

Song of Proserpine

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor
(1875-1912)

Molto moderato

pp

S Sa - cred God - dess, Moth - er Earth, Thou from whose im - mor - tal bos - om

A Sa - cred God - dess, Moth - er Earth, Thou from whose im - mor - tal bos - om

T Sa - cred God - dess, Moth - er Earth, Thou from whose im - mor - tal bos - om

B Sa - cred God - dess, Moth - er Earth, Thou from whose im - mor - tal bos - om

5

S Gods, and men, and beasts have birth, Leaf and blade, and

A Gods, and men, and beasts have birth, Leaf and blade, and

T Gods, and men, and beasts have birth, Leaf and blade, leaf and

B Gods, and men, and beasts have birth, Leaf and blade, leaf and

mf

Song of Proserpine

8 *poco accel.* *Largamente*

S bud and blos-som, Breathe thine in - fluence most di - vine On thine *Largamente*

A bud and blos-som, Breathe thine in - fluence most di - vine On thine *Largamente*

T blade, bud and blos-som, Breathe thine in - fluence most di - vine On thine *Largamente*

B blade, bud and blos - som, Breathe thine in - fluence most di - vine On thine

11 *ff* *mf* *p* *poco rit.*

S own child, Pros - er - pine, Pros - er - pine.

A own child, Pros - er - pine, Pros - er - pine.

T own child, Pros - er - pine, Pros - er - pine.

B own child, Pros - er - pine, Pros - er - pine.

16 *p* *a tempo* *cresc.*

S If with mists of eve - ning dew Thou dost nour - ish these young flow - ers

A If with mists of eve - ning dew Thou dost nour - ish these young flow - ers

T If with mists of eve - ning dew Thou dost nour - ish these young flow - ers

B If with mists of eve - ning dew Thou dost nour - ish these young flow - ers

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3

20

S Till they grow, in scent and hue, Fair - est chil - dren

A Till they grow, in scent and hue, Fair - est chil - dren

T Till they grow, in scent and hue, Fair - est chil - dren, fair - est

B Till they grow, in scent and hue, Fair - est chil - dren, fair - est

23

poco accel. *Largamente*

S of the Hours, Breathe thine in - fluence most di - vine On thine

poco accel. *Largamente*

A of the Hours, Breathe thine in - fluence most di - vine On thine

poco accel. *Largamente*

T chil - dren of the Hours, Breathe thine in - fluence most di - vine On thine

poco accel. *Largamente*

B chil - dren of the Hours, Breathe thine in - fluence most di - vine On thine

26

ff *mf* *poco rit.* *dim.* *ppp*

S own child, Pros - er - pine, Pros - er - pine.

ff *mf* *poco rit.* *dim.* *ppp*

A own child, Pros - er - pine, Pros - er - pine.

ff *mf* *poco rit.* *dim.* *ppp*

T own child, Pros - er - pine, Pros - er - pine.

ff *mf* *poco rit.* *dim.* *ppp*

B own child, Pros - er - pine, Pros - er - pine.

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912) was born in London, England. His parents were Dr. Daniel Peter Hughes Taylor, a Sierra Leonean Creole, and Alice Hare Martin, an English woman. Dr. Taylor returned to Africa not knowing he had a son in London. His middle name Coleridge was after the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge and he later assumed the name Coleridge-Taylor. He was raised in Croydon (London) by his mother and her father. Taylor studied violin at the Royal College of Music and composition under Charles Villiers Stanford. He was appointed a professor at the Crystal Palace School of Music and conducted the orchestra at the Croydon Conservatoire. Coleridge-Taylor earned a reputation as a composer and was later helped by Edward Elgar. Music editor and critic August Jaeger considered him “a genius.” Coleridge-Taylor made three tours of the United States, which increased his interest in his racial heritage, and at one stage seriously considered migrating there. In 1904, he was received by President Theodore Roosevelt at the White House, an unusual honor in those days for a man of African descent and appearance. He was given the title “the African Mahler” from the white orchestral musicians in New York in 1910. Coleridge-Taylor was greatly admired by African Americans; in 1901, a 200-voice African-American chorus was founded in Washington, D.C., named the Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Society. Coleridge-Taylor’s greatest success was his cantata *Hiawatha’s Weddingfeast*. He composed orchestral works, chamber music, anthems, part-songs and other works. He died of pneumonia at age 37.

Sacred Goddess, Mother Earth,
Thou from whose immortal bosom
Gods, and men, and beasts have birth,
Leaf and blade, and bud and blossom,
Breathe thine influence most divine
On thine own child, Proserpine.

If with mists of evening dew
Thou dost nourish these young flowers
Till they grow, in scent and hue,
Fairest children of the Hours,
Breathe thine influence most divine
On thine own child, Proserpine.

Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822)

In Greek mythology, Proserpine was daughter of Zeus. She was abducted Hades (Pluto), king of the underworld, after she eats forbidden pomegranate seeds. The myth explains why the seasons change. Her mother Demeter, goddess of grain and agriculture, saves her daughter by making a deal with Hades. Part of the year, spring and summer, Proserpine would be free and with her mother while the rest, fall and winter, would be spent in the underworld.

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