



# Dead in the Sierras

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor  
(1875-1912)

**Samuel Coleridge-Taylor** (1875-1912) was born in 1875 in London. 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 Taylor was "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 Wedding-feast*. He composed orchestral works, chamber music, anthems, part-songs and other works. He died of pneumonia at age 37.

# Dead in the Sierras

S. Coleridge-Taylor

Larghetto  $\text{♩} = 66$

Score for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B) in 3/4 time, key of D major.

**First System:**

- Soprano (S): Rests.
- Alto (A): Rests.
- Tenor (T): *pp* Ah, (melody line with slurs and ties).
- Bass (B): *pp* Ah, (melody line with slurs and ties).

**Second System (starting at measure 5):**

- Soprano (S): Rests.
- Alto (A): *mp* His foot - prints have
- Tenor (T): *mp* His foot - prints
- Bass (B): *mp* His foot - prints

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10 *mf* *poco accel.*

S His foot - prints have

A failed us, His foot - prints

T have failed us, His foot - prints

B have failed us,

14 *a tempo*

S failed us, Where berries are red, And ma -

A have failed us, Where berries are red, And ma -

T have failed us, Where berries are red, And ma -

B have failed us, Where berries are

18 *pp* *rall.*

S dro - ños are rank - est, — The hunt - er is dead, —

A dro - ños are rank - est, — The hunt - er is dead, —

T dro - ños are rank - est, — The hunt - er is dead, —

B red, — And rank - est, — The hunt - er is dead, —

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5

22

S dead, dead, dead!

A dead, dead, dead!

T dead, dead, dead!

B dead, dead, dead!

*pp*

**Poco più animato**

S The griz - zly may pass By his half - o - pen

A The griz - zly may pass By his half - o - pen

T The griz - zly may pass, may pass By his

B The griz - zly may pass, may pass his

*mf*

29

S door; May pass and re - pass On his path, as of

A door; May pass and re - pass On his path, as of

T - pen door; May pass On his path, as of

B o - pen door; May pass On his path, as of

*cresc.*

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33

S yore; The pan - - - ther may crouch In the

A yore; The pan - ther, the pan - ther may crouch In the

T yore; The pan - ther, the pan - ther may crouch In the

B yore; The pan - - - - ther may crouch In the

37

S leaves on his limb; May scream and may scream, — It is

A leaves on his limb; May scream and may scream, — It is

T leaves on his limb; May scream and may scream, — It is

B leaves on his limb; May scream and may scream, — It is

42

S noth - ing to him.

A noth - ing to him. Prone, beard - ed, and

T noth - ing to him. Prone, beard - ed, and

B noth - ing to him. Prone, beard - ed, and

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7

47 *poco accel.*

S Prone, beard - ed, and breast - ed

A breast - ed Like col - umns of

T breast - ed Like col - umns of

B breast - ed Like col - umns of

*cresc. poco accel.*

51 *f* *poco rit.*

S Like col - umns of stone; And tall as a pine,

A stone; And tall as a pine,

T stone; And tall as a pine, tall as a

B stone; And tall as a pine—

*f* *poco rit.*

56

S tall as a pine— A pine o - ver - thrown!

A as a pine— As A pine o - ver - thrown!

T pine, tall as a pine— A pine o - ver - thrown!

B As A pine o - ver - thrown!

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61 *accel.* *f* *Poco più mosso*

S His camp - fire's gone, What else can be done

A *accel.* *f* *Poco più mosso*

A His camp - fire's gone, What else can be done

T *accel.* *f* *Poco più mosso*

T gone, What else can be done

B *accel.* *f* *Poco più mosso*

B gone, What else can be done

67 *p* *rall.*

S Than let him sleep on Till the light, the light of the

A *p* *rall.*

A Than let him sleep on Till the light of the sun, sleep

T *p* *rall.*

T Than let him sleep on Till the light of the sun, the

B *p* *rall.*

B Than let him sleep on Till the light, the light of the

73 **Tempo I**

S sun?

A on Till the light of the sun?

T *pp* Ah,

B *pp* Ah,



# Dead in the Sierras

9

78

S

A

T

B

Ah!

Ah!

*pp*

*pp*

S

A

T

B

Ay, tomb - less! what of it? Ay,

Ay, tomb - less! what of it?

Ay, tomb - less! what of it?

Ay, tomb - less! what of it?

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

86

S

A

T

B

tomb - less! what of it? Mar - ble is

Ay, tomb - less! what of it? what of it?

Ay, tomb - less! what of it? what of it?

what of it? Mar - ble is

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

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91

S dust, Cold and re - pel - lent; *f* Mar - - - ble is

A Mar - ble is Cold and re - pel - lent; *f* Mar - - - ble is

T Mar - ble is Cold and re - pel - lent; *f* Mar - - - ble is dust, *f*

B dust, is dust, Cold and re - pel - lent; *f* Mar - - -

95

S dust, Cold and re - pel - lent, *rall.* Cold and re -

A dust, Cold and re - pel - lent, *rall.* Cold and re -

T - is dust, Cold and re - pel - lent, *rall.* Cold and re -

B ble is Cold and re - pel - lent, *rall.* Cold and re -

99

S pel - lent; *pp* And i - ron is rust,

A pel - lent; *pp* And i - ron is rust,

T pel - lent; *pp* And i - ron is rust,

B pel - lent; *pp* And i - ron is rust,

102 *morendo*

S rust, rust, rust.

A *morendo* rust, rust, rust.

T *morendo* rust, rust, rust.

B *morendo* rust, rust, rust.

Augener Ltd.  
(1905)

His footprints have failed us,  
Where berries are red,  
And madroños are rankest,—  
The hunter is dead!

The grizzly may pass  
By his half-open door;  
May pass and repass  
On his path, as of yore;

The panther may crouch  
In the leaves on his limb;  
May scream and may scream,—  
It is nothing to him.

Prone, bearded, and breasted  
Like columns of stone;  
And tall as a pine—  
As a pine overthrown!

His camp-fires gone,  
What else can be done  
Than let him sleep on  
Till the light of the sun?

Ay, tombless! what of it?  
Marble is dust,  
Cold and repellent;  
And iron is rust.

Joaquin Miller, a.k.a. Cincinnatus Heine Miller (1837-1913)

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