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THE GOLDEN THRESHOLD

An Indian Song-garland

THE POEMS BY

SAROJINI NAIDU

THE MUSIC BY

LIZA LEHMANN.

BOOSEY & C? LONDON & NEW YORK

THE Golden Threshold,

AN INDIAN SONG-GARLAND

FOR FOUR SOLO VOICES:

(SOPRANO, CONTRALTO, TENOR AND BARITONE),

CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA.

When no Chorus is available, the Work can be performed as a Song-Cycle by the Four Solo Voices, with Pianoforte Accompaniment.

THE POEMS BY

SAROJINI NAIDU.*

(By kind permission of Mr. William Heinemann, Publisher of the Volume of Verse entitled "The Golden Threshold.")

THE MUSIC BY

LIZA LEHMANN.



BOOSEY & CO.,

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* In printing these words in Concert Programmes, "From 'The Golden Threshold,' by Sarojini Naidu, published by William Heinemann," must be added. Applications for the Full Score and Band Parts are to be made to the Publishers.

To the

Countess Valda Gleichen

THE GOLDEN THRESHOLD.

-

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The Golden Threshold.*

I.-HARVEST HYMN.

(Men's Voices).

LORD of the lotus, lord of the harvest, Bright and munificent lord of the morn !

Thine is the bounty that prospered our sowing, Thine is the bounty that nurtured our corn.

We bring thee our songs and our garlands for tribute, The gold of our fields and the gold of our fruit;

O giver of mellowing radiance, we hail thee, We praise thee, O Surya, with cymbal and flute.

• * * * * * * *

(Women's Voices).

Queen of the gourd-flower, queen of the harvest, Sweet and omnipotent mother, O Earth !

Thine is the plentiful bosom that feeds us, Thine is the womb where our riches have birth.

We bring thee our love and our garlands for tribute,

With gifts of thy opulent giving we come; O source of our manifold gladness, we hail thee,

We praise thee, O Prithvi, with cymbal and drum.

(All Voices.)

Lord of the Universe, lord of our being, Father eternal, ineffable Om !

Thou art the seed and the scythe of our harvests, Thou art our hands, and our heart and our home.

We bring thee our lives and our labours for tribute,

Grant us thy succour, thy counsel, thy care; O life of all life and all blessing, we hail thee,

We praise thee, O Bramha, with cymbal and prayer.

^{*} In printing these words in Concert Programmes, "From 'The Golden Threshold,' by Sarojini Naidu, published by William Heinemann," must be added.

II.-Song of a Dream

ONCE in a dream of a night I stood Lone in the light of a magical wood, Soul-deep in visions that poppy-like sprang; And spirits of Truth were the birds that sang, And spirits of Love were the stars that glowed, And spirits of Peace were the streams that flowed In that magical wood in the land of sleep.

Lone in the light of that magical grove, I felt the stars of the spirits of Love Gather and gleam round my delicate youth, And I heard the song of the spirits of Truth; To quench my longing I bent me low By the streams of the spirits of Peace that flow In that magical wood in the land of sleep.

III.—Henna.

A KOKILA called from a henna-spray : Lira ! liree ! lira ! liree !

Hasten, maidens, hasten away

To gather the leaves of the henna-tree. Send your pitchers afloat on the tide,

Gather the leaves ere the dawn be old, Grind them in mortars of amber and gold,

The fresh green leaves of the henna-tree.

A kokila called from a henna-spray : Lira! liree! lira! liree!

Hasten, maidens, hasten away

To gather the leaves of the henna-tree. The *tilka's* red for the brow of a bride,

And betel-nut's red for lips that are sweet; But, for lily-like fingers and feet,

The red, the red of the henna-tree.

IV.-PALANQUIN-BEARERS.

LIGHTLY, O lightly we bear her along, She sways like a flower in the wind of our song; She skims like a bird on the foam of a stream, She floats like a laugh from the lips of a dream. Gaily, O gaily we glide and we sing, We bear her along like a pearl on a string.

Softly, O softly we bear her along, She hangs like a star in the dew of our song; She springs like a beam on the brow of the tide, She falls like a tear from the eyes of a bride. Lightly, O lightly we glide and we sing, We bear her along like a pearl on a string.

V.-THE SERPENTS ARE ASLEEP

THE serpents are asleep among the poppies, The fire-flies light the soundless panther's way

To tangled paths where shy gazelles are straying, And parrot plumes outshine the dying day.

O soft! the lotus-buds upon the stream Are stirring like sweet maidens when they dream.

VI.-THE SNAKE CHARMER

WHITHER dost thou hide from the magic of my flute-call? In what moonlight-tangled meshes of perfume,

Where the clustering *keovas* guard the squirrel's slumber, Where the deep woods glimmer with the jasmine's bloom ?

I'll feed thee, O beloved, on milk and wild red honey, I'll bear thee in a basket of rushes, green and white,

To a palace-bower where golden-vested maidens Thread with mellow laughter the petals of delight.

Whither dost thou loiter, by what murmuring hollows, Where oleanders scatter their ambrosial fire?

Come, thou subtle bride of my mellifluous wooing,

Come, thou silver-breasted moonbeam of desire!

