

A Song, A Prayer, A Voyage

See full texts on
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Text: "Spring, The Sweet Spring"
by Thomas Nashe (1567-1602)

1: A Song

John Biggs

Joyfully ♩=132

PIANO *ff* legato

The piano introduction is in 4/4 time, marked 'Joyfully' with a tempo of ♩=132. It features a right hand with flowing sixteenth-note patterns and a left hand with a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The music is in a key with two flats (B-flat major or D minor) and is marked 'ff' (fortissimo) and 'legato'.

5 HORN *ff*

This section shows the horn part and piano accompaniment for measures 5 through 11. The horn part is marked 'ff' and features a melodic line with some grace notes. The piano accompaniment consists of block chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, both marked 'ff'.

12 SOPRANO & ALTO *f*

TENOR & BASS *f*

Spring, Spring, Spring, sweet Spring, in Spring, sweet Spring, the

Spring, Spring—Spring, in Spring, sweet Spring, the

This section contains the vocal parts and piano accompaniment for measures 12 through 15. The vocal parts are for Soprano & Alto and Tenor & Bass, both marked 'f'. The lyrics are: 'Spring, Spring, Spring, sweet Spring, in Spring, sweet Spring, the' and 'Spring, Spring—Spring, in Spring, sweet Spring, the'. The piano accompaniment includes a horn part marked 'ff' and piano chords in the right hand, with a 'p' (piano) dynamic marking at the end of the section.

18

year's pleas - ant king; Then blooms each thing, Then blooms each thing,

year's pleas - ant king; Then blooms each thing,

f *ff*

f *ff*

23

Then blooms each thing, Then maids dance in a ring, Cold doth not sting, The

Then blooms each thing, Then maids dance in a ring, Cold doth not

ff *f*

ff *f*

28

pret - ty birds do sing, Cold doth not sting, The pret - ty birds do sing, do

sting, The pret - ty birds do sing, Cold doth not sting, The pret - ty birds do sing, do

CP 51

32

p sing, Cuck - oo, jug, jug pu - we, cuck - oo jug, jug

p sing, Cuck - oo, jug, jug pu - we, cuck - oo jug, jug

f

f

36

pu- we, *f* Cuck - oo, jug, jug pu - we, cuck - oo jug, jug pu- we, _____

pu- we, *f* Cuck - oo, jug, jug pu - we, cuck - oo jug, jug pu- we, _____

f *p* *f*

Hold all notes down.

40 (to=too) *ff* to-wit, to - wit, to-wit, to - wit-ta, to - wit-ta, to - wit.

(to=too) *ff* to-wit, to wit, to-wit, to wit, to-wit-ta, to wit-ta, to wit.

p *f*

f Ped.

45

To wit-ta woo. *p* *f* The palm and
 To wit-ta woo. *p* *f* The palm
 To wit-ta woo. *p* *f* The
 To wit-ta woo. *p* *f* The

p *f* *p* *f*

51

may make coun-try hous-es gay. The palm, the palm and may.
 and may, The palm and may make coun-try hous-es gay.
 palm and may make coun-try hous-es gay. The palm and may.
 palm and may, The palm and may make coun-try hous-es gay.

p *f*

56

Lambs frisk and play, the shep-herds pipe all day. And we hear aye

Lambs frisk and play, the shep-herds pipe all day. And we hear aye birds

Lambs frisk and play, the shep-herds pipe all day. And we hear aye

Lambs frisk and play, the shep-herds pipe all day. And we hear aye birds

8.-----

62

birds tune this mer-ry lay. And we hear aye, birds tune this mer-ry lay, this mer-ry

tune this mer-ry lay. And we hear aye birds tune this mer-ry lay, this mer-ry

birds tune this mer-ry lay. And we hear aye, birds tune this mer-ry lay, this mer-ry

tune this mer-ry lay. And we hear aye birds tune this mer-ry lay, this mer-ry

8.-----

69

lay. *p* Cuck-oo, jug, jug pu - we, cuck-oo jug, jug pu we, _____

lay. *p* Cuck-oo, jug, jug pu - we, cuck-oo jug, jug pu we, _____

lay. *p* Cuck-oo, jug, jug pu - we, cuck-oo jug, jug pu we, _____

lay. *p* Cuck-oo, jug, jug pu - we, cuck-oo jug, jug pu we, _____

f _____ *f*

f _____ *f* Hold all notes down.

