



The River

W. W. Pearson
(1839-1913)

William Webster Pearson (1839-1913) was born at Bishop Auckland, Durham, England. He was a chorister of York Minster, but was mainly a self-taught musician. He served as organist and choirmaster of Elmhurst Parish Church, Norfolk; was violinist with a quintet at East Dereham; taught violin at Norfolk County School, Dereham; served as master of music and art at Watts' Naval College, North Elmham; was conductor of numerous bands; and a teacher of violin, organ, and piano. He invented a system of sight-singing called "Substitution of Pitch" or "Staff Tonic Sol-Fa" and developed a staff modulator to aid the learning of sight-singing. His compositions include anthems, organ works, piano pieces, songs, dance music, a cantata for female voices, and part songs. A number of his part songs were very popular. He was also a skilled amateur artist, painting in oil and watercolor. He died at South Walsham, Norfolk.

River, river, little river!
Bright you sparkle on your way;
O'er the yellow pebbles dancing,
Through the flowers and foliage glancing,
Like a child at play.

River, river! swelling river!
On you rush through rough and smooth;
Louder, faster, brawling, leaping,
Over rocks, by rose-banks, sweeping
Like impetuous youth.

River, river! brimming river!
Broad and deep, and still as Time;
Seeming still, yet still in motion,
Tending onward to the ocean,
Just like mortal prime.

River, river! Rapid river,
Swifter now you slip away;
Gliding smoothly, as an arrow,
Through a channel dark and narrow,
Like life's closing day.

River, river! headlong river!
Down you dash into the sea,—
Sea that line hath never sounded,
Sea that sail hath never rounded,
Like eternity.

Caroline Ann Bowles (1786-1854)

The River

W. W. Pearson

Allegro moderato $\text{♩} = 84$

S *p* Riv - er, riv - er, lit - tle riv - er! Bright you spar - kle on your way;

A *p* Riv - er, riv - er, lit - tle riv - er! Bright you spar - kle on your way;

T *p* Riv - er, riv - er, lit - tle riv - er! Bright you spar - kle on your way; —

B *p* Riv - er, riv - er, lit - tle riv - er! Bright you spar - kle on your way; —

S⁵ O'er the yel - low peb - bles danc - ing, Through the flow'rs and fo - liage glanc - ing,

A O'er the yel - low peb - bles danc - ing, Through the flow'rs and fo - liage glanc - ing,

T O'er the yel - low peb - bles danc - ing, Through the flow'rs and fo - liage glanc - ing,

B O'er the yel - low peb - bles danc - ing, Through the flow'rs and fo - liage glanc - ing,

The River

9 *p*

S Riv - er, riv - er, lit - tle riv - er! Bright you spar - kle on your way;

A Riv - er, riv - er, lit - tle riv - er! Bright you spar - kle on your way;

T Riv - er, riv - er, lit - tle riv - er! Bright you spar - kle on your way;

B Riv - er, riv - er, lit - tle riv - er! Bright you spar - kle on your way;

13

S O'er the yel - low peb - bles danc - ing, Through the flow'rs and

A O'er the yel - low peb - bles danc - ing, Through the flow'rs and

T O'er the yel - low peb - bles danc - ing, Through the flow'rs and

B O'er the yel - low peb - bles danc - ing, Through the flow'rs and

16 **Lento**
cantabile ♩ = 84

S fo - liage glanc - ing, Like a child at play.

A fo - liage glanc - ing, Like a child at play.

T fo - liage glanc - ing, Like a child at play.

B fo - liage glanc - ing, Like a child at play.

The River

Tempo 1mo

19 *p*

S Riv - er, riv - er, lit - tle riv - er! Bright you spar - kle on your way.

A Riv - er, riv - er, lit - tle riv - er! Bright you spar - kle on your way.

T Riv - er, riv - er, lit - tle riv - er! Bright you spar - kle on your way.

B Riv - er, riv - er, lit - tle riv - er! Bright you spar - kle on your way.

23 *f* >

S Riv - er, riv - er! Swell-ing riv - er! On you rush through rough and smooth;

A Riv - er, riv - er! Swell-ing riv - er! On you rush through rough and smooth;

T Riv - er, riv - er! Swell-ing riv - er! On you rush through rough and smooth;

B Riv - er, riv - er! Swell-ing riv - er! On you rush through rough and smooth;

27 *cresc.* >

S Loud - er, fast - er, brawl - ing, leap - ing, O - ver rocks, by

A Loud - er, fast - er, brawl - ing, leap - ing, O - ver rocks, by

T Loud - er, fast - er, brawl - ing, leap - ing, O - ver rocks, by

B Loud - er, fast - er, brawl - ing, leap - ing, O - ver rocks, by

The River

30 *dim.* **Lentando cantabile** *p* ♩ = 84

S
rose - banks, sweep - ing Like im - pet - uous youth.

