



# The Splendour falls on Castle Walls

Ernest Walker  
(1870-1949)

**Ernest Walker** (1870–1949) was born in Bombay, India, son of a merchant, and went to England as an infant with his parents. He studied piano privately and was educated at Oxford. He was assistant organist, then organist at Balliol College, Oxford, later resigning due to personal religious beliefs. Remaining at Oxford, he served as director of music at Balliol and became a well-known pianist and teacher. He was for many years an examiner and member of the Board of Studies for music, was editor for the *Musical Gazette*, and authored a number of articles and books including *A History of Music in England* and *Free Thought and Church Music*. He died in Oxford. His compositions include orchestral works, chamber music, organ, pieces, piano pieces, choral works, and vocal works.

The splendour falls on castle walls  
And snowy summits old in story:  
The long light shakes across the lakes,  
And the wild cataract leaps in glory.  
Blow, bugle, blow, set the wild echoes flying,  
Blow, bugle; answer, echoes, dying, dying, dying.

O hark, O hear! how thin and clear,  
And thinner, clearer, farther going!  
O sweet and far from cliff and scar  
The horns of Elf-land faintly blowing!  
Blow, let us hear the purple glens replying:  
Blow, bugle; answer, echoes, dying, dying, dying.

O love, they die in yon rich sky,  
They faint on hill or field or river:  
Our echoes roll from soul to soul,  
And grow for ever and for ever.  
Blow, bugle, blow, set the wild echoes flying,  
And answer, echoes, answer, dying, dying, dying.

from *The Princess*  
Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)

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Andante con moto ♩ = 112

S *mp dolce tranquillo*  
The splen - dour falls on cas - tle

A *mp dolce tranquillo*  
The splen - dour falls on cas - tle

T *mp dolce tranquillo*  
The splen - dour falls on cas - tle walls

B *mp dolce tranquillo*  
The splen - dour falls on cas - tle

5  
S walls And snow - y sum - mits old in sto - ry: The long light

A walls And snow - y sum - mits old in sto - ry: The long light

T — And snow - y sum - mits, snow - y sum - mits old in sto - ry:

B walls And snow - y sum - mits old in sto - ry: The long light



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9

S shakes a - cross the lakes, And the wild

A shakes a - cross the lakes, And the wild

T The long light shakes a - cross the lakes, And the wild

B shakes a - cross the lakes, And the wild

13

S cat - aract leaps in glo - ry. Blow, bu - gle, blow,

A cat - aract leaps in glo - ry. Blow, bu - gle, blow,

T cat - aract leaps in glo - ry, leaps in glo - ry. Blow, bu - gle,

B cat - aract leaps in glo - ry. Blow, bu - gle, blow,

17

S blow, bu - gle, blow, set the wild

A blow, bu - gle, blow, set the wild

T blow, blow, bu - gle, blow, set

B blow, bu - gle, blow, set

# The Splendour falls on Castle Walls

20

S ech - - - oes fly - ing, *f* Blow, bu - gle; *f*

A ech - - - oes fly - ing, *f* Blow, bu - gle; *f*

T the wild ech - oes fly - - - ing, *f* Blow, bu - gle; *f*

B the wild ech - oes fly - - - ing, *f*

23

S an - swer, ech - oes, an - - - - swer, *ff*

A an - swer, ech - oes, an - - - - swer, *ff*

T an - swer, ech - oes, an - swer, an - *p*

B Blow, bu - gle; an - swer, ech - - - oes, *ff* *p*

27

S *pp* dy - ing, *dim.* *ppp* dy - ing.

A *pp* dy - ing, *dim.* *ppp* dy - ing.

T *pp* - swer, dy - ing, *dim.* *ppp* dy - ing.

B *pp* dy - ing, *dim.* *ppp* dy - ing.

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32

S *pp* O hark, O hear! how thin and

A *pp* O hark, O hear! how thin and

T *pp* O hark, O hear! how thin and clear,

B *pp* O hark, O hear! how thin and

36 *legatissimo*

S clear, And thin - ner, clear - er, far - ther go - ing! O sweet and

A *legatissimo* clear, And thin - ner, clear - er, far - ther go - ing! O sweet and

T *legatissimo* — And thin - ner, clear - er, far - ther, clear - er, far - ther go - ing!