VII.—THE ROYAL TOMBS OF GOLCONDA

I MUSE among these silent fanes

Whose spacious darkness guards your dust; Around me sleep the hoary plains

That hold your ancient wars in trust.

I pause,—my dreaming spirit hears, Across the wind's unquiet tides, The glimmering music of your spears

The laughter of your royal brides.

In vain, O Kings, doth time aspire To make your name oblivion's sport, While yonder hill wears like a tiar

The ruined grandeur of your fort. Though centuries falter and decline,

Your proven strongholds shall remain Embodied memories of your line,

Incarnate legends of your reign.

O Queens, in vain old Fate decreed Your flower-like bodies to the tomb;

Death is in truth the vital seed Of your imperishable bloom.

Each new-born year the bulbuls sing Their songs of your renascent loves;

Your beauty wakens with the spring To kindle these pomegranate groves.

VIII.-LOVE SONG.

COME to me, sweet, on silver-girt feet! Come with a kiss on thy lotus lips' bloom ! Come to me, love, like a moon in the gloom, And strangle my soul in thy kisses' perfume !

You flaunt your beauty in the rose, Your glory in the dawn,

Your sweetness in the nightingale, Your whiteness in the swan.

You haunt my waking like a dream, My slumber like a moon,

Pervade me with a musky scent, Possess me like a tune.

Yet when I crave of you, my sweet, One tender moment's grace, You cry: "I sit behind the veil,

Shall any foolish veil divide My longing from my bliss? Shall any fragile curtain hide Your beauty from my kiss?

What war is this of thee and me? Give o'er the wanton strife, You are the heart within my heart, The life within my life.

I cannot show my face."

IX.-LIKE A SERPENT.

 (She) LIKE a serpent to the calling voice of flutes, Glides my heart into thy fingers, O my love ! Where the nightwind, like a lover, leans above His jasmine-gardens and sirisha-bowers;
And on ripe boughs of many-coloured fruits Bright parrots cluster like vermilion flowers.

(He) Like the perfume in the petals of a rose, Hides thy heart within my bosom, O my love! Like a garland, like a jewel, like a dove That hangs its nest in the asoka-tree. Lie still, O love, until the morning sows Her tents of gold on fields of ivory.

X-NIGHTFALL IN HYDERABAD.

SEE how the speckled sky burns like a pigeon's throat, Jewelled with embers of opal and peridote.

See the white river that flashes and scintillates, Curved like a tusk from the mouth of the city gates.

Hark, from the minaret, how the *muezzin's* call Floats like a battle-flag over the city wall.

From trellised balconies, languid and luminous Faces gleam, veiled in a splendour voluminous.

Leisurely elephants wind through the winding lanes, Swinging their silver bells hung from their silver chains.

Round the high Char Minar sounds of gay cavalcades Blend with the music of cymbals and serenades.

Over the city bridge, Night comes majestical, Borne like a queen to a sumptuous festival. FROM groves of spice, O'er fields of rice, Athwart the lotus-stream, I bring for you, Aglint with dew, A little lovely dream.

Sweet, shut your eyes, The wild fire-flies Dance through the fairy neem; From the poppy-bole For you I stole A little lovely dream.

Dear eyes, good night, In golden light The stars around you gleam; On you I press, With soft caress, A little lovely dream.

XII.—To a Buddha seated on a Lotus.

LORD Buddha, on thy Lotus-throne, With praying eyes and hands elate,

What mystic rapture dost thou own,

Immutable and ultimate?

What peace, unravished of our ken, Annihilate from the world of men ?

The wind of change for ever blows Across the tumult of our way,

To-morrow's unborn griefs depose

The sorrows of our yesterday.

Dream yields to dream, strife follows strife, And Death unweaves the webs of Life.

For us the travail and the heat,

The broken secrets of our pride, The strenuous lessons of defeat,

The flower deferred, the fruit denied; But not the peace, supremely won,

Lord Buddha, of thy Lotus-throne.

The end, elusive and afar,

Still lures us with its beckoning flight, And all our mortal moments are

A session of the Infinite.

How shall we reach the great unknown Nirvana of thy Lotus-throne?

XIII.-Indian Dancers.

THE music sighs and slumbers, It stirs and sleeps again

Hush, it wakes and weeps and murmurs,

Like a woman's heart in pain. Now it laughs and calls and coaxes, Like a lover in the night;

Now it pants with sudden longing Now it sobs with spent delight.

Like bright and wind-blown lilies

The dancers sway and shine, Swift in a rhythmic circle,

Soft in a rhythmic line ; Their lithe limbs gleam like amber

Thro' their veils of golden gauze, As they glide and bend and beckon,

As they wheel and wind and pause.

The voices of lutes and cymbals Fail on the failing breeze,

And the midnight's soul grows weary With the scent of the champak trees;

But the subtle feet of the dancers, In a long melodious chain,

Wake in the breast of lovers

Love's ecstasy and pain.

XIV-New Leaves grow green.

NEW leaves grow green on the banyan twigs, And red on the almond tree,

The honey-birds pipe to the budding figs, And honey-blooms call the bee.