A
rose - banks, sweep - ing Like im - pet - uous youth.

T
rose - banks, sweep - ing Like im - pet - uous youth.

B
rose - banks, sweep - ing Like im - pet - uous youth.

Tempo 1mo

33

S
Riv - er, riv - er! Swell - ing riv - er! On you rush through rough and smooth.

A
Riv - er, riv - er! Swell - ing riv - er! On you rush through rough and smooth.

T
Riv - er, riv - er! Swell - ing riv - er! On you rush through rough and smooth.

B
Riv - er, riv - er! Swell - ing riv - er! On you rush through rough and smooth.

37 *mf*

S
Riv - er, riv - er! Brim - ming riv - er! Broad and deep, and still as Time;—

A
Riv - er, riv - er! Brim - ming riv - er! Broad and deep, and still as Time;—

T
Riv - er, riv - er! Brim - ming riv - er! Broad and deep, and still as Time;—

B
Riv - er, riv - er! Brim - ming riv - er! Broad and deep, and still as Time;

The River

41

S Seem - ing still, yet still in mo - tion, Tend - ing on - ward

A Seem - ing still, yet still in mo - tion, Tend - ing on - ward

T Seem - ing still, yet still in mo - tion, Tend - ing on - ward

B Seem - ing still, yet still in mo - tion, Tend - ing on - ward

**Lento
cantabile** ♩ = 84

44

S to the o - cean, — Just like mor - tal prime.

A to the o - cean, Just like mor - tal prime.

T to the o - cean, Just like mor - tal prime.

B to the o - cean, Just like mor - tal prime.

Tempo 1mo

47

S Riv - er, riv - er! Brim - ming riv - er! Broad and deep, and still as Time.

A Riv - er, riv - er! Brim - ming riv - er! Broad and deep, and still as Time.

T Riv - er, riv - er! Brim - ming riv - er! Broad and deep, and still as Time.

B Riv - er, riv - er! Brim - ming riv - er! Broad and deep, and still as Time.

The River

51 *f* > > > >

S Riv - er, riv - er! Rap - id riv - er, Swift - er now you slip a - way;

A Riv - er, riv - er! Rap - id riv - er, Swift - er now you slip a - way;

T Riv - er, riv - er! Rap - id riv - er, Swift - er now you slip a - way;

B Riv - er, riv - er! Rap - id riv - er, Swift - er now you slip a - way;

55 > *cresc.* > > > >

S Glid - ing smooth - ly, as an ar - row, Through a chan - nel

A Glid - ing smooth - ly, as an ar - row, Through a chan - nel

T Glid - ing smooth - ly, as an ar - row, Through a chan - nel

B Glid - ing smooth - ly, as an ar - row, Through a chan - nel

58 *dim.* *Lento cantabile* $\text{♩} = 84$ *p*

S dark and nar - row, Like life's clos - ing day.

A dark and nar - row, Like life's clos - ing day.

T dark and nar - row, Like life's clos - ing day.

B dark and nar - row, Like life's clos - ing day.

The River

Tempo 1mo

61

S Riv - er, riv - er! Rap - id riv - er, Swift - er now you slip a - way.

A Riv - er, riv - er! Rap - id riv - er, Swift - er now you slip a - way.

T Riv - er, riv - er! Rap - id riv - er, Swift - er now you slip a - way.

B Riv - er, riv - er! Rap - id riv - er, Swift - er now you slip a - way.

65

mf S Riv - er, riv - er! Head - long riv - er! Down you dash in - to the sea,—

mf A Riv - er, riv - er! Head - long riv - er! Down you dash in - to the sea,—

mf T Riv - er, riv - er! Head - long riv - er! Down you dash in - to the sea,—

mf B Riv - er, riv - er! Head - long riv - er! Down you dash in - to the sea,—

69

S Sea that line hath nev - er sound - ed, Sea that sail hath nev - er round - ed,

A Sea that line hath nev - er sound - ed, Sea that sail hath nev - er round - ed,

T Sea that line hath nev - er sound - ed, Sea that sail hath nev - er round - ed,

B Sea that line hath nev - er sound - ed, Sea that sail hath nev - er round - ed,

The River

Lentando
cantabile ♩ = 84

73

S *p* Like e - ter - ni - ty, *pp* Like e - ter - ni - ty.

A *p* Like e - ter - ni - ty, *pp* Like e - ter - ni - ty.

T *p* Like e - ter - ni - ty, *pp* Like e - ter - ni - ty.

B *pp* Like e - ter - ni - ty.

Novello, Ewer and Co.
(1880)

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