

ARTHUR BLISS

THE BALLADS OF
THE FOUR SEASONS

FOR VOICE AND PIANO

FROM THE POEMS OF LI PO

5s 0d

NOVELLO

AND COMPANY LIMITED
160 WARDOUR STREET
LONDON W.1

SPRING

The lovely Lo-foh* of the land of Chin,
Is plucking mulberry leaves by the blue water.
On the green boughs her white arms gleam,
And the bright sun shines upon her scarlet dress.
'My silkworms' says she, 'are hungry, I must go,
Tarry not with your five horses, Prince, I pray!'

*Lo-foh is the heroine of a popular ballad, which was already old at Li Po's time, and which served as the basis of the present poem.

SUMMER

On the Mirror Lake three hundred li around
Gaily the lotus lilies bloom.
She gathers them—Queen Hsi-shih, in Maytime !
A multitude jostles on the bank, watching.
Her boat turns back without waiting the moonrise,
And glides away to the house of the amorous Yush King.

AUTUMN

The moon is above the city of Chang-an,
From ten thousand houses comes the sound of cloth-pounding* ;
The sad Autumn wind blows, and there is no end
To my thought of you beyond the Jewel Gate Pass—
When will the barbarian foe be vanquished,
And you, my beloved, return from the far battlefield ?

*Cloth-pounding is the ironing part in the old-fashioned Chinese laundering process. On account of the hardness of the wooden stand and mallet employed for it, the pounding produces a shrill metallic sound.

WINTER

The courier will depart on the morrow for the front.
All night she sews a soldier's jacket.
Her fingers, plying the needle, are numb with cold;
Scarce can she hold the icy scissors.
At last the work is done; she sends it a long, long way,
Oh ! how many days before it reaches him in Lin-tao ?

Li Po

English verse by Shigeyoshi Obata,
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E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., New York

THE BALLADS OF THE FOUR SEASONS

1. Spring

ARTHUR BLISS

Allegretto grazioso ♩ = 88

VOICE

PIANO

p

mf

The

love - ly Lo - foh of the land of Chin, Is

3

pluck - - ing mul - ber - ry leaves by the blue

wa - ter.

Red * *simile*

On the green_ boughs her

white_ arms_ gleam, And the bright_ sun_

shines up - on - her scar - - let dress.

p semplice e deliberamente

'My silk-worms' says she, 'are hun-gry, I must go.

mf a tempo

Tar - ry not with your five hor - ses, Prince, I

poco rit.

pray!

2. Summer

ARTHUR BLISS

Moderato $\text{♩} = 76$

f

p

mf

On the Mir - ror Lake three

simile

hun - dred li* a - round Gai - ly the

f

* li pronounced lee

lo - - - tus lil - ies bloom.

p

mf

mf

She gath - ers them - Queen

fp

f

Hsi - shih,* in May - - time!

f

* Hsi-shih pronounced Tsee-shee (not too much 'T')

mf

A mul - ti - tude

jost - les on the bank, _____

watch - ing. _____

poco a poco dim.

poco rit.

8

a tempo

mf

Her boat turns back with-

poco a poco rall.

out — wait - ing the moon - rise,

And glides — a -

, p deliberamente

way — to the house

of the am-or-ous Yu - eh* King. —

largamente

*dim.**pp*

* Yu-eh pronounced Yuh-ay

3. Autumn

ARTHUR BLISS

Vivace $\text{♩} = 120$
martellato

ff
con Ped.

lunga Lento $\text{♩} = 50$
fz
pp

p
The moon is a-bove the cit - y of Chang - an,

From ten_ thou-sand hous - es comes the sound of cloth - pound-ing;

ff

Vivace

Lento *p*

lunga The sad Au-tumn wind

fz *pp*

blows, — and — there — is no end — To my

thought of you be - yond the Jew - el Gate Pass-

Vivace

p

mf

ff

simile

When — will the

bar - bar - ian foe be van - - - quished, _____

And you, my be - lov - -

mf

p

ed, re - turn from the far _____

bat - tle - field? _____

rall.

4. Winter

ARTHUR BLISS

Alla marcia $\text{♩} = 112$

f

f The cour-i - er will de-

mf

part on the mor - row for the front.

f

mf
All night_ she

sews a sol - dier's jack - et.

f marcato

mp
Her fin - gers,

p

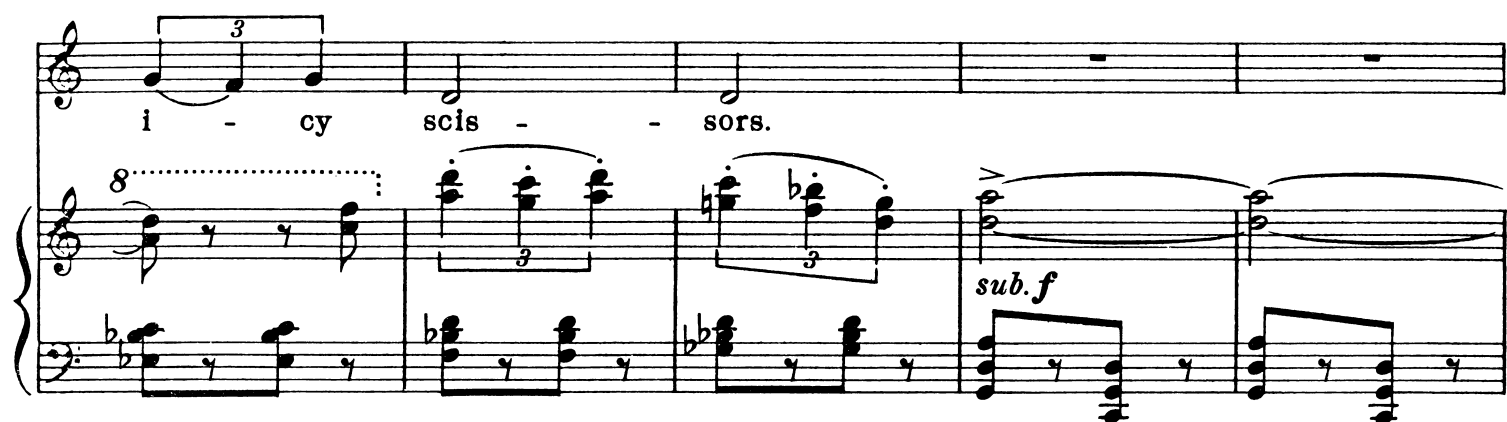
ply - ing the nee - dle, are numb with

p

cold; _____ Scarce can she hold _____ the



i - cy scis - - sors.



At last the



work is done; _____ she sends it a long, long



meno mosso

way, _____ Oh! _____

Oh! _____ how ma - ny days be -

fore it reach-es him in Lin - - tao?*

p *p* *pp*

*Lin-tao pronounced Lin-tow (as in 'prow')