Kingfishers ruffle the feathery sedge, And all the vivid air thrills With butterfly wings in the wild rose hedge,

And the tremulous blue of the hills.

Kamala tinkles a lingering foot By the shrine in the tamarind grove, While Gopal blows on his bamboo flute An idyll of spring and love.

XV.-Alabaster.

Like this alabaster box, whose art Is frail as a cassia-flower, is my heart, Carven with delicate dreams and wrought With many a subtle and exquisite thought.

Therein I treasure the spice and scent Of rich and passionate memories blent Like odours of cinnamon, sandal and clove, Of song and sorrow, and life and love.

XVI,-AT THE THRESHOLD.

In childhood's pride I said to thee, O thou, who mad'st me of thy breath, Speak, master, and reveal to me

Thine inmost laws of life and death.

Give me to drink each joy and pain Which thy eternal hand can mete, For my insatiate soul would drain Of earth's most bitter cup, or sweet!

Spare me no bliss, no pang of strife, Withhold no gift or grief I crave, Th' intricate lore of love and life

And subtle knowlege of the grave.

Lord, thou didst answer clear and low : "Child, I will hearken to thy prayer, And thy unconquered soul shall know Each poignant rapture and despair.

*

So shall thy chastened spirit yearn From its blind prayer to be released,

And, spent and pardoned, sue to learn The simple secrets of my peace.

I, bending from my sevenfold height, Shall teach thee of my quickening grace, Life is a prism of my Light,

And death the shadow of my Face."

The Golden Threshold.

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5 Sweet and om_ni_po_tent mo_ther, 0 Earth! Thine is the plen _ ti _ ful £ Sweet and out ni po tent mo_ther,0 Earth! Thine is the plen_ti _ ful .L.н. cresc. **h** . Thine We cresc. bo_som that feeds us, is the womb where our rich es have birth. ø bo.som that feeds us, Thine is the womb where our rich es have birth. We .L.Ħ. .L.H • 20 cresc. Đ Þ bring thee our love and our gar_lands for tri_bute, With gifts of thy op _ u _ lent Ø bring thee our love and our gar_lands for tri_bute, With gifts of thy op _ u_lent 20 . ₹



ff Poco allargato. 7 N . 9 of our U _ ni verse, lord ing, Fa_ther Lord of our be e_ter_nal, in > \geq N ß - 24 Lord of our U _ ni verse, of our be lord Fa_ther ing, e_ter_nal, in . ?> \geq \geq t ß 2 1 of our Fa_ther in . Lord U_ ni _ verse, lord of our be ing, 'e _ ter _ nal, > >~ >é Í . • Þ Lord of our U _ ni_.verse, lord of our be _ ing, Fa_ther e_ter_nal, in_ **6** Í • ø • ff Poco allargato. <u>></u> -+ 1-4 -0 ef _ fa _ ble Ōm! Thou art the seed and the scythe of our har _ vest, >+ **1** 4 **.** 1 0 ef_fa_ble Õm! Thou art the seed and the scythe of our har _ vest, >0 14 -. . 7 -_ ef _ fa _ ble scythe0m! Thou art the seed and the of our har_vest, • 0 4 _ ef _ fa _ ble 0m! Thou art the seed and the scytheof our har_vest, > >> 2 é • . . 0 • . . 0 • 4 \$ ₹ > > • P Đ 4 A . art We Thou our hands and our heart and home. our > >>> D Ø D 4 . . Thou we art our hands and our heart and our home. >> $\stackrel{>}{\neq}$ > > > 7 ź h Đ Part D -D . . our Thou our hands and heart and our We home. > > > > > é 7 > Þ f ŧ ¥ -P We Thou art hands and and our our heart our home. Ź. 2 é É É è > e P . • • . > > > • . • • H. 5135.

19 D bring thee our lives and our la bour for tri bute, Grant us thy succour, thy P 4 7 bring thee our lives and our la bour for tri bute, Grant us thy succour, thy Þ Dy Ð 1 . 1 la_bour for tri_bute, Grant us thy succour, thy bring thee our lives and our 14 -Đ D la_bour for tri _ bute, Grant us thy succour, 🗠 thy bring thee our lives and our 7 calando. . blessing, we hail thee, We coun_sel, thy care; O life of all life and all . -F . . coun_sel, thy care; 0 life of all life and all blessing, we hail thee, We D-d--. of all life and all blessing, we hail thee, We coun_sel, thy care; O life , > > P P P 1 coun_sel, thy care; 0 of all life and all life blessing, we hail thee, We 6 8 Ē ₫.

