

THREE SONGS
FOR VOICE & PIANO

Arthur Bliss

Words by William H. Davies

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**These songs, originally composed in 1923, have been slightly revised
for this publication.**

DURATION 7-8 MINUTES

1 Thunderstorms

My mind has thunderstorms,
That brood for heavy hours:
Until they rain me words,
My thoughts are drooping flowers
And sulking, silent birds.

Yet come, dark thunderstorms,
And brood your heavy hours;
For when you rain me words,
My thoughts are dancing flowers
And joyful singing birds.

2 This Night

This night, as I sit here alone,
And brood on what is dead and gone,
The owl that's in this Highgate Wood,
Has found his fellow in my mood;
To every star, as it doth rise—
Oh-o-o! Oh-o-o! he shivering cries.

And, looking at the Moon this night,
There's that dark shadow in her light
Ah! Life and death, my fairest one,
Thy lover is a skeleton!
'And why is that?' I question—'why?'
Oh-o-o! Oh-o-o! the owl doth cry

3 Leisure

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.

No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like stars at night.

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance

No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.

A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

WILLIAM H. DAVIES

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THREE SONGS

for Voice and Piano



WILLIAM H. DAVIES

ARTHUR BLISS

1 Thunderstorms

Andante ♩ = c.69

VOICE

PIANO

p ma pesante

p

My mind has thun-der-storms, That

mf

brood for hea-vy hours, My mind has thun-der - storms, —

mf

8.....

Un - til they rain me words, — My thoughts are

droop - ing flow'rs — And sulk - ing,

si - lent birds. — rall.

a tempo Yet come, dark thun-der - storms, And brood your hea-vy hours; For

when you rain me words, *p* My thoughts are dance-ing flow'rs — And

mf *p*

joy - ful sing-ing birds, dance-ing flow'rs — And

joy - ful sing-ing birds.

rall.

pp

Ped.

2 This Night

Moderato ♩ = c.76

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time, marked Moderato with a tempo of approximately 76 beats per minute. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The score is organized into three systems, each with three staves. The top staff in each system is a single treble clef staff, which is mostly empty, suggesting it is for a vocal line. The middle staff is a grand staff (treble and bass clefs joined by a brace), and the bottom staff is a single bass clef staff. The piano part begins with a *p* (piano) dynamic. The first system shows a steady eighth-note bass line in the bottom staff and chords in the middle staff. The second system continues this pattern, with some chords in the middle staff moving to the top staff. The third system features a more complex texture, with a five-measure rest in the middle staff and a five-measure rest in the bottom staff, indicating a section where the piano part is silent or the music is for another instrument.

p

This night, as I sit here a - lone, _____ And

mf

brood on what is dead and gone, The owl that's in this High-gate

Wood, _____ Has found his fel-low in my mood; To

cresc.

ev - 'ry star, as it doth rise, _____ to ev - 'ry star, as it doth

rise — Oh-o-o! — Oh-o-o! — he shiv-'ring cries,

Oh-o-o! — Oh-o-o! — he shiv-'ring cries.

And, look - ing at the Moon this

night, There's that dark sha - dow in her light. Ah! Life and

Death, my fair - est - one, Ah! Life and

Death, Thy lov - er, thy lov - er is a

p ske-le-ton!

f 'And why is that?' I ques-tion - 'why?'

p
Oh-o-o!— Oh-o-o!— the owl doth cry, Oh-o-o!— Oh-o-o!— the

p
owl doth cry, — doth cry, — doth cry. —

rall. dim.
dim.

a tempo pp
pp

rall.

3 Leisure

Allegro ♩ = c. 120

The musical score is for a piece titled "3 Leisure". It is in 4/4 time, marked "Allegro" with a tempo of approximately 120 beats per minute. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score is written for voice and piano. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more complex bass line in the left hand, often using triplets. The vocal line consists of eighth notes, many of which are grouped in triplets. The lyrics are: "What is this life if, full of care, We have no time to stand and stare. No time to stand be-neath the boughs And stare as long as sheep or cows." The piece ends with a final measure in 5/4 time.

p

What is this life if, full of care, We have no time to stand and stare. No

cresc.

time to stand be-neath the boughs And stare as long as sheep or cows.

cresc.

mf *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *cresc.* *3*

What is this life — if, full of care, We have no time — to stand — and

mf *cresc.*

f *p* *3* *3* *3* *3*

stare. — No time to see, when woods we pass, Where

f *6* *dim.* *p*

3 *3* *3* *3* *3* *3*

squir - rels hide their nuts in grass. No time to see, in broad day - light, Streams

cresc. *3* *3* *3* *mf* *3* *3* *3*

full of stars, like stars at night. What is this life — if, full of care,

cresc. *mf*

cresc. *f*

We have no time _____ to stand _____ and stare. _____

cresc. *fp*

p *pp*

No time to turn at Beau - ty's glance, And

rall. *meno mosso*

watch her feet, how they can dance. No time to wait till her mouth can En-rich that

rall. *Tempo I*

smile _____ her eyes be - gan. _____

mf

mf 3 3 3 3

No time to see, when woods we pass, Where

squirrels hide their nuts in grass. No time to see, in broad day-light, Streams

full of stars, like stars at night. A poor life this — if, full of care,

cresc. 3 3 *f* 3

We have no time — to stand — and stare. —

cresc. 5 *f* 5