

ALCOTT SONGS

for soprano and piano

STEVE DANYEW

NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION OR PERFORMANCE

NOTES

I really enjoy the poetry of Louisa May Alcott, and I decided to create a song cycle comprised of six of her relatively short poems. I tried to pull together poems that are particularly fun, witty, and whimsical. As I began choosing these texts, I realized that it would be fun to organize them in a way that could depict a summer day: the first poem opens with “Awake! Awake!” The second talks about jumping among lily pads, the third describes spring flowers, and the fourth portrays a squirrel and his acorn adventures. The fifth seems to be about bees or another animal in a sort of dream-like story – I picture this as the point at which we dose off to sleep. The sixth and final poem is a lovely lullaby which brings the day to an end. Musically, I tried to create melodies and textures that mirror the fun and wit of the poetry. There is a variety of music, from very light spring-like dancing in the opening song, to the quiet and delicate lullaby at the end.

-SD

Note: If you are planning a performance of this piece, please let me know so that I can post information on my website and social media! You can contact me through my website, www.stevedanyew.com or by email at steve@stevedanyew.com. Thank you!

Alcott Songs

Louisa May Alcott

Steve Danyew

I. Awake! Awake!

$\text{♩} = 58$ Lightly, fun

Soprano

Musical score for Soprano and Piano, measures 1-3. The Soprano part consists of three whole rests. The Piano part features a melody in the right hand with eighth-note patterns and a bass line with dotted quarter notes. The dynamic is *mf*.

S

Musical score for Soprano, measures 4-6. The lyrics are: "A - wake! A - wake! for the ear - li - est gleam of". The dynamic is *mf*.

Pno.

Musical score for Piano, measures 4-6. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note melody and bass line as in measures 1-3.

S

Musical score for Soprano, measures 7-9. The lyrics are: "gold - en sun - light shines on the rip - pling waves that bright - ly flow be -". The tempo marking is *rit.* followed by *a tempo*.

Pno.

Musical score for Piano, measures 7-9. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note melody and bass line as in measures 1-3.

Alcott Songs - 2

12

S

neath the flow - er - ing vines.

Pno.

mf

16

S

A - wake! A - wake! for the

Pno.

mf

19

S

low, sweet chant of the wild - bird's morn - ing hymn comes

Pno.

Alcott Songs - 3

23

S

float - ing by on the fra - grant air, through the for - est cool and dim

Pno.

27

S

p

Then spread _____ each

Pno.

30

S

mf

wing _____ and _____ work, _____ and sing, through the

Pno.

II. Hello! Hello!

44 $\text{♩} = 60$ *mf* *molto rit.*

Piano score for measures 44-47. The music is in 6/8 time with a tempo of quarter note = 60. It features a melody in the right hand with triplets and a bass line with rests. Dynamics include *mf* and markings for *molto rit.*

48 *a tempo* *molto rit.* $\text{♩} = 104$

Piano score for measures 48-51. The music changes to 4/4 time with a tempo of quarter note = 104. It includes triplets and a change in dynamics from *a tempo* to *molto rit.*

52

Piano score for measures 52-53. The music continues in 4/4 time, featuring a melody in the right hand with slurs and a bass line with chords.

54 S

Piano score for measures 54-57. The music continues in 4/4 time, featuring a melody in the right hand with slurs and a bass line with chords. A vocal line (S) is shown with rests in measures 54-56 and a note in measure 57.

Alcott Songs - 6

57 $\text{♩} = 84$ *mf*

S Hel - lo! Hel-lo! Come down be-low, it's

Pno. *mp* *sim.*

61

S love - ly and cool out here in the pool;

Pno.

65 *mf* 3

S on a lil - y - pad float for a nice green boat.

Pno.

Alcott Songs - 7

68

S

Here we sit and sing in a pleas-ant ring;

Pno.

68

mf

71

S

rit. *mf* <

Or

Pno.

71

cantabile, legato

3 3

75

S

f

leap frog play, in the jol - li - est way. Our

Pno.