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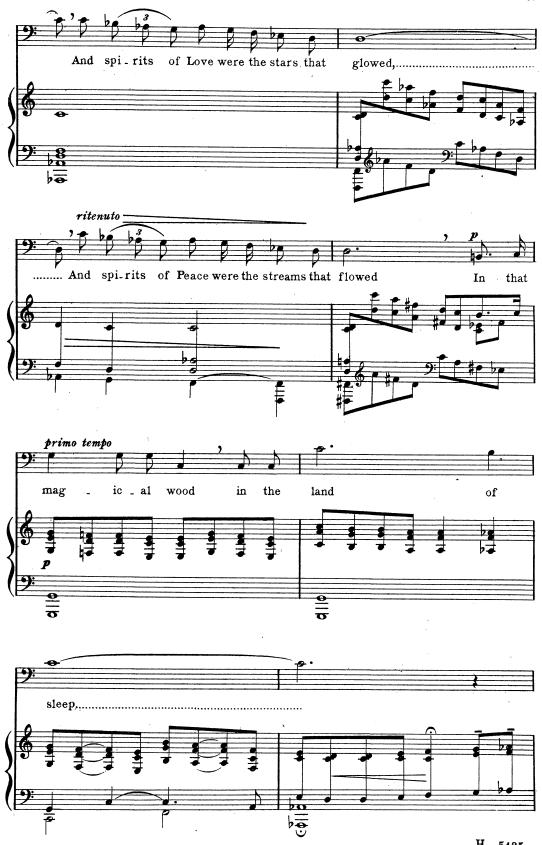
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Song of a Dream. (Bass Solo)

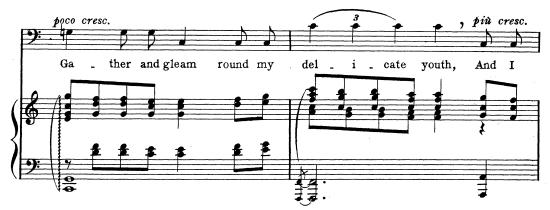


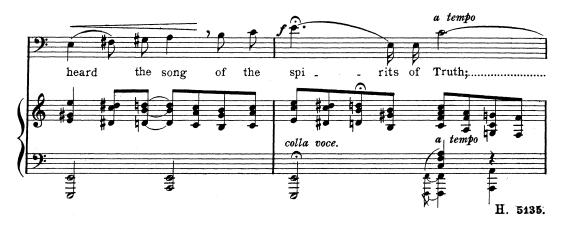


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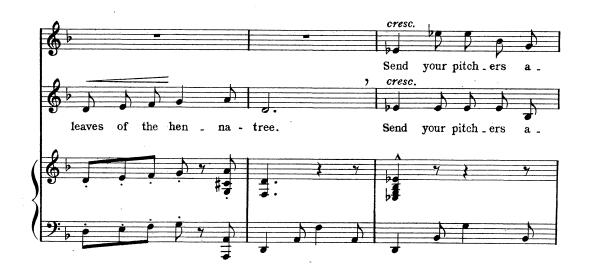






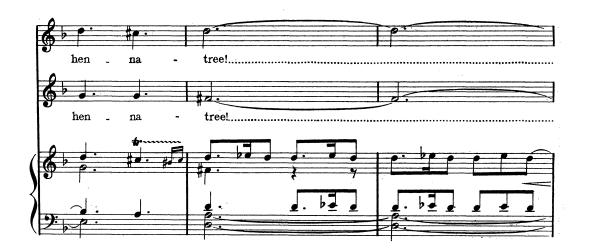
*A solo quartette version in small type is added for use when there is no chorus.















^{*}Solo Quartette version only to be used when there is no Chorus.

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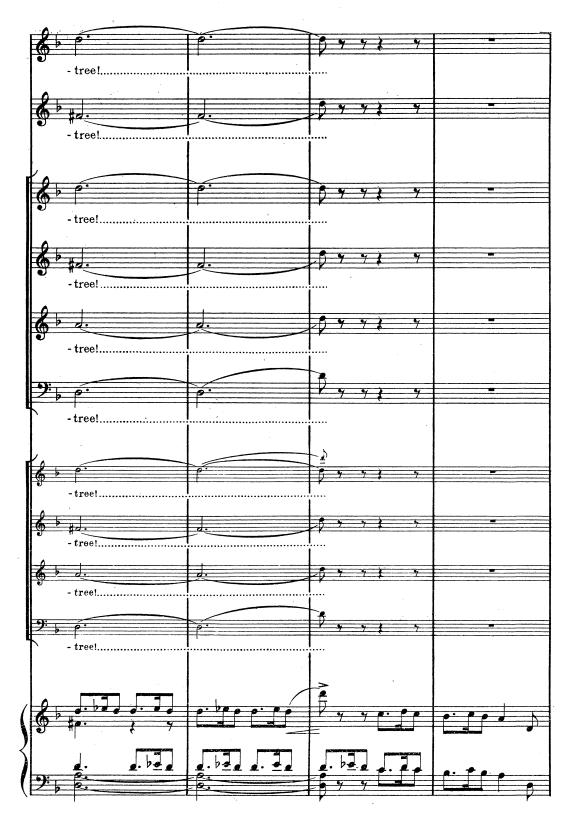


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Nº 4. Palanquin Bearers.

(Duet: Tenor & Bass)















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Nº 5. The Serpents are asleep among the Poppies.

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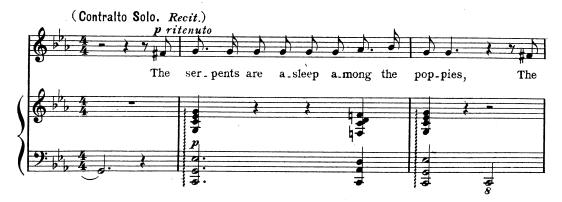
(Solo: Contralto. Recit.)













