



# A Psalm of Life

John Kinross  
(1848-1890)

**John Kinross** (1848-1890) was born in Edinburgh, Scotland. Early in his career, he apprenticed with a music seller and briefly worked in a telegraph office in Ireland. He settled in Dundee and would travel to London on holidays to study with George A. Macfarren and others. He moved to London and became a successful teacher, pianist, and composer. He died in Hampstead, London. His compositions include a cantata, anthems, hymns, chants, works for harmonium, piano pieces, songs, and part-songs.

#### WHAT THE HEART OF THE YOUNG MAN SAID TO THE PSALMIST

Tell me not, in mournful numbers,  
“Life is but an empty dream!”—  
For the soul is dead that slumbers,  
And things are not what they seem.

Life is real! Life is earnest!  
And the grave is not its goal;  
“Dust thou art, to dust returnest,”  
Was not spoken of the soul.

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,  
Is our destined end or way;  
But to act, that each to-morrow  
Find us farther than to-day.

Art is long, and Time is fleeting,  
And our hearts, though stout and brave,  
Still, like muffled drums, are beating  
Funeral marches to the grave.

In the world’s broad field of battle,  
In the bivouac of Life,  
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!  
Be a hero in the strife!

Trust no Future, howe’er pleasant!  
Let the dead Past bury its dead!  
Act,— act in the living Present!  
Heart within, and God o’erhead!

Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time;

Footprints, that perhaps another,  
Sailing o’er life’s solemn main,  
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,  
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing,  
With a heart for any fate;  
Still achieving, still pursuing,  
Learn to labor and to wait.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)

# A Psalm of Life

John Kinross

Moderato con espressione  $\text{♩} = 88$

Soprano (S): Tell me not, in mourn - ful num - bers, "Life is"  
Alto (A): Tell me not, in mourn - ful num - bers, "Life is"  
Tenor (T): Tell me not, in mourn - ful num - bers, "Life is"  
Bass (B): Tell me not, in mourn - ful num - bers, "Life is"

Soprano (S): but an em - pty dream!" – For the soul is dead that  
Alto (A): but an em - pty dream!" – For the soul is dead that  
Tenor (T): but an em - pty dream!" – For the soul is dead that  
Bass (B): but an em - pty dream!" – For the soul is dead that

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6

S slum - bers, And things are not what they seem.

A slum - bers, And things are not what they seem.

T slum - bers, And things are not what they seem.

B slum - bers, And things are not what they seem. *mf*

Life is

9

S *mf* Life is real! Life is

A *mf* Life is real! Life is

T *mf* Life is real! Life is

B Life is real! Life is ear - nest! *f*

12

S ear - nest! And the grave is not its goal;

A ear - nest! And the grave is not its goal;

T ear - nest! And the grave is not its goal;

B — And the grave is not its goal; *f* "Dust thou

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5

15

Soprano (S): "Dust thou art, to dust re -  
Alto (A): "Dust thou art, to dust re -  
Tenor (T): "Dust thou art, to dust re -  
Bass (B): "Dust thou art, to dust re -  
art, to dust re - turn - est,"

18

Soprano (S): turn - est," Was not spok - en of the soul, was not  
Alto (A): turn - est," Was not spok - en of the soul, was not  
Tenor (T): turn - est," Was not spok - en of the soul, was not  
Bass (B): — Was not spok - en of the soul, was not

21

Soprano (S): spok - en of the soul. Not en - joy - ment, and not  
Alto (A): spok - en of the soul. Not en - joy - ment, and not  
Tenor (T): spok - en of the soul. Not en - joy - ment, and not  
Bass (B): spok - en of the soul. Not en - joy - ment, and not

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24

S soprano: sor - row, Is our des - tin'd end or way; But to  
A alto: sor - row, Is our des - tin'd end or way; But to  
T tenor: sor - row, Is our des - tin'd end or way; But to  
B bass: sor - row, Is our des - tin'd end or way; But to

27

S soprano: act, that each to - mor - row Find us far - ther than to - day.  
A alto: act, that each to - mor - row Find us far - ther than to - day.  
T tenor: act, that each to - mor - row Find us far - ther than to - day.  
B bass: act, that each to - mor - row Find us far - ther than to - day.

31

S soprano: Art is long, and Time is  
A alto: Art is long, and Time is  
T tenor: Art is long, and Time is  
B bass: Art is long, and Time is

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Soprano (S): Fu - - - neral march - es to the  
Alto (A): Still, like muf - fled drums, are  
Tenor (T): Fu - - - neral march - es to the  
Bass (B): Still, like muf - fled drums, are

46

Soprano (S): grave, to the grave.  
Alto (A): beat - ing to the grave.  
Tenor (T): grave, to the grave.  
Bass (B): beat - ing, beat - ing march - es to the grave.

