

River and Tree

TEXT: *The River and The Tree*
Margaret Elizabeth Sangster
(1838 - 1912)



Marina Alexander
(b. 1953)



"You are white and tall and swaying," sang the river to the tree,
"and your leaves are touched with silver -- but you never smile on me;
for your branches murmur love songs to the sun-kissed turquoise sky,
and you seem so far above me that I always hurry by!"

"You are laughing in your shallows, you are somber in your deeps,
and below your shining surface there's a heart that never sleeps;
but all day you pass me, dancing, and at evening time you dream,
and I didn't think you liked me," sang the birch-tree to the stream.

So they got a bit acquainted on a glowing summer day,
and they found they liked each other (which is oftentimes the way);
and the river got so friendly, and it ran so very slow,
that the birch-tree shone reflected in the water down below!

Moderato ♩ = 96

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

Piano

Moderato ♩ = 96

mf *mf* *mf* *mp*

Alexander - River and Tree

2

5

S. *mp* "You are tall and white and sway - ing, *mf* sway - ing,

A. *mp* "You are tall and white and sway - ing, *mf* sway - ing, sway - ing,

T. *mf* "and

B.

Pno. *mf*

9

S. sway - ing,

A. sway - ing,

T. *f* sway - ing, sway - ing," sang the riv - er to the tree,

B. *mf* Sang the

Pno. *f*

Alexander - River and Tree

13 16 *mp*

S. and your leaves are

A. and your leaves are

T. *mf* to the tree,

B. ri - ver to the tree, the tree,

Pno. *mf* *mp*

17 *mf*

S. touched with sil - ver, sil - ver, leaves touched with sil - ver,

A. touched with sil - ver, sil - ver, leaves touched with sil - ver,

T. "touched with sil - ver, sil - - - ver,

B. "touched with sil - ver, touched with sil - ver,

Pno. *mf*

28

S. sun - kissed tur-quoise sky, _____

A. sun-kissed tur-quoise, tur - quoise sky, _

T. love songs, tur - quoise sky, _ and you seem so far a - bove me

B. love songs, to the tur-quoise sky, _ and you seem so far a - bove me

Pno.

32 34

S. _____

A. _____

T. that I al-ways hur-ry, _ hur-ry

B. that I al-ways hur-ry, _ hur-ry

Pno.

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6

37 42

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno.

44

S. "You are laugh-ing in your shal-lows, —

A. "You are

T. "shal-lows, shal-lows, sha -

B. "sha-lows, sha -

Pno.

49

S. and be -

A. som - ber in your deeps, your deeps, your deeps,

T. lows, in your deeps, your deeps, your deeps,

B. lows, in your deeps, your deeps,

Pno.

55

S. low your shi-ning sur-face there's a heart that ne-ver sleeps;

A. be - low your sur-face there's a heart that ne-ver sleeps;

T. be - low there's a heart that ne-ver, ne-ver, ne - ver

B. be-low there's a heart that ne-ver, ne-ver, ne - ver

Pno.

mf

mp *mf*

mp *mf*

mf

62 64 *mp*

S. but all day _____ you pass me,

A. *mp*
but all day you pass me, danc-ing,

T. *p*
sleeps;

B. *p*
sleeps;

Pno. *mp*

66 *mf*

S. danc-ing danc-ing

A. *mf*
— danc-ing, danc-ing, danc-ing, —

T. *mf*
danc-ing, and at eve-ning time you dream, —

B. *mf*
and at eve - ning, eve-ning time you dream, —

Pno. *mf*

71

S. you dream, _____ dream, _____ dream,

A. you dream, _____ dream, _____ dream

T. dream, _____ you dream, _____ dream

B. dream, _____ you dream, _____ dream

Pno.

75

S. and _____ I did - n't think you liked me, I

A. I did - n't think you liked me,

T.

B.

Pno.

Alexander - River and Tree

10

78

S. *3*
did-n't think you liked me," sang the birch-tree to the

A. *3*
I did-n't think you liked me," sang the birch-tree to the

T.

B.

Pno.

82

S. *85*
stream

A. *85*
stream

T.

B.

Pno.

87 *poco rit.* *a tempo* ♩ = 96 90 *mp*

S. So they got a

A.

T. *mp* So they got a

B.

Pno. *poco rit.* *a tempo* ♩ = 96 *mp* *mp* *mp*

91

S. bit ac-quain-ted on a glow-ing sum-mer day,

A. *mp* on a glow-ing sum-mer day,

T. bit ac-quain-ted on a glow-ing sum-mer day,

B. *mp* on a glow-ing sum-mer day,

Pno.

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12

96

S. *mf* liked each oth - er, liked each oth - er (as is

A. *mf* and they found they liked each oth - er, liked each oth - er,

T. *mf* liked each oth - er, liked each oth - er,

B. *mf* and they found they liked each oth - er, liked each oth - er,

Pno. *mf*

102

S. of - ten - times the way, _____ of - ten times the way);

A. (of - ten - times, of - ten - times, of - ten times the way);

T. (of - ten - times, of - ten - times, of - ten times the way);

B. (of - ten - times, of - ten - times, of - ten times the way);

Pno.

107 *mp*

S. and the ri - ver

A.

T.

B.

Pno. *mp*

111 *mf*

S. got so friend-ly, ran so

A. *mp poco marcato* and the ri - ver got so friend-ly and it ran so *mf*

T. *mp poco marcato* and the ri - ver got so friend-ly, ran so *mf*

B. *mp poco marcato* and the ri - ver got so friend-ly, ran so *mf*

Pno. *mf*

14

116

S. ve - ry slow, ve - ry slow,

A. ve - ry slow, ve - ry slow,

T. ve - ry slow, ve - ry slow,

B. ve - ry slow, ve - ry slow,

Pno.

122

poco rit. **Meno mosso** ♩ = 84

S. *dim.* *mp* *mf* 126
ve - ry slow, that the_birch tree

A. *dim.* *mp* *mf*
ve - ry slow, that the_birch tree

T. *dim.* *mp* *mf*
ve - ry slow, that the_birch tree

B. *dim.* *mp* *mf*
ve - ry slow, that the_birch tree

Meno mosso ♩ = 84

Pno. *dim.* *mp* *mf*

Red.

128

S. *poco cresc.*
shone re - flec - ted, shone, shone re - flec - ted, shone, shone,

A. *poco cresc.*
shone, shone re - flec - ted, shone shone, shone,

T. *poco cresc.*
shone, shone re - flec - ted, shone shone, shone,

B. *poco cresc.*
shone re - flec - ted, shone, shone re - flec - ted, shone, shone,

Pno. *poco cresc.*
Red.

133

S. *mp*
shone, shone re - flec - ted, shone re - flec - ted in the wa - ter,

A. *mp*
shone, shone re - flec - ted in the wa - ter,

T. *mp*
shone, shone re - flec - ted

B. *mp*
shone,

Pno. *mp*
3

137

S. in the wa - ter down, down, down be - - low. *pp*

A. in the wa - ter down, down, down be - - low. *pp*

T. in the wa - ter down, down, down be - - low. *pp*

B. *mp* in the wa - ter down, down, down be - - low. *pp*

Pno. *pp*

143

Pno. *pp* *p* *8va*

146

Pno. *rit.* *dim. poco a poco* *ppp*