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The Snake-charmer.

(Soprano Solo.) (with flute obbligato.)





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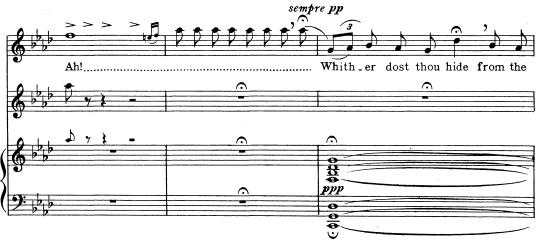


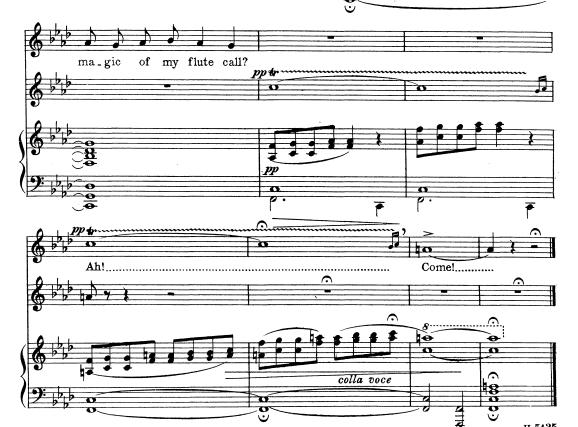
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Nº 7. The Royal Tombs of Golconda.

(Bass Solo & Chorus)

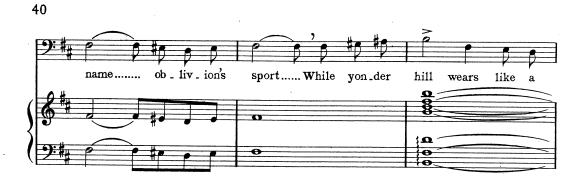


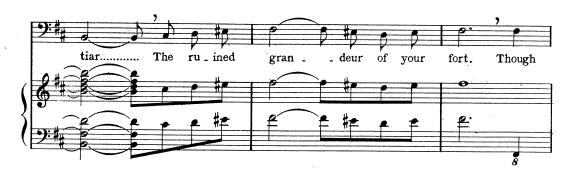


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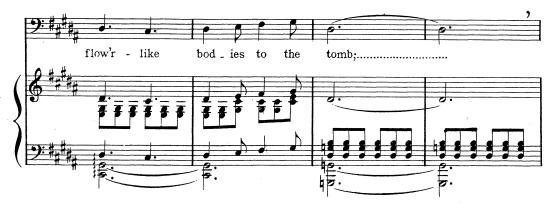


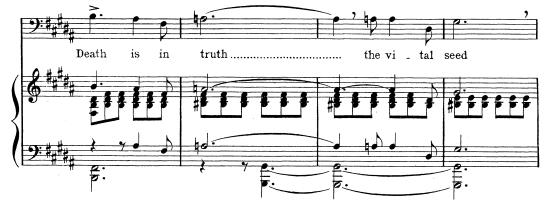


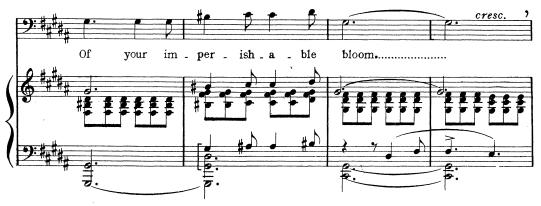












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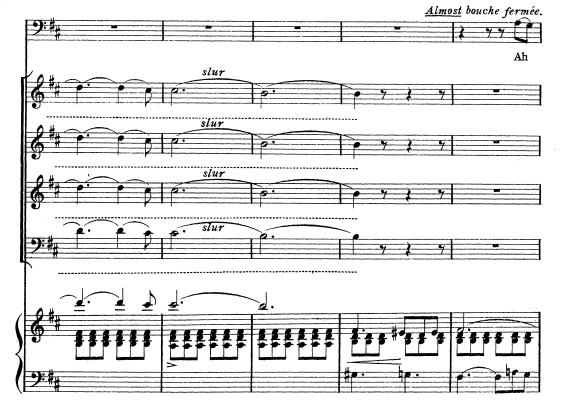
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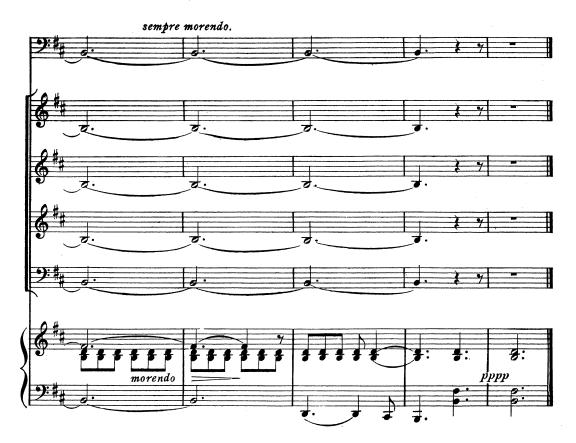


