



# Bushes and Briars

Ralph Vaughan Williams  
(1872-1958)

Thro' bushes and thro' briars,  
Of late I took my way;  
All for to hear the small birds sing,  
And the lambs to skip and play.

I overheard my own true love,  
Her voice it was so clear,  
"Long time I have been waiting for  
The coming of my dear.

Sometimes I am uneasy,  
And troubled in my mind,  
Sometimes, I think I'll go to my love  
And tell to him my mind;

And if I should go to my love,  
My love he will say nay;  
If I show to him my boldness,  
He'll ne'er love me again."

Traditional

# Bushes and Briars

RVW

Lento

S

A 2nd Sopr. & Alto *p*

T

B

Thro' bushes and thro' briars, Of late I took my way; All

S

A

T

B

5

for to hear the small birds sing, And the lambs to

## Bushes and Briars

10 1st Sopr. *pp*

S Ah\* (half-closed) (close lips gradually)

A skip and play.

T *pp* Ah\* (half-closed) (close lips gradually)

B Ah\* (half-closed) (close lips gradually)

\* Not an open "Ah" but the short "u," as in the word "but."

16

S (lips closed)

A *mp* (lips closed) I o - ver - heard my own true love, Her voice it was so

T (lips closed)

B (lips closed)

20

S Ah (half-closed)

A clear, "Long time I have been wait - ing for The

T *pp* Ah (half-closed)

B

# Bushes and Briars

25

S *pp* (close lips gradually)

A com - ing of my dear.

T

B *pp* Ah (half-closed)

30

S *pp* (lips closed)

A *mp* Some - times I am un - eas - y, And trou - bled in my

T (close lips gradually) *pp* (lips closed) *pp* Ah (half-closed)

B (close lips gradually) *pp* (lips closed)

35

S *pp* Ah (half-closed)

A mind, Some - times, I think I'll go to my love And

T *pp* Ah (half-closed)

B

## Buzhes and Briars

40

S *p*

A tell to— him my— mind; *mf* And if I should go

T *p*

B *pp* Ah (half-closed) *p*

45

S *cresc.* Ah (open) *f*

A to my love, *cresc.* My love he will say— nay; *ff* If I show to—

T *cresc.* Ah (open) *f*

B *p* *cresc.* Ah (open BARITONES only) *f*

49

S *dim.* *pp* *rall.* (close lips gradually)

A him my bold - ness, *p* He'll ne'er love— me a - *rall.*

T *dim.* *rall.* *pp* (close lips gradually)

B *dim.* *pp* *rall.* (close lips gradually)

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54

Soprano (S): *pp a tempo* (lips closed) *molto rit.* *ppp*

Alto (A): *pp a tempo* gain." *pp molto rit.* (lips closed) *ppp*

Tenor (T): *a tempo* *pp* (lips closed) *molto rit.* *ppp*

Bass (B): *a tempo* *pp* *molto rit.* *ppp*

(lips closed BASS & BARITONE)

Novello and Company  
(1924)

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