



Spring's Message

**Edward B. Birge
(1868-1952)**

Edward Bailey Birge (1868-1952) was born in Northampton, Massachusetts, into a musical family. His father conducted the band and chorus of the Florence Musical Association and his mother was a concert pianist. He studied violin and piano at an early age and, in high school, directed a glee club. He attended Brown University, directing an orchestra and glee club, as well as teaching high school. He taught in the public schools and later in a normal school in New England, then was appointed director of music in the public school of Indianapolis, Indiana. He served on the faculty of Indiana University as Head of the Public School Music Department and Director of the University Chorus. He was also organist and choirmaster of Trinity Episcopal Church. He was superintendent of the American Institute of Normal Methods and a founding member of the Music Supervisors National Conference, which later became the Music Educators National Conference (MENC). He composed a concert-overture, a children's cantata, school-music, and a children's song series. He authored the first history of American music education.

The ways are green with the gladdening sheen
Of the young year's fairest daughter.
O, the shadows that fleet o'er the springing wheat!
O, the magic of running water!
The spirit of spring is in every thing,
The banners of spring are streaming,
We march to a tune from the fifes of June,
And life's a dream worth dreaming.

What Nature has writ with her lusty wit
Is worded so wisely and kindly
That whoever has dipped in her manuscript
Must up and follow her blindly.
Now the summer prime is her blithest rhyme
In the being and the seeming,
And they that have heard the overword
Know life's a dream worth dreaming.

William Ernest Henley (1849-1903)

Spring's Message

Edward B. Birge

Allegro moderato

S
A
T
B

mf The ways are green with the

mf The ways are green with the

mf The ways are green with the

mf The ways are green with the

Allegro moderato

Piano

ff *sf* *poco rit.* *mf* *a tempo*



7

S
glad - den - ing sheen Of the young year's fair - est daugh - - - ter. O, the

A
glad - den - ing sheen Of the young year's fair - est daugh - - - ter. O, the

T
glad - den - ing sheen Of the young year's fair - est daugh - - - ter. O, the

B
glad - den - ing sheen Of the young year's fair - est daugh - - - ter. O, the

Pno.

poco rit. *sf* *a tempo*

13

S
shad - ows that fleet o'er the spring - ing wheat! O, the ma - gic of

A
shad - ows that fleet o'er the spring - ing wheat! O, the ma - gic of

T
shad - ows that fleet o'er the spring - ing wheat! O, the ma - gic of

B
shad - ows that fleet o'er the spring - ing wheat! O, the ma - gic of

Pno.

f

with warmth

18

S run - ning wa - ter! The

A run - ning wa - ter! The

T run - ning wa - ter! The

B run - ning wa - ter! The

Pno. *mf* *poco rit.* *a tempo*

24

S spir - it of spring is in ev - 'ry thing, — The ban - ners of spring are

A spir - it of spring is in ev - 'ry thing, The ban - ners of spring are

T spir - it of spring is in ev - 'ry thing, The ban - ners of spring are

B spir - it of spring is in ev - 'ry thing, The ban - ners of spring are

Pno.

30

S
stream - - - ing, We march to a tune from the fifes of

A
stream - - - ing, We march to a tune from the fifes of

T
stream - - - ing, We march to a tune from the fifes of

B
stream - - - ing, We march to a tune from the fifes of

Pno.

35

S
June, And life's a dream worth dream - ing.

A
June, And life's a dream worth dream - ing.

T
June, And life's a dream worth dream - ing.

B
June, And life's a dream worth dream - ing.

Pno.

41 *poco moderato*

S
with her lust - y

A
with her lust - y

T
What Na - ture has writ with her lust - y

B
What Na - ture has writ with her lust - y

Pno.

46

S
wit Is word - ed so wise - ly and kind - ly ____ That ____ who - e'er has

A
wit ____ Is word - ed so wise - ly and kind - ly ____

T
wit Is word - ed so wise - ly and kind - ly ____ That ____ who - e'er has

B
wit ____ Is word - ed so wise - ly and kind - ly ____

Pno.

52

S dipp'd in her man - u - script Must up and fol - low her

A in her man - u - script Must up and fol - low her

T dipp'd in her man - u - script Must up and fol - low her

B in her man - u - script Must up and fol - low her

Pno.

57

S blind - ly. _____ *Tempo 1* *mf* Now the

A blind - ly. _____ *Tempo 1* *mf* Now the

T blind - ly. _____ *Tempo 1* *mf* Now the

B blind - ly. _____ *Tempo 1* *mf* Now the

Pno.

63

S
sum - mer prime is her blith - est rhyme In the be - ing and the

A
sum - mer prime is her blith - est rhyme In the be - ing and the

T
sum - mer prime is her blith - est rhyme In the be - ing and the

B
sum - mer prime is her blith - est rhyme In the be - ing and the

Pno.

8^{va}

69

S
seem - - - ing, And they that have heard the o - ver - word, and

A
seem - - - ing, And they that have heard the o - ver - word, and

T
seem - - - ing, And they that have heard the o - ver - word, and

B
seem - - - ing, And they that have heard the o - ver - word, and

Pno.

75 *cresc.*
S they that have heard the o - ver - word Know life's a dream worth
A they that have heard the o - ver - word Know life's a dream worth
T they that have heard the o - ver - word Know life's a dream worth
B they that have heard the o - ver - word Know life's a dream worth

Pno. *cresc.* *f*

81 *ff*
S dream - ing, a dream worth
A dream - ing, a dream worth
T dream - ing, a dream worth
B dream - ing, a dream worth

Pno. *ff*

87

S
dream - - - - - ing.

A
dream - - - - - ing.

T
dream - - - - - ing.

B
dream - - - - - ing.

Pno.

87

The musical score consists of five staves. The top four staves are for vocal parts: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). Each vocal line begins with the number 87. The lyrics 'dream - - - - - ing.' are written below each staff. The vocal lines feature long horizontal lines under the lyrics, indicating sustained notes. The piano accompaniment (Pno.) is on the bottom staff, also starting at measure 87. It features a series of chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand, with vertical lines indicating the timing of the notes.

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