

Program Notes

A celebration of spring, *Spring Carol* is based on text by Robert Louis Stevenson. Perhaps best known as the author of *Treasure Island* and *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, he was also a writer of short stories and poetry. From his 1918 publication *New Poems*, the following text was selected to capture the energetic buoyancy of spring.

A rousing melody set in compound duple meter; the music depicts the imagery of streamlets gushing, and the many sounds of rejoicing nature that accompany spring. A brief section in simple meter is excerpted from a *Spring Song* which denotes a scene of pastoral tranquility (“the air was full of sun and birds . . . and I knew love”). The piece finishes with the initial melody accompanied by a soaring descant.

Singing the song of the meadows.

When loud by landside streamlets gush,
And clear in the greenwood quires the thrush,
With sun on the meadows
And songs in the shadows
Comes again to me
The gift of the tongues of the lea,
The gift of the tongues of meadows.

It bears the song of the skylark down,
It hears the singing of the town;
Youth on the highways
And lovers in byways
Follows and sees:
And hearkens the song of the leas
And sings the songs of the highways.

The air was full of sun and birds.
The fresh air sparkled clear.
Remembrance wakened in my heart
And I knew love.

So when the earth is alive with gods,
The lusty ploughman breaks the sod,
The grass singe in meadows,
And flowers smile in shadows,
Sits my heart at ease,
Hearing the song of the leas,
Singing the song of the meadows.

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850–1894)
Adapted by Michael John Trotta

Spring Carol

for SATB Chorus and Piano, or optional String Quartet and Oboe

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850–1894)
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Michael John Trotta
(ASCAP)

Poco marcato $\text{♩} = 50$

Piano *f*

5

S
A

T
B

f

Sing-ing the song- of the

f

Sing-ing the song- of the

8

mead - ows. When loud by land - side

mead - ows. When loud by land - side

f

f

11

stream - lets gush, And clear in the green - wood quires - the thrush, With
 stream - lets gush, And clear in the green - wood quires - the thrush, With

14

sun on the mead - ows And songs in the shad - ows Comes a - gain to
 sun on the mead - ows And songs in the shad - ows Comes a - gain to

17

me The gift of the tongues of the lea, The
 me The gift of the tongues of the lea, The

20 *mf* *mp*

gift of the tongues of the mead - ows.

gift of the tongues of the mead - ows.

24 **B** *mp*

...bears the song of the sky - lark down, It

It bears the song of the sky - lark down, It

28

hears the sing - ing of the town; Youth on the high - ways And

hears the sing - ing of the town; Youth on the high - ways And

31 *mp*

lov - ers in by ways *mp* And

lov - ers in by - ways Fol - lows and sees:

34 *mf*

heark - ens the song of the leas *mf* And sings the songs of the

And sings the songs of the

37 *p*

high - - - ways. *p*

high - - - ways.

C $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ *mp*

The air was full of sun and birds, The fresh air spar-kled

mp

The air was full of sun and birds, The fresh air spar-kled

44

clear. - - - Re - mem - brance wak-ened in my heart

clear. - - - Re - mem - brance wak-ened in my heart

48 *p*

And I knew love, and I knew love.

p

And I knew love, I knew love.

D

Tempo I: Poco marcato ♩. = 50

Musical notation for the first system, including treble and bass staves with a key signature of two sharps and a common time signature.

Tempo I: Poco marcato ♩. = 50

Musical notation for the second system, including treble and bass staves with a key signature of two sharps and a common time signature. The treble staff begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic marking.

56

Desc. *f* When the earth is a - live___ with gods,

S
A *f* So when the earth is a - live___ with gods, The

T
B *f* So when the earth is a - live with gods, The

Musical notation for the third system, including Descending vocal line, Soprano and Alto parts, Tenor and Bass parts, and piano accompaniment.

59

lust - y plough - man breaks the sod, Grass sings _____

lust - y plough - man breaks the sod, The grass sings in mead-ows, And

lust - y plough - man breaks the sod, The grass sings in mead-ows, And

62

in _____ the mead-ows, Sits _____ my heart at ease,

mp
flow'rs smile in shad-ows, Sits my heart at ease,

mp
flow'rs smile in shad-ows, Sits my heart at ease,

65

mf

Hear - ing the song of the leas, Sing - ing the song of the

mf

Hear - ing the song of the leas, Sing - ing the song of the

mf

Hear - ing the song of the leas, Sing - ing the song of the

68

mp

mead - ows,

mp

mead - ows,

mp

mead - ows,

E

f
sing - ing the song of the

f
sing - ing the song of the

f
sing - ing the song of the

74

mead - ows.

mead - ows.

mead - ows.

f