



Op. 72

Death on the hills

Edward Elgar
(1857-1934)

Death on the hills

Edward Elgar

Moderato (quasi alla marcia) ♩ = 76

S
Why o'er the dark - 'ning hill - slopes Do dusk - y shad - ows

A
Why o'er the dark - 'ning hill - slopes Do dusk - y shad - ows

T
Why o'er the dark - 'ning hill - slopes Do dusk - y shad - ows

B
Why o'er the dark - 'ning hill - slopes Do dusk - y shad - ows

Detailed description: This system contains the first four staves of the vocal score. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is Moderato (quasi alla marcia) with a quarter note equal to 76 beats per minute. The lyrics are: 'Why o'er the dark - 'ning hill - slopes Do dusk - y shad - ows'. Dynamics include piano (p) and pianissimo (pp). The music features a melodic line for each voice part with some slurs and accents.

5

S
creep? Be - cause the wind blows keen - - - ly there, Or

A
creep? Be - cause the wind blows keen - - - ly there, Or

T
creep?

B
creep?

Detailed description: This system contains the fifth and sixth staves of the vocal score. The lyrics continue: 'creep? Be - cause the wind blows keen - - - ly there, Or'. The Soprano and Alto parts have dynamic markings: piano (p), accelerando (accel.), and fortissimo (f). The Soprano part also includes markings for ritardando (rit.) and a tempo. The Tenor and Bass parts are mostly silent, indicated by rests. The music features block chords and some melodic movement in the Soprano and Alto parts.

Novello and Company
(1914)



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9

S rain - storms lash and leap? _____ No wind blows chill up - on _____ them, Nor

A rain - storms lash and leap? _____ No wind blows chill up - on _____ them, Nor

T _____ No wind blows chill up - on _____ them, Nor

B _____ No wind _____ blows, Nor

13

S are they lash'd by rain: _____ 'Tis Death who rides a - cross the hills With

A are they lash'd by rain: _____ 'Tis Death who rides a - cross the hills With

T are they lash'd by rain: _____ 'Tis Death who rides a - cross the hills With

B are they lash'd by rain: _____ 'Tis Death who rides a - cross the hills With

17

S all his shad - owy train. _____ In

A all his shad - owy train. The old bring up the cor - tege, _____ the

T all his shad - owy train. _____ The

B all his train. The old bring up the cor - tege, In

Death on the hills

20 *cresc.*

S front the young folk ride, And

A *cresc.* old bring up the cor - tege, In front the young folk ride, And

T *cresc.* old bring up the cor - tege, In front the young folk ride, And

B *cresc.* front the young folk ride, The

22 *cantabile* *espress.*

S on Death's sad - dle in a row The babes sit side by

A on Death's sad - dle in a row *cantabile* The babes sit side by

T on Death's sad - dle in a row *cantabile* The babes sit side by

B old bring up the cor - tege, And on Death's sad - dle in a row The babes sit

25 *dim. e rit.* *pp* *a tempo*

S side, the babes sit side by side. The young folk lift their

A *dim. e rit.* side, sit side by side. *pp* *a tempo* The young folk lift their

T *dim. e rit.* side, sit side by side. *pp*

B *dim. e rit.* side by side, side by side. *pp*

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29 *accel. molto* *ff* *rit.* *a tempo espress.* *pp*

S *voic* - - - - - es, The old folk plead with Death:

A *voic* - - - - - es, The old folk plead with Death:

T

B

34 *Poco più lento* ♩ = 66 *molto espress.* *p* *molto espress.* *p* *molto espress.*

S "O let us take the vil - lage - road, Or by the brook draw breath.

A "O let us take the vil - lage - road, Or by the brook draw breath.

T "O let us take the vil - lage - road, Or by the brook draw breath.

B

(S.A. T. to be sung with a thin and somewhat veiled tone.)

* Only light voices should sing from here to the end; the heavy Tenors may assist the Basses later.

36 *cresc.* *dim.* *cresc.* *dim.* *cresc.* *dim.*

S "There let the old drink wa - ter, There let the young folk play,

A "There let the old drink wa - ter, There let the young folk play,

T "There let the old drink wa - ter, There let the young folk play,

B

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38 *pp*

S And let the lit - tle chil - dren Run and pluck the blos - soms gay,

A And let the lit - tle chil - dren Run and pluck the blos - soms gay,

T And let the lit - tle chil - dren Run and pluck the blos - soms gay,

B

40 *pp* *poco a poco accel. al.*

S There let the old drink wa - ter, There let the young folk play,

A There let the old drink wa - ter, There let the young folk play,

T There let the old drink wa - ter, There let the young folk play,

B

42 *a tempo* ♩ = 76 *cresc.*

S O let us take the vil - lage - road, Or by the brook draw breath,

A O let us take the vil - lage - road, Or by the brook draw breath,

T O let us take the vil - lage - road, Or by the brook draw breath,

B

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Poco più lento $\text{♩} = 69$