B *legatissimo* clear, And thin - ner, clear - er, far - ther go - ing! O sweet and

40

S far from cliff and scar The horns of

A far from cliff and scar The horns of

T O sweet and far from cliff and scar The horns of

B far from cliff and scar The horns of

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44

S Elf - land faint - ly blow - ing! *ppp*

A Elf - land faint - ly blow - ing! *ppp*

T Elf - land faint - ly blow - ing! *ppp* Blow, *p*

B Elf - land faint - ly blow - ing! *ppp*

47

S Blow, *p* let *f* us hear the pur - ple

A Blow, *p* let *f* us hear the pur - ple

T let us hear the pur - ple

B Blow, *p* let *f* us hear the pur - ple

51

S glens re - ply - ing: *f* Blow, bu - gle;

A glens re - ply - ing: *f* Blow, bu - gle;

T glens re - ply - ing: *f* Blow, bu - gle;

B glens re - ply - ing:

## The Splendour falls on Castle Walls

54 *ff*

S an - swer, ech - oes, an - - - swer, *p*

A an - swer, ech - oes, an - - - swer, *p*

T an - swer, ech - oes, an - swer, an -

B *ff* Blow, bu - gle; an - swer, ech - - - oes, *p*

58 *pp* *dim.* *ppp*

S dy - ing, dy - ing, dy - ing.

A *pp* *dim.* *ppp*  
dy - ing, dy - ing, dy - ing.

T *pp* *dim.* *ppp*  
- swer, dy - ing, dy - ing, dy - ing.

B *pp* *dim.* *ppp*  
dy - ing, dy - ing, dy - ing.

63 *f*

S O love, they die in yon rich

A *f*  
O love, they die in yon rich

T *f*  
O love, they die in yon rich sky,

B *f*  
O love, they die in yon rich



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67

S sky, They faint on hill or field or riv - er: Our ech - oes

A sky, They faint on hill or field or riv - er: Our ech - oes

T — They faint on hill or field, on hill or field or riv - er:

B sky, They faint on hill or field or riv - er: Our ech - oes

71

S roll from soul to soul, And grow for

A roll from soul to soul, And grow for

T *sf* Our ech - oes roll from soul to soul, And grow for

B roll from soul to soul, And grow for

75

S *ff* ev - er and for ev - er. *p* Blow, bu - gle, blow,

A *ff* ev - er and for ev - er. *p* Blow, bu - gle, blow,

T *ff* ev - er and for ev - er, and for ev - er. *p* Blow, bu - gle,

B *ff* ev - er and for ev - er. *p* Blow, bu - gle, blow,

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79 *poco a poco sempre dim.*

S  
A  
T  
B

blow, bu - gle, blow, set the wild  
blow, bu - gle, blow, set the wild  
blow, \_\_\_\_\_ blow, bu - gle, blow, set  
blow, bu - gle, blow, set

82 *sempre dim.*

S  
A  
T  
B

ech - - - oes fly - ing, And an - swer,  
ech - - - oes fly - ing, And an - swer,  
the wild ech - oes fly - - - ing, And an - swer,  
the wild ech - oes fly - - - ing,

85 *sempre dim.*

S  
A  
T  
B

ech - oes, ech - oes, an - - - - swer,  
ech - oes, ech - oes, an - - - - swer,  
ech - oes, ech - oes, an - swer, \_\_\_\_\_ an -  
And an - swer, ech - oes, an - - - - swer,

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89

The musical score consists of four staves, labeled S (Soprano), A (Alto), T (Tenor), and B (Bass). Each staff begins with a treble clef (except for the Bass staff which has a bass clef) and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The music is in 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 'dy - ing, dy - ing, dy - ing.' for Soprano, Alto, and Bass; and 'swer, dy - ing, dy - ing, dy - ing.' for Tenor. Dynamic markings include *pp*, *dim.*, and *ppp*. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

S  
A  
T  
B

dy - ing, dy - ing, dy - ing.  
dy - ing, dy - ing, dy - ing.  
swer, dy - ing, dy - ing, dy - ing.  
dy - ing, dy - ing, dy - ing.

*pp* *dim.* *ppp*  
*pp* *dim.* *ppp*  
*pp* *dim.* *ppp*  
*pp* *dim.* *ppp*

Stainer & Bell  
(1908)

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