74

f Cuck - oo, jug, jug pu - we, cuck - oo jug, jug pu - we, _____ to - wit, to -

f Cuck - oo, jug, jug pu - we, cuck - oo jug, jug pu - we, _____ to - wit, to -

f Cuck - oo, jug, jug pu - we, cuck - oo jug, jug pu - we, _____ to - wit, to - wit,

f Cuck - oo, jug, jug pu - we, cuck - oo jug, jug pu - we, _____ to - wit, to - wit,

f _____ *f*

Hold all notes down.

78

wit, to - wit, to - wit - ta, to - wit - ta, to - wit. (t)

wit, to - wit, to - wit - ta, to - wit - ta, to - wit. (t)

to - wit, to - wit, to - wit - ta, to wit - ta, to wit. (t)

to - wit, to - wit, to - wit - ta, to wit - ta, to wit. (t)

p *f*

ff

ff

ff

f

Ped.

82

To wit-ta woo.

To wit-ta woo.

To wit-ta woo.

To wit-ta woo.

To wit-ta woo.

p *f* *f*

p

CP 51

87

f The fields breathe sweet, the dai - sies kiss our feet. The fields breathe sweet.

f The fields breathe sweet. The fields breathe sweet the dai - sies kiss our feet.

f The fields breathe sweet, the dai-sies kiss our feet. The fields, the fields breathe sweet.

f The fields breathe sweet. The fields breathe sweet, the dai-sies kiss our feet.

92

Young lov - ers meet, old wives a - sun - ning sit,

Young lov - ers meet, old wives a - sun - ning

Young lov - ers meet, old wives a - sun - ning sit, In ev - 'ry

Young lov-ers meet, old wives a - sun - ning sit, In

legato

f

8

8

Ped.

98

In ev - 'ry street. these tunes our ears do greet,
 sit. In ev - 'ry street these tunes our ears do greet,
 street. these tunes our ears do greet,
 ev - 'ry street these tunes our ears do greet,
 Let ring.

ff

8

104

S/A *pp* Cuck-oo, jug, jug pu - we, cuck-oo jug, jug pu we, Cuck-oo, jug, jug pu - we, cuck-oo jug, jug
 T/B *pp* Cuck-oo, jug, jug pu - we, cuck-oo jug, jug pu we, Cuck-oo, jug, jug pu - we, cuck-oo jug, jug
 Cuck-oo, jug, jug pu - we, cuck-oo jug, jug
 Cuck-oo jug, jug
 Hold all notes down.

f

pp

f

110

pu- we, to-wit, to-wit, to-wit, to-wit-ta, to-

pu- we, to-wit, to-wit, to-wit, to-wit, to-wit-ta,

p

114

wit-ta, to-wit. (t) To wit-ta woo.

to wit-ta, to wit. (t) To wit-ta woo.

ff *f* *p* *mf*

119

woo.

woo.

f *rit. poco a poco al fine*

p *mp* *rit. poco a poco al fine*

124 *mf* (rit.) *molto rit.*

Woo *pp*

Woo *pp*

(rit.) *molto rit.*

8

Text: "A Prayer" by John Biggs

2: A Prayer

Slow and sustained ♩ = 72

S/A

T/B

molto legato

mf

--(8) Ped. 8 8 8

5 *mf*

Come we all in praise of life, Rid the earth of

molto legato *mf* Come we all in praise of life,

mf

CP 51 8 8 8 8

10

hu - man strife, By this deed our

Rid the earth of hu - man strife,

mf

(8) 8 8 8 8

14

souls re - gain, Lest our lives be

By this deed our souls re - gain,

mf

(8) 8 8 8 8

18

spent in vain. Pray that all may

mf Lest our lives be spent in vain.

mf

(8) 8

22

learn to bend, _____ War is not the means, nor end. _____

mf Pray that all may learn to bend, _____ War is not the means, nor. end. _____

slowly release pedal Ped. ad lib. →

27

Keep this prayer, and keep it well, _____ May it now with -

Keep this prayer, and keep it well, _____

mf *p*

31

p in you dwell.

