

O Lady,  
Lend Thy  
Silken Thread

Walter E. Macfarren  
(1828-1905)

**Walter Cecil Macfarren** (1826–1905) was in London, the younger brother of one of the leading Victorian composers, George Alexander Macfarren. He was a chorister at Westminster Abbey and sang at Queen Victoria's coronation. He had thoughts of becoming an artist, taking lessons in painting, but entered the Royal Academy of Music, studying the pianoforte and composition. He became a sub-professor of the pianoforte and was on the staff of the Royal Academy fifty-seven years. Macfarren was musical critic for the 'Queen' newspaper from 1862 until his death. He was chiefly concerned with teaching the piano and had some distinction as a conductor. He suffered from weak eyesight, but did not become totally blind, as did his brother. He composed many small pianoforte pieces and choral works, including two church services and many part-songs. He wrote no large-scale choral or dramatic works and wrote only a limited amount of orchestral music.

O Lady, leave thy silken thread  
And flowery tapestry:  
There's living roses on the bush,  
And blossoms on the tree;  
Stoop where thou wilt, thy careless hand  
Some random bud will meet;  
Thou canst not tread, but thou wilt find  
The daisy at thy feet.  
'Tis like the birthday of the world,  
When earth was born in bloom;  
The light is made of many dyes,  
The air is all perfume;  
There's crimson buds, and white and blue—  
The rainbow showers  
Have turn'd to blossoms where they fell,  
And sown the earth with flowers.  
There's fairy tulips in the East,  
The garden of the sun;  
The very streams reflect the hues,  
And blossom as they run:  
While Morn opes like a crimson rose,  
Still wet with pearly showers;  
Then, lady, leave the silken thread  
Thou twinest into flowers!

Thomas Hood (1799-1845)

# O Lady, Leave Thy Silken Thread

W. C. Macfarren

Allegretto pastorale ♩ = 55

S *p* O La - dy, leave thy silk - en thread And flow - 'ry tap - es -

A *p* O La - dy, leave thy silk - en thread And flow - 'ry tap - es -

T *p* O La - dy, — leave thy silk - en thread And flow - 'ry tap - es -

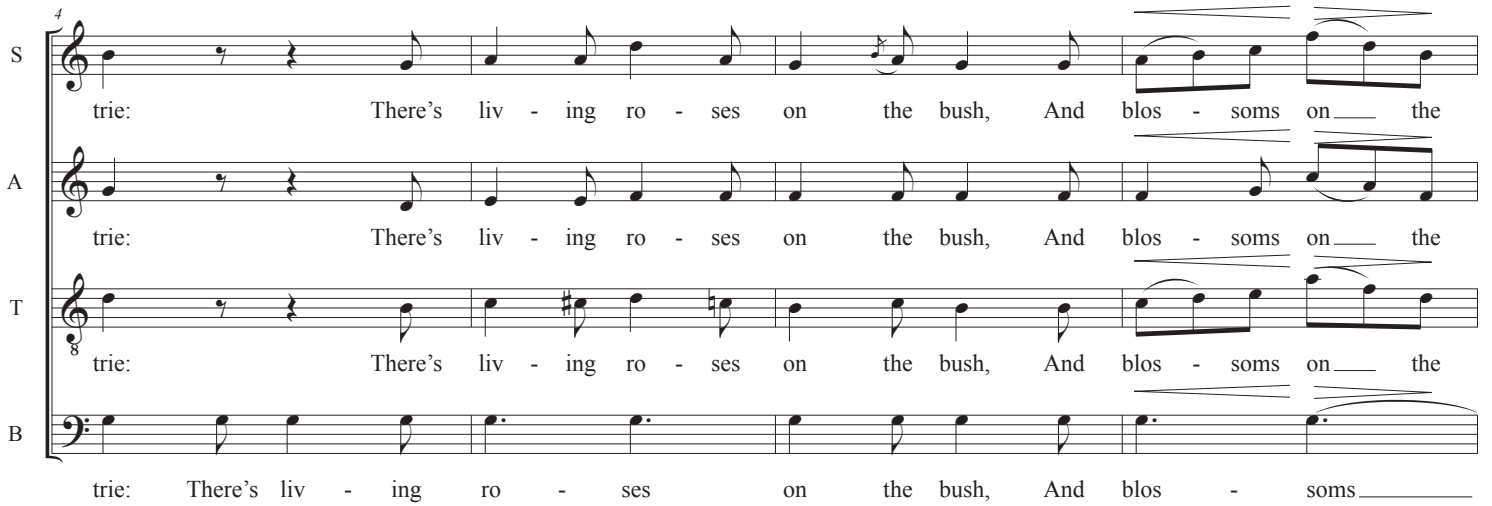
B *p* O La - dy, leave thy — silk - en thread And flow - 'ry tap - es -