44

S *pp* And let the lit - tle chil - dren Run and pluck the blos - soms gay,

A *pp* And let the lit - tle chil - dren Run and pluck the blos - soms gay,

T *pp* And let the lit - tle chil - dren Run and pluck the blos - soms gay,

B *mf* *distinto e sostenuto* (Death speaks) "I must not pass the

46

S 1st Soprano *pp* There let the old drink wa - ter, 0

S2 2nd Soprano There let the young folk play,

A 1st Alto > There let the old drink wa - ter, 0

A2 2nd Alto > There let the young folk play,

T 1st Tenor > There let the old drink wa - ter, 0

T2 2nd Tenor > There let the young folk play,

B Bass vil - lage Nor halt be - side the

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48

S let us take the vil - lage - road, O let us

S2 *p* O let us take the vil - lage - road, Or by the brook draw breath, *pp*

A let us take the vil - lage - road, O let us

A2 *p* O let us take the vil - lage - road, Or by the brook draw breath, *pp*

T let us take the vil - lage - road, O let us

T2 *p* O let us take the vil - lage - road, Or by the brook draw breath, *pp*

B rill, For there the wives and

50

S take the vil - lage - road, There let the old drink

S2 There let the old drink wa - ter, And let the lit - tle chil - dren

A take the vil - lage - road, There let the old drink

A2 There let the old drink wa - ter, And let the lit - tle chil - dren

T take the vil - lage - road, There let the old drink

T2 There let the old drink wa - ter, And let the lit - tle chil - dren

B moth - ers all Their buck - ets take to

Death on the hills

52

S wa - ter, There let the young folk play,

S2 run And pluck the blos - soms gay; There let the old drink wa - ter,

A wa - ter, There let the young folk play,

A2 run And pluck the blos - soms gay; There let the old drink wa - ter,

T wa - ter, There let the young folk play,

T2 run And pluck the blos - soms gay; There let the old drink wa - ter,

B fill. "The wife might see her

cresc.

54

S There let the young folk play,

S2 O let us take the vil - lage - road, O

A There let the young folk play,

A2 O let us take the vil - lage - road, O

T There let the young folk play,

T2 O let us take the vil - lage - road, O

B hus - band, The moth - er see her

p *pp* *f*

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56 *pp* >

S O let us take the vil - lage - road, Or by the brook draw breath,

S2 let us take the vil - lage - road, O let us *pp*

A *pp* > O let us take the vil - lage - road, Or by the brook draw breath,

A2 let us take the vil - lage - road, O let us *pp*

T *pp* > O let us take the vil - lage - road, Or by the brook draw breath,

T2 let us take the vil - lage - road, O let us *pp*

B son; So close they'd cling— their

58 *poco rit.* *pp* >

S There let the young folk play, let the young folk play,

S2 take the vil - lage - road, let the young folk play, *poco rit.* *pp*

A There let the young folk play, let the young folk play, *poco rit.* *pp*

A2 take the vil - lage - road, let the young folk play, *poco rit.* *pp*

T There let the young folk play, let the young folk play, *poco rit.* *pp*

T2 take the vil - lage - road, let the young folk play, *poco rit.* *pp*

B clasp - ings Could nev - er be un -

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60 *rit. al fine*

S *ppp* > 0 let us take the vil - lage -

S2 *rit. al fine* *ppp* > 0 let us take the vil - lage - road,

A *rit. al fine* *ppp* > 0 let us take the vil - lage -

A2 *rit. al fine* *ppp* > 0 let us take the vil - lage - road,

T *rit. al fine* *ppp* > 0 let us take the vil - lage -

T2 *rit. al fine* *ppp* > 0 let us take the vil - lage - road,

B *rit. al fine* *p* *dim.* *pp* done."

62 *Lento*

S *Lento* > road, Or by the brook draw breath." *pppp*

S2 *Lento* > road, Or by the brook draw breath." *pppp*

A *Lento* > Or by the brook draw breath." *pppp*

A2 *Lento* > road, Or by the brook draw breath." *pppp*

T *Lento* > Or by the brook draw breath." *pppp*

T2 *Lento* > road, Or by the brook draw breath." *pppp*

B *Lento* Or by the brook draw breath." *pppp*

The old bring up the cortege,
In front the young folk ride,
And on Death's saddle in a row
The babes sit side by side.

The young folk lift their voices,
The old folk plead with Death:
"O let us take the village-road,
Or by the brook draw breath.

"There let the old drink water,
There let the young folk play,
And let the little children
Run and pluck the blossoms gay."

(Death speaks) "I must not pass the village
Nor halt beside the rill,
For there the wives and mothers all
Their buckets take to fill.

"The wife might see her husband,
The mother see her son;
So close they'd cling— their claspings
Could never be undone."

Apollon Nikolayevich Maykov (1821-1897),
transl. Rosa Harriet Newmarch (1857-1940)

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