



The poetry of
Longfellow

Tell me not, in mournful numbers

Ciro Pinsuti
(1829–1888)

Ciro Ercole Pinsuti, il cavaliere, (1829-1888) was born in Sinalunga, Siena, Italy, and grounded in music and piano studies by his father. His public debut was at age ten and at eleven he was made honorary member of the Accademia Filharmonica. He then studied piano, composition and violin in England for five years. Returning to Italy, he entered the Conservatorio at Bologna and was a private pupil of Rossini. He moved back to England in 1848 and became a teacher of singing. In 1856 he was appointed a professor at the Academy of Music in London. He became well known as a composer with three operas, but was especially recognized for composing over 230 songs, 35 duets, 14 trios and 45 part-songs which were great favorites with the singing societies of England. In 1878, King Humbert created him a knight of the Italian crown. He died in Florence.

A Psalm of Life
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)

Tell me not, in mournful numbers

C. Pinsuti

Andante moderato ♩ = 52

S
Tell me not, in mourn-ful num - bers, Life is but an emp - ty dream!— For the

A
Tell me not, in mourn-ful num - bers, Life is but an emp - ty dream!— For the

T
Tell me not, in mourn-ful num - bers, Life is but an emp - ty dream!— For the

B
Tell me not, in mourn-ful num - bers, Life is but an emp - ty dream!— For the

Poco più mosso

5
S
soul is dead that slum - bers, And things are not what they seem. Life is

A
soul is dead that slum - bers, And things are not what they seem. Life is

T
soul is dead that slum - bers, And things are not what they seem. Life is

B
soul is dead that slum - bers, And things are not what they seem. Life is

Tell me not, in mournful numbers

9

S
re - all! Life is ear - nest! And the grave is not its goal; Dust thou

A
re - all! Life is ear - nest! And the grave is not its goal; Dust thou

T
re - all! Life is ear - nest! And the grave is not its goal; Dust thou

B
re - all! Life is ear - nest! And the grave is not its goal; Dust thou

13

S
art, to dust re - turn - est, Was not spo - ken of the soul. Not en -

A
art, to dust re - turn - est, Was not spo - ken of the soul. Not en -

T
art, to dust re - turn - est, Was not spo - ken of the soul. Not en -

B
art, to dust re - turn - est, Was not spo - ken of the soul. Not en -

17

S
joy - ment, and not sor - row, Is our des - tined end or way; But to

A
joy - ment, and not sor - row, Is our des - tined end or way; But to

T
joy - ment, and not sor - row, Is our des - tined end or way; But to

B
joy - ment, and not sor - row, Is our des - tined end or way; But to

Tell me not, in mournful numbers

21 *animando e cresc.*

S act, that each to - mor - row Find us far - ther than to - day; But to

A *animando e cresc.*
act, that each to - mor - row Find us far - ther than to - day; But to

T *animando e cresc.*
act, that each to - mor - row Find us far - ther than to - day; But to

B *animando e cresc.*
act, that each to - mor - row Find us far - ther than to - day; But to

25 *f* act, that each to - mor - row Find us far - ther than to - day. *p* *rall.*

A *f* act, that each to - mor - row Find us far - ther than to - day. *p* *rall.*

T *f* act, that each to - mor - row Find us far - ther than to - day. *p* *rall.*

B *f* act, that each to - mor - row Find us far - ther than to - day. *p* *rall.*

Tempo 1mo.

S *p* Art is long, and Time is fleet - ing, And our hearts, though stout and brave, Still, like *f* *p*

A *p* Art is long, and Time is fleet - ing, And our hearts, though stout and brave, Still, like *f* *p*

T *p* Art is long, and Time is fleet - ing, And our hearts, though stout and brave, Still, like *f* *p*

B *p* Art is long, and Time is fleet - ing, And our hearts, though stout and brave, Still, like *f* *p*

