'ry

B glee!" Is the joy - ous cho - rus heard from ev - 'ry

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30

S tree. "Life is all be - fore us— life is full of

A tree. "Life is all be - fore us— life is

T tree. "Life is all be - fore us— life is

B tree. "Life is all be - fore us— life is

34

S glee!" Is the joy - ous, joy - ous cho - rus heard from ev - 'ry

A full of glee!" Is the joy - ous cho - rus heard from ev - 'ry

T full of glee!" Is the joy - ous cho - rus heard from ev - 'ry

B full of glee!" Is the joy - ous

38

S tree, is the joy - ous cho - rus heard from ev - - - 'ry tree.

A tree, is the joy - ous cho - rus heard from ev - - - 'ry tree.

T tree, is the joy - ous cho - rus heard from ev - - - 'ry tree.

B cho - rus the joy - ous cho - rus heard from ev - - - 'ry tree.

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Tempo 1

44 *mp* Hang-ing in the branch - es, *p rall.* Droop-ing in the shade, Mark the au - tumn leaf - lets

A *mp* Hang-ing in the branch - es, *p rall.* Droop-ing in the shade, Mark the leaf - lets —

T *mp* Hang-ing in the branch - es, *p rall.* Droop-ing in the shade, Mark — the au - tumn leaf - lets

B *mp* Hang-ing in the branch - es, — *p rall.* Droop-ing in the shade, Mark the leaf - lets

47 *dim. e rall.* How they pine and fade; *a tempo* Rus - tling— as — the —

A *dim. e rall.* How they pine and fade; *f a tempo* Rus - tling— as the — storm - blast

T *dim. e rall.* How they pine and fade; *f a tempo* Rus - tling— as the storm - blast

B *dim. e rall.* How they pine and fade; *f a tempo* Rus - tling— as — the — storm - blast

49 *ff* storm - blast Sweeps a - cross the moor— Driv - en by the

A Sweeps a - cross Sweeps the moor— Driv - en by the

T Sweeps a - cross Sweeps the moor— Driv - en by the whirl -

B Sweeps a - cross the — moor, the moor— Driv - en by the whirl -

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51

S whirl - wind To the cot - tar's door, Driv-en by the

A whirl - wind To the cot - tar's door, Driv-en by the

T wind To the cot - tar's door, Driv-en by the whirl - wind, the

B wind To the cot - tar's door, Driv-en by the whirl - wind, the

53

S whirl - wind, by the whirl - wind To the cot - tar's door;

A whirl - wind, by the whirl - wind To the cot - tar's door; Dark, and

T whirl - wind, by the whirl - wind To the cot - tar's door; Dark, and

B whirl - wind, by the whirl - wind To the cot - tar's door;

mp *rall. a poco*

55

S Dark, and thick, and heav - y, With the dust of Time, Wear - y of ex - ist - ence,

A thick, and heav - y, With the dust of Time, Wear-y of ex - ist - ence,

T thick, and heav - y, With the dust of Time, Wear-y of ex - ist - ence,

B Dark, and thick, and heav - y, Wear - y of ex - ist -

mp *rall. a poco*

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58 *a poco rit.*

S List their win - try chime, As the mourn - ful ca - dence Rings in hu - man ears, A

A *a poco rit.*
List their win - try chime, — As the mourn - ful ca - dence

T *a poco rit.*
List their win - try chime, — As the mourn - ful ca - dence

B *a poco rit.*
ence, As the mourn - ful ca - dence in hu - man ears,

61 *cresc.*

S nev - er - end - ing mor - al For the com - ing years, A

A A mor - al For the com - ing years, A nev - er -

T A mor - al For the com - ing years, A nev - er -

B A mor - al For the com - ing years, A

63

S nev - er - end - ing mor - al For the com - ing

A end - ing mor - al For the com - ing

T end - ing mor - al For the com - ing

B nev - er - end - ing mor - al For the com - ing

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66 *Allegro*
S years, This the part - ing, part - ing cho - rus—“Leaves, our course, our
A years, This the part - ing cho - rus—“Leaves, our course, our
T years, This the part - ing cho - rus—“Leaves, our course, our
B years, This the part - ing cho - rus—“Leaves, our course, our

70
S course is run; Death, *mp rit.*
A course is run, our course is run, our course is *rit. dim.*
T course is run, our course is run, our course is *rit. dim.*
B course is run, our course is run, our course is *rit. dim.*

75
S death is now be - fore us, death is now be - fore us—
A run; Death is now be - fore us—
T run; Death is now be - fore us, be - fore us—
B run; Death is now be - fore us—

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82 *a tempo* *mf*

S but _____ our work _____ is _____ done, our work is done,

A but our work _____ is _____ done, our work _____ is done,

T _____ but _____ our

B _____ but _____ our

86

S but our work _____ is done, our course is run,

A but our work _____ is done, our course _____ is _____ run, _____ our _____

T work _____ is _____ done, our work is done, our course is run, our

B work _____ is _____ done, our work is done, our _____ course _____ is _____ run, _____ our _____

91

S _____ our course is run,

A work _____ is _____ done, our course is run, our work is

T work is done, our _____ course _____ is _____ run, _____ our _____ work _____ is _____

B work _____ is _____ done, _____ our work is

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96 *cresc.*

S but our work, — our work is done, but our work, — our

A done, but our work, — our work is done, but our work, — our

T done, but our work, — our work is

B done, but our work, — our work is

99 *f*

S work is done, but our work — is — done, — our — work — is

A work is done, our course is run, our work — is

T done, but our work is done, our course is run, our work — is —

B done, but our work is done, our course is run, our work is

104 *ff*

S done, our course is run, — our work — is done!"

A done, our course is run, — our — work — is done!"

T done, our course — is run, — our — work — is done!"

B done, our course — is — run, — our — work — is done!"

Alfred Alexander (1844-?) was born at Rochester, Kent, England. He was chorister and studied at Rochester Cathedral and trained at Toronto University. He was organist at Shorne Church, Rochester; at Strood Parish Church, Rochester; to the Earl of Mar and Kelhe; at St. Michael College, Tenbury; and at Wigan Parish Church. He was organist and organ teacher at Alexander's School in Linslade Leighton Buzzard Buckinghamshire, then served in Nice, France, as organist of the American Church. He returned to England as organist at St. Andrew's, Southport. His compositions include a cantata, services, anthems, organ pieces, songs, and part-songs.

Glancing in the sunlight,
Dancing in the breeze,
See the new-born leaflets
On the summer trees:
Joying in existence,
Whisp'ringly they play,
Toying with each other
Through the golden day:
And when evening's eyelids
Close upon the hill,
Casting loving glances
On the answering rill:
Thus they dance and flutter
All the summer through,
Light, and gay, and gladsome,
Leaflets green and new:
"Life is all before us— life is full of glee!"
Is the joyous chorus heard from every tree.

Hanging in the branches,
Drooping in the shade,
Mark the autumn leaflets
How they pine and fade;
Rustling— as the storm-blast
Sweeps across the moor—
Driven by the whirlwind
To the cottar's door;
Dark, and thick, and heavy,
With the dust of Time,
Weary of existence,
List their wintry chime,
As the mournful cadence
Rings in human ears,
A never-ending moral
For the coming years,
This the parting chorus— "Leaves, our course is run;
Death is now before us— but *our work is done!*"

Isabella Varley Banks (1821-1897)

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