Death on the hills

Edward Elgar

(1857-1934)

Death on the hills

Edward Elgar

Moderato *(quasi alla marcia)* ♩ = 76

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

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

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

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

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

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

creep?

creep?

SHORCHOR

Lyrics by voice part:

Measures 9–12:

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

Measures 13–16:

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

Measures 17–20:

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

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S: front the young folk ride, And

A: old bring up the cor - tege, In front the young folk ride, And

T: old bring up the cor - tege, In front the young folk ride, And

B: front the young folk ride, The

cresc.

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

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

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

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

cantabile espress.

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

A: side, sit side by side. The young folk lift their

T: side, sit side by side.

B: side by side, side by side.

dim. e rit. pp a tempo

Death on the hills

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

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

Poco più lento ♩ = 66

molto espress.

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

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

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

(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.

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

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

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

Death on the hills

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

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

a tempo ♩ = 76

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 ♩ = 69

(measure 44)

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,

distinto e sostenuto

B: *(Death speaks)* "I must not pass the

(measure 46)

1st Soprano — There let the old drink wa - ter, O

2nd Soprano — There let the young folk play,

1st Alto — There let the old drink wa - ter, O

2nd Alto — There let the young folk play,

1st Tenor — There let the old drink wa - ter, O

2nd Tenor — There let the young folk play,

Bass — vil - lage Nor halt be - side the

Measure 48:

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

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

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

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

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

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

B: rill, For there the wives and

Measure 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

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Lyrics by voice part:

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

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

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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

A: 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

T: 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

B: son; So close they'd cling— their

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

S2: take the vil - lage - road, let the young folk play,

A: There let the young folk play, let the young folk play,

A2: take the vil - lage - road, let the young folk play,

T: There let the young folk play, let the young folk play,

T2: take the vil - lage - road, let the young folk play,

B: clasp - ings Could nev - er be un -

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rit. al fine

S — O let us take the vil — lage —

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

A — O let us take the vil — lage —

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

T — O let us take the vil — lage —

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

B — done."

Lento

S — road, Or by the brook draw breath."

S2 — Or by the brook draw breath."

A — road, Or by the brook draw breath."

A2 — Or by the brook draw breath."

T — road, Or by the brook draw breath."

T2 — Or by the brook draw breath."

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)

SHORCHOR