75

f *sim.*

77

S

games have be - gun, come join in the fun.

Pno.

79

S

$\text{♩} = 104$

Pno.

mf

81

S

mf

Our

Pno.

mp *mf*

III. Dear Grif

♩ = 60

mp <

89

S

Pno.

Dear

92

S

mf — stretch —

Grif, here is a whiff of beau - ti - ful spring flow-ers; The

Pno.

Red. *

95

S

big red rose is for your nose as toward the sky it

Pno.

IV. Here's a Nut

108 $\text{♩} = 100$

S

Pno.

mf *p* *mp* ³ *mf* *p* *mp* ³

111

S

Pno.

mf

114 *mf*

S

Here's a nut, there's a nut; hide it quick a-way, In a hole un-der leaves, to

Pno.

mf

V. Don't Drive Me Away

122 $\text{♩} = 69$ Mysterious

S

Pno.

p *f* *mf*

124

S

Pno.

f *p* *mf*

126

S

Pno.

f *rit.*

The musical score is arranged in three systems. Each system includes a vocal line (S) and a piano accompaniment (Pno.). The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as 'Mysterious' with a quarter note equal to 69 beats per minute. The first system (measures 122-123) shows the vocal line with rests and the piano accompaniment with a piano (*p*) introduction, a forte (*f*) section, and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) section. The second system (measures 124-125) continues the piano accompaniment with a forte (*f*) section and a piano (*p*) section. The third system (measures 126-127) shows the vocal line with rests and the piano accompaniment with a forte (*f*) section and a ritardando (*rit.*) section. A large diagonal watermark 'NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION OR PERFORMANCE' is overlaid across the score.

Slower, deliberate ♩ = 54

128

S

Don't drive me a-way, but hear what I say

Pno.

p

Detailed description: This system covers measures 128 to 130. The vocal line (S) begins with a whole rest in measure 128, followed by a quarter note G4 in measure 129, and then a series of eighth and quarter notes in measure 130. The piano accompaniment (Pno.) features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand. Dynamics include a piano (*p*) marking.

131

S

Bad men want the gold; They will steal it to-night, and you must take flight;

Pno.

mp

mf

3

Detailed description: This system covers measures 131 to 133. The vocal line (S) starts with a quarter note G4 in measure 131, followed by eighth notes in measure 132, and a triplet of eighth notes in measure 133. The piano accompaniment (Pno.) has a sparse texture with chords and single notes. Dynamics include mezzo-piano (*mp*) and mezzo-forte (*mf*).

134

S

so be

Pno.

p

5

Red.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 134 to 136. The vocal line (S) has a whole note G4 in measure 134 and a quarter note G4 in measure 135. The piano accompaniment (Pno.) features a complex texture with five-fingered chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include piano (*p*). A 'Red.' (Reduction) marking is present at the bottom.

135 *p*

S

qui - et and bu - sy and

Pno.

136

S

bold.

Pno.

p

Red.

137

S

137

Pno.

f

f *mf*

$\text{♩} = 69$ Tempo I

139

S

Pno.

f *p* *mf*

141

S

Pno.

f *rit.*

Slower, deliberate ♩ = 54

143

S

Pno.

p

Slip a - way with me, and you will see what a

VI. Lullaby

155 ♩ = 58 Sweetly, never in a hurry

S

Pno.

pedal ad lib. throughout

S

Pno.

165 *rit.* **Poco piu mosso** (♩ = c. 63) *rit.*

S

Pno.

a tempo
dolce, rubato

170 *p* *rit.*

S
Now the day is done, Now the shep - herd sun

Pno. *p*

a tempo *rit.* *a tempo*

174
S
drives his white flocks from the sky; Now the flow - ers

Pno.

rit.

178
S
rest on their moth - er's breast, hushed by her low lull - a -

Pno.

Poco meno mosso (♩ = c. 58)

183

S

by.

Pno.

188

S

Pno.

Poco piu mosso (♩ = c. 63)

193

rit.

S

Now 'mid shad-ows deep Falls bless-ed sleep, — like

rit.

Pno.