May it now with - in you dwell.

f

legato

35 *ff*
 Wars have come, and wars have gone,
 Wars have come, and wars have gone,
mf *f* *mf*
ff *sim.*
 Ped.

37
 Hu - man lives have been with - - -
 Hu - man lives have been with - - -
 *Lower tenors may join bases through bar 42.
ff *sim.* *mf* *ff* *sim.* (b)

39
 drawn, Broth - - - ers, sis - ters,
 drawn, Broth - - - ers, sis - ters,
mf *ff* *mf*
 3 3 3 14

41

fath - ers, wives, Most in blood have lost their

fath - ers, wives, Most in blood have lost their

sim. *ff* *sim.* *sub.f*

Ped. ad lib.

45

lives. We must now as Earth - lings be,

lives. We must now as Earth - lings be,

pp *rit.* *mf* *a tempo*

ff *mf* *a tempo*

Ped.

52

Earth - lings, not as na - tions we, Bor - ders, bound - ries do con - found,

Earth - lings, not as na - tions we, Bor - ders, bound - ries do con - found,

f *ff* *rit. non dim.*

f *ff* *fff* *rit.* *non dim.*

58 very brief pause *a tempo* *molto rit.* *a tempo*

mp All in - tent to bring us 'round.

mp All in - tent to bring us 'round.

mp *solo*

a tempo *molto rit.* *a tempo* *legato*

Let ring. (Keep pedal down.) *mf*

8 8 8

64 *mf*

Pray that all may learn to bend, War is not the

mf Pray that all may learn to bend,

mf

8 8 8 8 8

68

means, nor end. Keep this prayer, and

War is not the means, nor end.

CP 51 8 8 8 8

71

keep it well, *p* May it now with - in you

keep it well, *p* May it now with - in you

Keep this prayer, and keep it well, *p* May it now with -

Keep this prayer, and keep it well, *p* May it now with -

p

(8) 8 8

75

rit. molto al fine *morendo*

dwell. With - in you dwell.

dwell. With - in you dwell.

in you dwell. With - in you dwell.

in you dwell. With - in you dwell.

rit. molto al fine *morendo*

p

8

3: A Voyage

Text: "The Jumblies" by Edward Lear (1812-1888)

With high spirits ♩=120

HN *solo*

11

18

mf They went to sea in a sieve, they did; In spite of all their

mf In a sieve they went to sea:

mf They went to sea in a sieve, they did; In spite of all their

mf In a sieve they went to sea:

CP 51

25

friends could say, _____ *f* In a sieve they went to sea. _____

On a win-ter's morn, on a storm-y day, _____ *f* In a sieve they went to sea. _____

friends could say, _____ *f* In a sieve they went to sea. _____

On a win-ter's morn, on a storm-y day, _____ *f* In a sieve they went to sea. _____

f *ff* solo

32

mf *ff* end solo

f

40

f The sieve turned round and round,

f And when the sieve turned round and round,

f The sieve turned round and round,

f And when the sieve turned round and round,

8

45

Shouted in a frenzie. Put "d" on downbeat. Put "g" on downbeat.

"You'll all be drowned!" "Our sieve ain't big. We

Ev-'ry-one cried. They called a-loud. "But we don't care a but-ton; we don't care a fig: Put "g" on downbeat.

Shouted in a frenzie. Put "d" on downbeat.

"You'll all be drowned!" "Our sieve ain't big. We

Ev-'ry-one cried. They called a-loud. "But we don't care a but-ton; we don't care a fig:

CP 51 (8)

51

Put "g" on downbeat.

ff (Upper notes optional.)

don't care a but-ton; we don't care a fig: In a sieve we'll go to sea!"

ff

In a sieve we'll go to sea!"