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Nº 8. Love-Song-You flaunt your Beauty. (Tenor Solo)



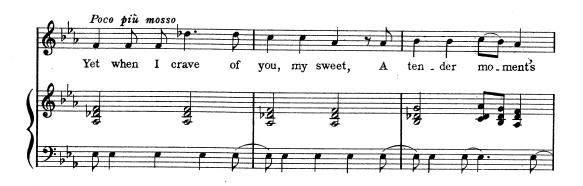
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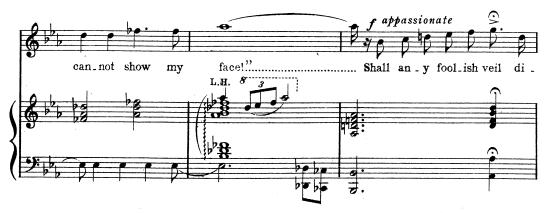


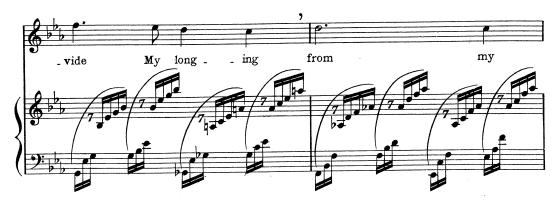
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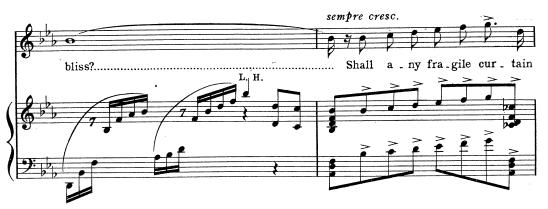


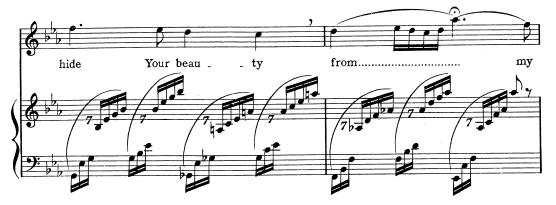
















* Play this note as(A) if the Vocalist is singing A.

Nº9. Like a Serpent to the calling Voice of Flutes.

(Duet: Contralto & Tenor)



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Cradle Song. (Soprano Solo)



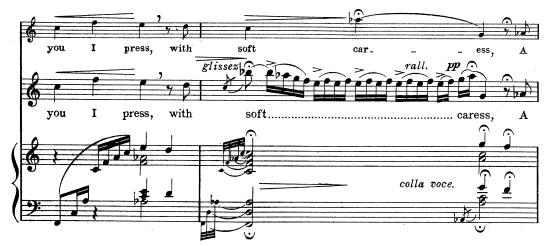
















⁶⁸ Nº 12. To a Buddha seated on a Lotus.

(Bass Solo and Solo Quartette.)









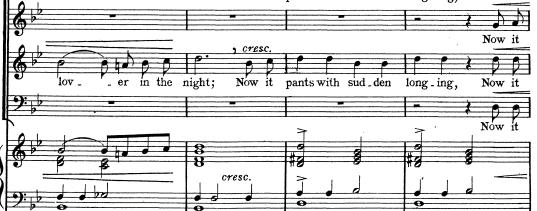
72 Soprano Solo. pp Þ A h Đ 0. How shall ppContraito Solo. great \mathbf{How} we reach the un known Nir . -How shall reach the great known Nir we un ppTenor Solo. -Ē Ð A . f p. How known Nir shall we reach the great un _ **p**p Đ Đ V Đ Ē b How shall we reach the gréat ún known Nir -_ đ (The small notes for purposes of practise only.) ₹ 0 (l)d O of thy..... Lo throne?..... _ tus va na õ _ tus throne?..... of thy Lo na 2 O 4 6 0 na of..... thy.... Lo throne?..... va _ tus -.... $\widehat{}$ ē õ • 0 0 O of thy throne?..... Lo - tus . va . na -4 6 a .



Indian Dancers. (Chorus)











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Nº 14. New leaves grow green on the Banyan Twigs.

(Trio: Soprano, Contralto & Tenor.)