*dim. e rall.*

*Con spirito ♩ = 132*

Soprano (S): In the world's broad field of bat - tle, In the  
Alto (A): In the world's broad field of bat - tle, In the  
Tenor (T): In the world's broad field of bat - tle, In the  
Bass (B): In the world's broad field of bat - tle, In the

# A Psalm of Life

9

53

S biv - ou - ac of Life, Be not like dumb, driv - en

A biv - ou - ac of Life, Be not like dumb, driv - en

T biv - ou - ac of Life, Be not like dumb, driv - en

B biv - ou - ac of Life, Be not like dumb, driv - en

56

S cat - tle! Be a he - ro in the strife! Be a

A cat - tle! Be a he - ro in the strife! Be a

T cat - tle! Be a he - ro in the strife! Be a

B cat - tle! Be a he - ro in the strife! Be a

59

S he - ro, be a he - ro, be a he - ro in the

A he - ro, be a he - ro, be a he - ro in the

T he - ro, be a he - ro, be a he - ro in the

B he - ro, be a he - ro, be a he - ro in the

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62

S  
strife! Be a he - ro, be a he - ro, be a  
A  
strife! Be a he - ro, be a he - ro, be a  
T  
strife! Be a he - ro, be a he - ro, be a  
B  
strife! Be a he - ro, be a he - ro, be a he - ro

65

S  
he - ro in the strife! In the world's broad field of  
A  
he - ro in the strife! In the world's broad field of  
T  
he - ro in the strife! In the world's broad field of  
B  
in the strife! In the world's broad field of

68

S  
bat - tle, In the biv - ou - ac of Life, Be not  
A  
bat - tle, In the biv - ou - ac of Life, Be not  
T  
bat - tle, In the biv - ou - ac of Life, Be not  
B  
bat - tle, In the biv - ou - ac of Life, Be not

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11

71

*cresc.*

S like dumb, driv - en cat - tle! Be a he - ro in the strife!

A like dumb, driv - en cat - tle! Be a he - ro in the strife!

T like dumb, driv - en cat - tle! Be a he - ro in the strife!

B like dumb, driv - en cat - tle! Be a he - ro in the strife!

*rall.*

*cresc.*

*rall.*

*cresc.*

*rall.*

*cresc.*

*rall.*

*Tempo I*

S Trust no Fu - ture, how - e'er pleas - ant! Let the dead

A Trust no Fu - ture, how - e'er pleas - ant! Let the dead

T Trust no Fu - ture, how - e'er pleas - ant! Let the dead

B

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*3*

*3*

*3*

77

S Past bur - y its dead! Act,- act in the liv - ing

A Past bur - y its dead! Act,- act in the liv - ing

T Past bur - y its dead! Act,- act in the liv - ing

B

*p fz*

*p fz*

*p fz*

*p fz*

*3*

*3*

*3*

*3*

## A Psalm of Life

80

S Pres - ent! Heart with - in, and God o'er - head!

A Pres - ent! Heart with - in, and God o'er - head!

T Pres - ent! Heart with - in, and God o'er - head!

B Pres - ent! Heart with - in, and God o'er - head! Lives of

83

S Lives of great men all re -

A Lives of great men all re -

T Lives of great men all re -

B great men all re - mind us

86

S mind us We can make our lives sub - lime,

A mind us We can make our lives sub - lime,

T mind us We can make our lives sub - lime,

B — We can make our lives sub - lime, And, de -

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13

89

S And, de - part - ing, leave be -  
A And, de - part - ing, leave be -  
T And, de - part - ing, leave be -  
B part - ing, leave be - hind us

92

S hind us Foot - prints on the sands of time, foot - prints  
A hind us Foot - prints on the sands of time, foot - prints  
T hind us Foot - prints on the sands of time, foot - prints  
B — Foot - prints on the sands of time, foot - prints

95

S on the sands of time; Foot - prints, that per - haps an -  
A on the sands of time; Foot - prints, that per - haps an -  
T on the sands of time; Foot - prints, that per - haps an -  
B on the sands of time; Foot - prints, that per - haps an -

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98

S oth - er, Sail - ing o'er life's sol - emn main, A for -  
A oth - er, Sail - ing o'er life's sol - emn main, A for -  
T oth - er, Sail - ing o'er life's sol - emn main, A for -  
B oth - er, Sail - ing o'er life's sol - emn main, A for -

101

S lorn and ship - wreck'd broth - er, See - ing, shall take heart a -  
A lorn and ship - wreck'd broth - er, See - ing, shall take heart a -  
T lorn and ship - wreck'd broth - er, See - ing, shall take heart a -  
B lorn and ship - wreck'd broth - er, See - ing, shall take heart a -

104

S gain. Let us, then, be up and do - ing, With a  
A gain. Let us, then, be up and do - ing, With a  
T gain. Let us, then, be up and do - ing, With a  
B gain. Let us, then, be up and do - ing, With a

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15

107

S heart for an - y fate; Still a - chiev - ing, still pur -  
A heart for an - y fate; Still a - chiev - ing, still pur -  
T heart for an - y fate; Still a - chiev - ing, still pur -  
B heart for an - y fate; Still a - chiev - ing, still pur -

110

S su - ing, Learn to la - bor and to wait, Still a - chiev - ing, still pur -  
A su - ing, Learn to la - bor and to wait, Still a - chiev - ing, still pur -  
T su - ing, Learn to la - bor and to wait, Still a - chiev - ing, still pur -  
B su - ing, Learn to la - bor and to wait, Still a - chiev - ing, still pur -

114

S su - ing, Learn to la - - bor and to wait.  
A su - ing, Learn to la - - bor and to wait.  
T su - ing, Learn to la - - bor and to wait.  
B su - ing, Learn to la - - bor and to wait.

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