



The lark and the nightingale

Reginald Somerville
(1867-1948)

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Reginald Somerville

Allegretto ♩ = 80

S *pp* “O night - in - gale, O night - in - gale, I wish you’d go to sleep!” *p* Thus

A *pp* “O night - in - gale, O night - in - gale, I wish you’d go to sleep!” *p* Thus

T *pp* “O night - in - gale, O night - in - gale, I wish you’d go to sleep, to sleep!” *p* Thus

B *pp* “O night - in - gale, O night - in - gale, I wish you’d go to sleep!” *p* Thus

5

S *p* said the drow - sy, drow - sy sky - lark in his nest, “You know I have to

A *p* said the drow - sy, drow - sy sky - lark in his nest, his nest, “You know I have to

T *p* said the drow - sy, drow - sy sky - lark in his nest, “You know I have to

B *p* said the drow - sy, drow - sy sky - lark in his nest, his nest, “You know I have to

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10

S rise be - times, my morn - ing tryst to keep, _____ And all good birds should

A rise be - times, my morn - ing tryst to keep, _____ And all good birds should

T rise be - times, my morn - ing tryst to keep, to ___ keep, And all good birds should

B rise be - times, my morn - ing tryst to keep, _____ And all good birds should

14

S now be hush'd, should now be hush'd to rest." But the sky - lark was un -

A now be hush'd, should now be hush'd to rest." But the sky - lark was un -

T now be hush'd, should now be hush'd to rest." But the sky - lark was un -

B now be hush'd, should now be hush'd to rest." But the sky - lark was un -

p *rit.* *p a tempo*

18

S heard, By the night's me - lo - dious bird, Who poured his soul in

A heard, By the night's me - lo - dious bird, Who poured his soul in

T heard, By the night's me - lo - dious bird, Who poured his soul in

B heard, By the night's me - lo - dious bird, Who poured his soul in

mf

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23 *poco rit.* *p* *a tempo*

S song so full and free, That the lit - tle sleep - y lark, In his nest down in the

A song so full and free, That the lit - tle sleep - y lark, In his nest down in the

T song so full and free, That the lit - tle sleep - y lark, In his nest down in the

B song so full and free, That the lit - tle sleep - y lark, In his nest down in the

28 *p* *rit.*

S dark, Was en - rap - tur'd by the mu - sic, by the mu - sic from the tree.

A dark, Was en - rap - tur'd by the mu - sic, by the mu - sic from the tree.

T 8 dark, Was en - rap - tur'd by the mu - sic, by the mu - sic from the tree.

B dark, Was en - rap - tur'd by the mu - sic, by the mu - sic from the tree.

33 *a tempo* *pp* *p*

S "O lit - tle lark, O lit - tle lark, it wants an hour to day," _____ Thus

A "O lit - tle lark, O lit - tle lark, it wants an hour to day," _____ Thus

T 8 "O lit - tle lark, O lit - tle lark, it wants an hour to day, to ___ day," Thus

B "O lit - tle lark, O lit - tle lark, it wants an hour to day," _____ Thus

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38

S
sigh'd the wea - ry, wea - ry night - in - gale at dawn; "Why *p*

A
sigh'd the wea - ry, wea - ry night - in - gale at dawn, at dawn; "Why *p*

T
sigh'd the wea - ry, wea - ry night - in - gale at dawn; "Why *p*

B
sigh'd the wea - ry, wea - ry night - in - gale at dawn, at dawn; "Why *p*

42

S
wake us up so ear - ly with thy wild un - tu - tor'd lay, O *p*

A
wake us up so ear - ly with thy wild un - tu - tor'd lay, O *p*

T
wake us up so ear - ly with thy wild, thy wild un - tu - tor'd lay, O *p*

B
wake us up so ear - ly with thy wild un - tu - tor'd lay, O *p*

46

S
pri - thee wait, O pri - thee wait till all the night is gone." But the *rit. p a tempo*

A
pri - thee wait, O pri - thee wait till all the night is gone." But the *rit. p a tempo*

T
pri - thee wait, O pri - thee wait till all the night is gone." But the *rit. p a tempo*

B
pri - thee wait, O pri - thee wait till all the night is gone." But the *rit. p a tempo*

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50

S mur - mur was un - heard By the morn - ing's fa - vour'd bird, Who far and

A mur - mur was un - heard By the morn - ing's fa - vour'd bird, Who far and

T mur - mur was un - heard By the morn - ing's fa - vour'd bird, Who far and

B mur - mur was un - heard By the morn - ing's fa - vour'd bird, Who far and

55

S wide his won - drous joy he threw, Till the song - bird of the night, Caught the

A wide his won - drous joy he threw, Till the song - bird of the night, Caught the

T wide his won - drous joy he threw, Till the song - bird of the night, Caught the

B wide his won - drous joy he threw, Till the song - bird of the night, Caught the

poco rit. *a tempo*

60

S sun - shine and de - light, As he lis - ten'd to the mu - sic, to the mu - sic from the

A sun - shine and de - light, As he lis - ten'd to the mu - sic, to the mu - sic from the

T sun - shine and de - light, As he lis - ten'd to the mu - sic, to the mu - sic from the

B sun - shine and de - light, As he lis - ten'd to the mu - sic, to the mu - sic from the

p

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65



S blue, As he lis - ten'd to the mu - sic, the mu - sic from the blue.

A blue, — As he lis - ten'd to the mu - sic, the mu - sic from the blue. —

T blue, — As he lis - ten'd to the mu - sic, the mu - sic from the blue.

B blue, — As he lis - ten'd to the mu - sic, the mu - sic from the blue.

Novello and Co.
(1900)

Reginald Somerville (1867-1948) was an English composer and actor known for writing many drawing-room ballads, part-songs and a handful of operas. He co-wrote music for the musical *A White Silk Dress* in 1896 and, in 1899, he wrote the one act opera *The 'Prentice Pillar*. These were followed by a number of other operas. The emergence of sound films devastated his work as a composer and he shifted his principal work to teaching. He became ill and the remainder of his life was plagued with financial difficulty.

“O nightingale, O nightingale, I wish you’d go to sleep!”
Thus said the drowsy skylark in his nest,
“You know I have to rise betimes, my morning tryst to keep,
And all good birds should now be hushed to rest.”

But the skylark was unheard,
By the night’s melodious bird,
Who poured his soul in song so full and free,
That the little sleepy lark,
In his nest down in the dark,
Was enraptured by the music from the tree.

“O little lark, O little lark, it wants an hour to day,”
Thus sighed the weary nightingale at dawn;
“Why wake us up so early with thy wild untutored lay,
O prithee wait till all the night is gone.”

But the murmur was unheard
By the morning’s favoured bird,
Who far and wide his wondrous joy he threw,
Till the songbird of the night,
Caught the sunshine and delight,
As he listened to the music from the blue.

Shapcott Wensley, aka Henry Shapcott Bunce (1854-1917)

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