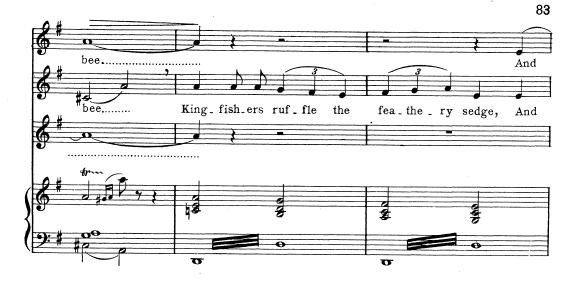


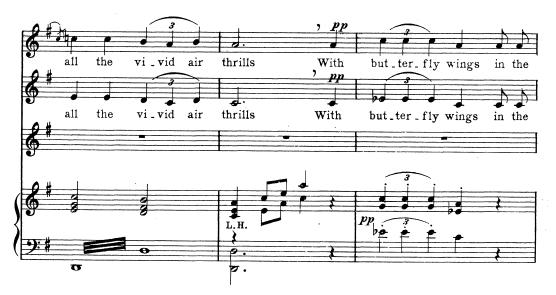
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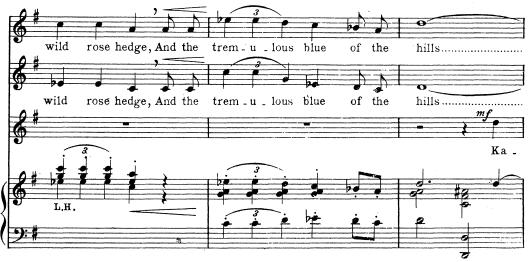




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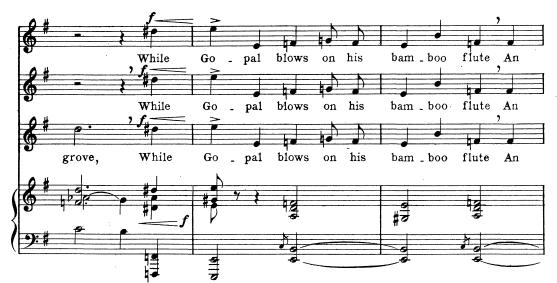














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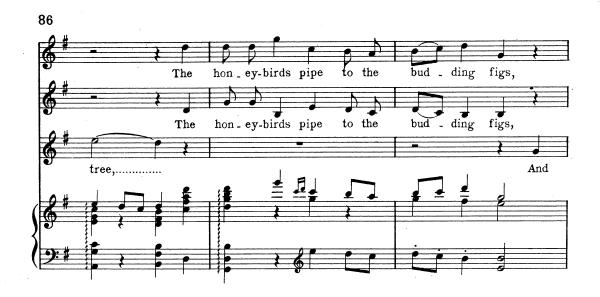
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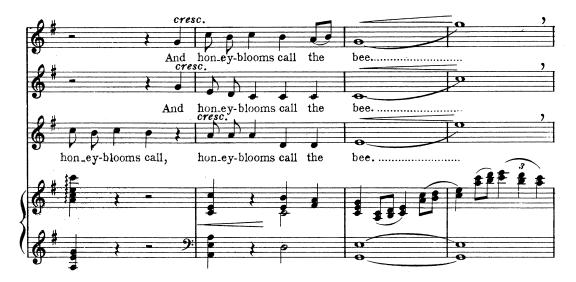
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Nº 15.

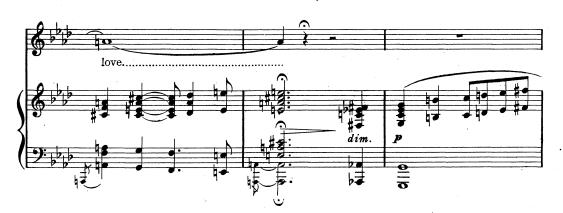
Alabaster.

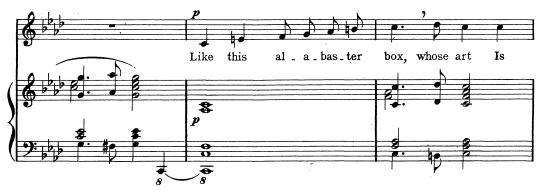
(Contralto Solo)

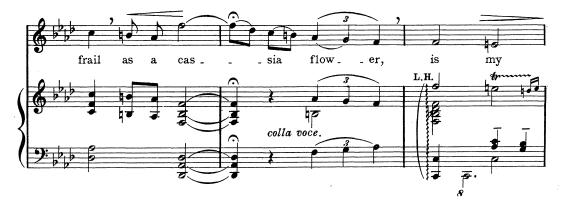


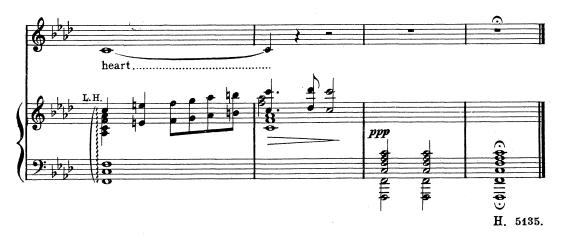
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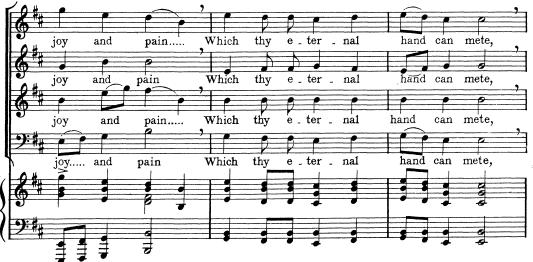


