



Song of Apple Trees

Percy Eastman Fletcher
(1879-1932)

Editorial Note: The metronome marking in the original published score was $\text{♩} = 116$.

As that very rapid speed is counter the descriptive terms and character of the text, it seems a misprint. The marking here has been adjusted.

With a light, rhythmic buoyancy $\text{♩} = 116$
(Yet with warmth, and a sense of rapture.)

The musical score is written for four voices: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). It is in 2/4 time and B-flat major. The lyrics are: "Song of Ap - ple - trees, hon - ey - sweet and mur - mur - ous,". The score includes dynamic markings of *mf* and *mp*, and accents (>) over the final notes of each phrase. The Soprano part starts with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4 and B4. The Alto part starts with a half note F4, followed by quarter notes G4 and A4. The Tenor part starts with a half note E4, followed by quarter notes D4 and C4. The Bass part starts with a half note D3, followed by quarter notes C3 and B2.

Song of Apple Trees

5

S Where the swal - lows flash and shim - mer as they thrid the foam - white maze,

A Where the swal - lows flash and shim - mer as they thrid the foam - white maze,

T Where the swal - lows flash and shim - mer as they thrid the foam - white maze,

B Where the swal - lows flash and shim - mer as they thrid the foam - white maze,

9

S Breaths of far - off Av - a - lon are blown to us, come down to us,

A Breaths of far - off Av - a - lon are blown to us, come down to us,

T Breaths of far - off Av - a - lon are blown to us, come down to us,

B Breaths of far - off Av - a - lon are blown to us, come down to us,

13

S Av - a - lon of the Heart's De - sire,

A Av - a - lon of the Heart's De - sire,

T Av - a - lon of the Heart's De - sire,

B Av - a - lon of the Heart's De - sire,

Song of Apple Trees

17 *mf* **Slightly slower** *mp*

S Av - a - lon of the Hid - den Ways!

A Av - a - lon of the Hid - den Ways!

T Av - a - lon of the Hid - den Ways!

B Av - a - lon of the Hid - den Ways!

23 **Original time** *mf* *mp*

S Song of Ap - ple - blos - som, when the myr - iad

A Song of Ap - ple - blos - som, when the myr - iad

T Song of Ap - ple - blos - som, when the myr - iad

B Song of Ap - ple - blos - som, when the myr - iad

27 *mp*

S leaves are gleam - - - ing Like

A leaves are gleam - ing Like un - der - sides of small green

T leaves are gleam - ing Like un - der - sides of small green

B leaves are gleam - ing Like un - der - sides of small green

Song of Apple Trees

31

S un - der - sides of small green waves in foam of shal - low

A waves in foam of shal - - - low

T waves in foam of shal - - - low

B waves in foam of shal - - - low

34

smoothly

S seas, One may dream of Av - a - lon, lie dream - ing,

A seas, One may dream of Av - a - lon, lie dream - ing,

T seas, One may dream of Av - a - lon, lie dream - ing,

B seas, One may dream, lie dream - ing,

38

mp expressively

S dream - ing, One may dream of Av - a - lon, lie dream - ing, dream - ing,

A dream - ing, One may dream of Av - a - lon, lie dream - ing, dream - ing, Till

T dream - ing, One may dream of Av - a - lon, lie dream - ing, dream - ing,

B dream - ing, One may dream of Av - a - lon, lie dream - ing, dream - ing, Till

Song of Apple Trees

becoming slower

43

S Till wan - d'ring through dim vales of dusk the

A wan - d'ring through dim vales of dusk the

T Wan - d'ring through dim vales of dusk the

B wan - d'ring through dim vales of dusk the

peacefully

49

S stars hang in the trees.

A stars hang, hang in the trees.

T stars hang, hang in the trees.

B stars hang, hang in the trees.

Original time

53

S Song of Ap - ple - trees, hon - ey - sweet and mur - mur - ous,

A Song of Ap - ple - trees, hon - ey - sweet and mur - mur - ous,

T Song of Ap - ple - trees, hon - ey - sweet and mur - mur - ous,

B Song of Ap - ple - trees, hon - ey - sweet and mur - mur - ous,

Song of Apple Trees

57

S When the night - wind fills the branch - es with a sound of muf - fled oars,

A When the night - wind fills the branch - es with a sound of muf - fled oars,

T When the night - wind fills the branch - es with a sound of muf - fled oars,

B When the night - wind fills the branch - es with a sound of muf - fled oars,

61

S *cresc.* Breaths of far - off Av - a - lon are blown to us, come down to us,

A *cresc.* Breaths of far - off Av - a - lon are blown to us, come down to us,

T *cresc.* Breaths of far - off Av - a - lon are blown to us, come down to us,

B *cresc.* Breaths of far - off Av - a - lon are blown to us, come down to us,

65

S *mf* Av - a - lon of the Heart's *f* De - sire, _____

A *mf* Av - a - lon _____ of the Heart's *f* De - sire, _____

T *mf* Av - a - lon _____ of the Heart's *f* De - sire, _____

B *mf* Av - a - lon _____ of the Heart's *f* De - sire, _____

Song of Apple Trees

70

S
Av - a - lon

A
Av - a - lon

T
Av - a - lon

B
Av - a - lon of the Hid - den

76

S
of the Hid - - - den Shores.

A
of the Hid - - - den Shores.

T
of the Hid - - - den Shores.

B
Shores, the Hid - - - den Shores.

Novello and Company
(1924)

Avalon is an island in the Arthurian legend (Isle of apple trees). In various traditions of the legend, it is where the wounded King Arthur is taken after fighting Mordred at the Battle of Camlann. It is also where Arthur's sword *Excalibur* was forged.

Song of Apple-trees, honeysweet and murmurous,
 Where the swallows flash and shimmer as they thrid the foamwhite maze,
 Breaths of far-off Avalon are blown to us, come down to us,
 Avalon of the Heart's Desire, Avalon of the Hidden Ways!
 Song of Apple-blossom, when the myriad leaves are gleaming
 Like undersides of small green waves in foam of shallow seas,
 One may dream of Avalon, lie dreaming, dreaming, dreaming,
 Till wandering through dim vales of dusk the stars hang in the trees.
 Song of Apple-trees, honeysweet and murmurous,
 When the night-wind fills the branches with a sound of muffled oars,
 Breaths of far-off Avalon are blown to us, come down to us,
 Avalon of the Heart's Desire, Avalon of the Hidden Shores.

Fiona Macleod [pseud.]
 William Sharp (1855-1905)

Percy Eastman Fletcher (1879-1932) born in Derby, Derbyshire, England. He was successful as a musical director in various theaters in London, including the Prince of Wales, Savoy, and Drury Lane theaters. He directed at His Majesty's Theater from 1915 until his death in 1932. He was also a performer on organ, piano, and violin. He composed numerous ballads, choral works, orchestral suites, piano music, marches, pieces for organ, and works for military band. Several of his compositions were performed as test pieces for the British National Band Championships. In 1926, he created what some consider his most serious work for the championships, *An Epic Symphony*. It was brought back as a test piece for the National Championships of 1938, 1951, and 1976.

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