Put "g" on downbeat.

ff (Upper notes optional.)

don't care a but-ton; we don't care a fig: In a sieve we'll go to sea!"

ff

In a sieve we'll go to sea!"

f *ff*

ff

59

f Far and few, far and few, Are the lands where the Jumb-lies live:

f Far and few, far and few, Are the lands where the Jumb-lies live:

f Far and few, far and few, Are the lands where the Jumb-lies live:

f Far and few, far and few, Are the lands where the Jumb-lies live:

f

66

Their heads are green, their hands are blue; And they went to sea in a
 Their heads are green, their hands are blue; And they went to sea in a
 Their heads are green, their hands are blue; And they went to sea in a
 Their heads are green, their hands are blue; And they went to sea in a

71

sieve. (v) *p* They sailed a-way in a sieve, In a sieve they sailed so
 sieve. (v) *p* They did!
 sieve. (v) *p* They sailed a-way in a sieve, In a sieve they sailed so
 sieve. (v) *p* They did!

76

mf *>* Sustain on "n".

fast, Tied with a rib-bon, To a small and sim-ple

mf

With on - ly a beau-ti-ful pea-green veil by way of a sail.

mf *>* Sustain on "n".

fast, Tied with a rib-bon, To a small and sim-ple

mf

With on - ly a beau-ti-ful pea-green veil by way of a sail.

p *mf*

mf

(8)-----|

82 *f* *ff* **Immediately half as fast**

mast. (st)

f *ff*

mast. (st)

mf *sim.*

Immediately half as fast

ff *mf*

(Octave tremolos)

CP 51

Red.

CUE SOLO 1. (Solo 2, 3, and chorus will follow without cue.)

Solos: *1) The water ...2) it soon came in, ...3) it did! **

*Shout to individuals in the audience with fear in your voice. Allow a few seconds between each solo. Same for succeeding solos.

**Speaking to the audience in an excited spoken whisper, the chorus, as individuals, repeats three times, at random, "it did!" This may slightly overlap the next solo entrance.

87

CUE SOLO 4. (5 & 6 and chorus will follow) CUE SOLO 7. (8 & 9 will follow)

4) The water ...5) it soon came in, ...6) it did! [chorus] 7) The water ...8) it soon came in...9) it did! [chorus]

All voices should be out somewhere in this area.

92

BRIEF G.P. S/A Speak with natural inflection.

ff So, *mf* To keep them dry, In a pink - y pa-per

G.P. T/B [wrapped]

ff So, *mf* they wrapt their feet all

G.P.

Tempo primo

98

optomistically altos

They fas-tened it down with a pin! *mp* With a

fol-ded neat; They fas-tened it down with a pin! *f* With a pin! *mf* With a pin!

bases tenors

optomistically

104 sopranos *tutti*

pin! *p* With a pin! *ff* They fas-tened it down with a pin!

ff They fas-tened it down with a pin!

mp *ff* *f*

mf *mp* *ff*

8⁻⁻⁻⁻⁻
3

110

mf They sailed to the West-ern Sea, To a land all cov-ered with

mf They did.

fff *mf*

8⁻⁻⁻⁻⁻
P₂₀

116

trees, they did. And a pound of rice, and a cran-ber-ry tart, And a

And they bought an owl, and a use-ful cart, And a

f *f*

122

hive of sil-v'ry bees. (s) *f* Far and few, far and few, Are the lands where the Jumb-lies

hive of sil-v'ry bees. (s) *f* Far and few, far and few, Are the lands where the Jumb-lies

hive of sil-v'ry bees. (s) *f* Far and few, far and few, Are the lands where the Jumb-lies

hive of sil-v'ry bees. (s) *f* Far and few, far and few, Are the lands where the Jumb-lies

ff

129

live: Their heads are green, their hands are blue; And they went to sea in a sieve.

live: Their heads are green, their hands are blue; And they went to sea in a sieve.

live: Their heads are green, their hands are blue; And they went to sea in a sieve.

live: Their heads are green, their hands are blue; And they went to sea in a sieve.

f

136

BRIEF

ff In a sieve they went to Take an exaggerated breath.

ff In a sieve they went to Take an exaggerated breath.

ff In a sieve they went to Take an exaggerated breath.

ff In a sieve they went to Take an exaggerated breath.

ff

accel. al fine (begin in tempo)

143 *fp cresc,*

sea. Ah!

fp cresc,

sea. Ah!

fp cresc,

sea. Ah!

fp cresc,

sea. Ah!