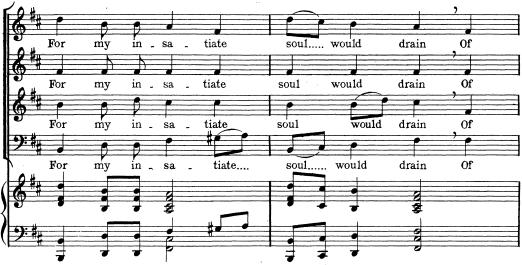


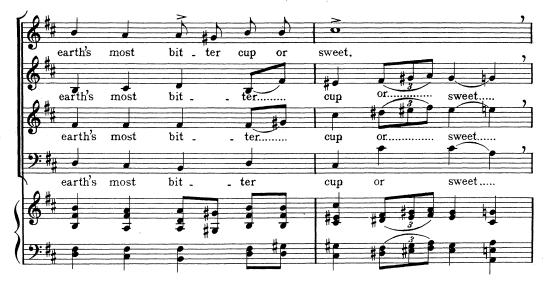


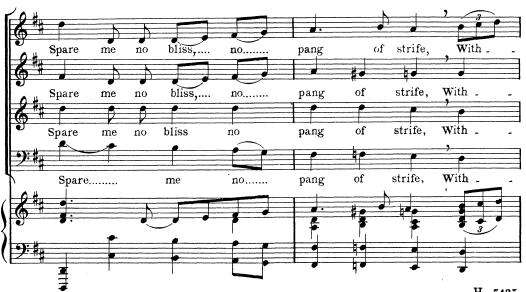


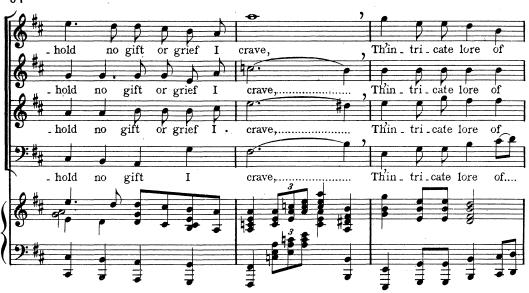


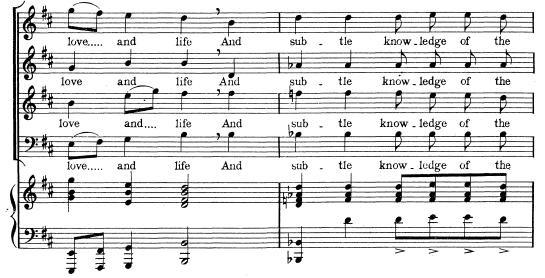


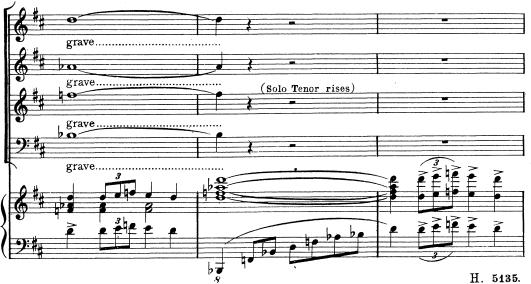














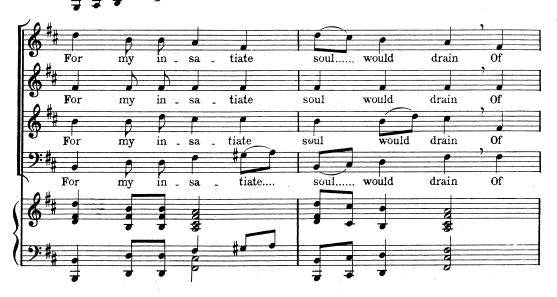


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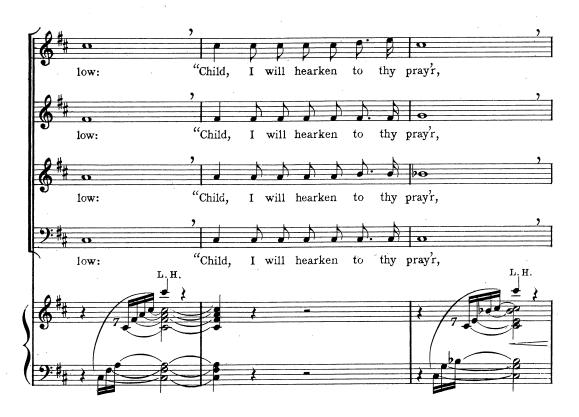


98 . said hood's pride..... I..... to thee, Ōh child 4. 10 . child hood's I..... said to Oh thee, pride..... -. P -• pride child hood's I said to thee, Oh -1 P . child . hood's pride Óh I..... said thee, to . tee 50 F \$ 0 who mad'st Thou me of thy breath, Speak, mas_ter, and re . 0. 0 Thou who mad'st me of thy breath, 0h.... speak, mas_ter, and re P R . speak, Thou who mad'st me of thy breath, 0h.... mas_ter, and re _ **): \$**_ P . Thou who mad'st me of thy breath,... Speak, mas_ter, and re_ 16 1 Ð Ð Ð veal to me Thine in most laws of life and 1) -đ 1 Thine to and veal me in most laws of life . P P . • ø Thine of _ veal to me in mostlaws -40 • ŕ ſ P . -Thine veal to in me _ most laws of..... . #2 20 F ₹ H. 5135.













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