Tell me not, in mournful numbers

Poco più mosso

33

S muf - fled drums, are beat - ing Fu - ne - ral march - es to the grave. In the

A muf - fled drums, are beat - ing Fu - ne - ral march - es to the grave. In the

T muf - fled drums, are beat - ing Fu - ne - ral march - es to the grave. In the

B muf - fled drums, are beat - ing Fu - ne - ral march - es to the grave. In the

37

S world's broad field of bat - tle, In the biv - ou - ac of Life, Be not

A world's broad field of bat - tle, In the biv - ou - ac of Life, Be not

T world's broad field of bat - tle, In the biv - ou - ac of Life, Be not

B world's broad field of bat - tle, In the biv - ou - ac of Life, Be not

41

S like dumb, driv - en cat - tle! Be a he - ro in the strife! Trust no

A like dumb, driv - en cat - tle! Be a he - ro in the strife! Trust no

T like dumb, driv - en cat - tle! Be a he - ro in the strife! Trust no

B like dumb, driv - en cat - tle! Be a he - ro in the strife! Trust no

con grazia

8 Tell me not, in mournful numbers

45

S Fu - ture, how - e'er pleas - ant! Let the dead Past bur - y its dead!

A Fu - ture, how - e'er pleas - ant! Let the dead Past bur - y its dead!

T Fu - ture, how - e'er pleas - ant! Let the dead Past bur - y its dead!

B Fu - ture, how - e'er pleas - ant! Let the dead Past bur - y its dead!

49 *animando e cresc.* *cresc.*

S Act, —act in the liv - ing Pres - ent! Heart with - in, and God o'er-head;

A *animando e cresc.* *cresc.*

T *animando e cresc.* *cresc.*

B *animando e cresc.* *cresc.*

Act, —act in the liv - ing Pres - ent! Heart with - in, and God o'er-head;

53 *f*

S Act, —act in the liv - ing Pres - ent! Heart with - in, and God o'er - head!

A *f*

T *f*

B *f*

Act, —act in the liv - ing Pres - ent! Heart with - in, and God o'er - head!

Tell me not, in mournful numbers

Tempo 1mo.

S
Lives of great men all re-mind us We can make our lives sub - lime, And, de-

A
Lives of great men all re-mind us We can make our lives sub - lime, And, de-

T
Lives of great men all re-mind us We can make our lives sub - lime, And, de-

B
Lives of great men all re-mind us We can make our lives sub - lime, And, de-

Poco più mosso

61
S
part - ing, leave be - hind us Foot - prints on the sands of time; Foot - prints,

A
part - ing, leave be - hind us Foot - prints on the sands of time; Foot - prints,

T
part - ing, leave be - hind us Foot - prints on the sands of time; Foot - prints,

B
part - ing, leave be - hind us Foot - prints on the sands of time; Foot - prints,

65
S
that per - haps an - oth - er, Sail - ing o'er life's sol - emn main, A for -

A
that per - haps an - oth - er, Sail - ing o'er life's sol - emn main, A for -

T
that per - haps an - oth - er, Sail - ing o'er life's sol - emn main, A for -

B
that per - haps an - oth - er, Sail - ing o'er life's sol - emn main, A for -

Tell me not, in mournful numbers

69 *con grazia*

S lorn and ship - wrecked broth - er, See - ing, shall take heart a - gain. Let us,

A lorn and ship - wrecked broth - er, See - ing, shall take heart a - gain. Let us,

T lorn and ship - wrecked broth - er, See - ing, shall take heart a - gain. Let us,

B lorn and ship - wrecked broth - er, See - ing, shall take heart a - gain. Let us,

73

S then, be up and do - ing, With a heart for an - y fate; Still a -

A then, be up and do - ing, With a heart for an - y fate; Still a -

T then, be up and do - ing, With a heart for an - y fate; Still a -

B then, be up and do - ing, With a heart for an - y fate; Still a -

77 *animando e cresc.*

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

A *animando e cresc.* chiev - ing, still pur - su - ing, Learn to la - bor and to wait; Still a -

T *animando e cresc.* chiev - ing, still pur - su - ing, Learn to la - bor and to wait; Still a -

B *animando e cresc.* chiev - ing, still pur - su - ing, Learn to la - bor and to wait; Still a -

Tell me not, in mournful numbers

81

S
chiev - ing, still pur - su - ing, Learn to la - bor and to wait.

A
chiev - ing, still pur - su - ing, Learn to la - bor and to wait.

T
chiev - ing, still pur - su - ing, Learn to la - bor and to wait.

B
chiev - ing, still pur - su - ing, Learn to la - bor and to wait.

Novello, Ewer, and Company
(1869-1885)

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