One voice.

accel. al fine (begin in tempo)

November 9, 2006
Ojai, California

A SONG

Spring, the sweet Spring, is the year's pleasant king;
 Then blooms each thing, then maids dance in a ring,
 Cold doth not sting, the pretty birds do sing,
 Cuckoo, jug, jug, pu we, to witta woo.

The palm and may make country houses gay,
 Lambs frisk and play, the shepherds pipe all day,
 And we hear aye birds tune this merry lay,
 Cuckoo, jug, jug, pu we, to witta woo.

The fields breathe sweet, the daisies kiss our feet,
 Young lovers meet, old wives a-sunning sit,
 In every street these tunes our ears do greet,
 Cuckoo, jug, jug, pu we, to witta woo.
 Spring, the sweet spring!

Thomas Nashe (1567-1602)
 (Immortal Poems of the English Language, Ed: Oscar Williams, Washington Square Press 1952)

A PRAYER

Come we all in praise of life,
 Rid the earth of human strife,
 By this deed our souls regain,
 Lest our lives be spent in vain.

Pray that all may learn to bend,
 War is not the means, nor end.
 Keep this prayer, and keep it well,
 May it now within you dwell.

Wars have come, and wars have gone,
 Human lives have been withdrawn,
 Brothers, sisters, fathers, wives,
 Most in blood have lost their lives.

We must now as Earthlings be,
 Earthlings, not as nations, we,
 Borders, boundaries do confound,
 All intent to bring us 'round.

John Biggs (1932-)

A VOYAGE

They went to sea in a sieve, they did;
 In a sieve they went to sea:
 In spite of all their friends could say,
 On a winter's morn, on a stormy day,
 In a sieve they went to sea.

And when the sieve turned round and round,
 And everyone cried, "You'll all be drowned!"
 They called aloud, "Our sieve ain't big,
 But we don't care a button; we don't care a fig:
 In a sieve we'll go to sea!"

Far and few, far and few,
 Are the lands where the Jumblies live:
 Their heads are green, and their hands are blue;
 And they went to sea in a sieve.

They sailed away in a sieve, they did,
 In a sieve they sailed so fast,
 With only a beautiful pea-green veil
 Tied with a ribbon, by way of a sail,
 To a small tobacco-pipe mast.

And every one said who saw them go,
 "Oh! won't they be soon upset; you know!
 For the sky is dark, and the voyage is long:
 And, happen what may, it's extremely wrong
 In a sieve to sail so fast."

The water it soon came in, it did;
 The water it soon came in:
 So, to keep them dry, they wrapped their feet
 In a pinky paper all folded neat;
 And they fastened it down with a pin.

And they passed the night in a crockery-jar;
 And each of them said, "How wise we are!
 Though the sky be dark, and the voyage be long,
 Yet we never can think we were rash or wrong
 While round in our sieve we spin."

And all night long they sailed away;
 And, when the sun went down,
 They whistled and warbled a moony song
 To the echoing sound of a coppery gong,

In the shade of the mountains brown,

!O Timballoo! how happy we are
 When we live in a sieve and crockery-jar!
 And all night long, in the moonlight pale,
 We sail away with a pea-green sail
 In the shade of the mountains brown."

They sailed to the Western Sea, they did, -
 To a land all covered with trees:
 And they bought an owl, and a useful cart,
 And a pound of rice, and a cranberry-tart,
 And a hive of silvery bees;

And they bought a pig, and some green jackdaws,
 And a lovely monkey with lollipop paws,
 And forty bottles of ring-bo-ree,
 And no end of Stilton cheese.

And in twenty years they all came back, -
 In twenty years or more;
 And every one said, "How tall they've grown!
 For they've been to the Lakes, and the Terrible Zone,
 And the hills of the Chankly Bore."

And they drank their health, and gave them a feast
 Of dumplings made of beautiful yeast;
 And every one said, "If we only live,
 We, too, will go to sea in a sieve,
 To the hills of the Chankly Bore."

Far and few, far and few,
 Are the lands where the Jumblies live.
 Their heads are green, and their hands are blue;
 And they went to sea in a sieve.

Edward Lear (1812-1888)

(Immortal Poems of the English Language, Ed:
 Oscar Williams, Washington Square Press, 1952)