# O Lady, Leave Thy Golden Thread

4

S  
A  
T  
B

trie: There's liv - ing ro - ses on the bush, And blos - soms on the



8

S  
A  
T  
B

tree; \_\_\_\_\_ Stoop where thou wilt, thy care - less hand Some ran - dom bud will

— on the tree; — Stoop where thou wilt, thy care - less hand Some ran - dom bud will



12

S  
A  
T  
B

meet; \_\_\_\_\_ Thou canst not tread, but thou wilt find The dai - sy, the *cresc.*

meet; \_\_\_\_\_ Thou canst not tread, but thou wilt find The dai - sy, the *cresc.*

meet; \_\_\_\_\_ Thou canst not tread, but thou wilt find The dai - sy, the *cresc.*

meet; \_\_\_\_\_ Thou canst not tread, but thou wilt find The dai - sy, the *cresc.*



# O Lady, Leave Thy Silken Thread

16

S dai - sy, the dai - sy, the dai - sy at thy feet. O La - dy,

A dai - sy, the dai - sy at thy feet. La - dy,

T dai - sy, the dai - sy at thy feet. O La - dy,

B dai - sy at thy feet, thy feet. O

*f* *dim.* *mf*

20

S leave thy silk - en thread And flow - 'ry, flow - 'ry tap - es - trie. 'Tis

A leave silk - en thread And flow - 'ry, flow - 'ry tap - es - trie. 'Tis

T leave thy silk - en thread And flow - 'ry, flow - 'ry tap - es - trie. 'Tis

B — La - - - dy, leave, O La - dy, leave. 'Tis

*p* *f*

*più animato* ♩ = 112

24

S like the birth-day of the world, When earth was born in bloom; 'Tis

A like the birth-day of the world, When earth was born in bloom; 'Tis

T like, 'Tis like the birth-day of the world, the world,

B like, 'Tis like the birth-day of the world, the world,

*f*

# O Lady, Leave Thy Golden Thread

28

S like the birth - day of the world, When earth \_\_\_\_\_ was

A like the birth - day of the world, When earth \_\_\_\_\_ was

T *f* When earth was born \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ bloom, \_\_\_\_\_ in

B *f* When earth was born \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ bloom, \_\_\_\_\_ in

31

S born in bloom; The light is made \_\_\_\_\_ of man - y dyes, \_\_\_\_\_ The air is all, \_\_\_\_\_ is all per-

A born; The light is made of man - y dyes, \_\_\_\_\_ air all, \_\_\_\_\_ is all per-

T bloom; The light is made of man - y dyes, \_\_\_\_\_ air all, \_\_\_\_\_ is all per-

B bloom; *f* air all, per -

35

S *p* fume; There's crim - son buds, \_\_\_\_\_ and white and blue— *cresc.* The rain - bow

A *p* fume; There's crim - son buds, and white and blue— *cresc.* The

T *p* fume; There's crim - son buds, and white and blue— *cresc.* The rain - bow

B *p* fume; There's crim - son buds, and white, and white and blue— *cresc.* The

# O Lady, Leave Thy Golden Thread

38

S show'rs Have turn'd to blos - soms where they fell, — And sown the earth, — and sown the

A show'rs Have turn'd, turn'd to blos - soms where they fell, And sown the

T show'rs Have turn'd to blos - soms, turn'd to blos - soms where they fell, And sown the

B show'rs Have turn'd, turn'd to blos - soms where they fell, And sown the

*cresc.* *f* *cresc.* *f* *cresc.* *f* *cresc.* *f*

42

S earth, — the earth with flow'rs, — Have turn'd to blos - soms where they

A earth, the earth with flow'rs, — Have turn'd to blos - soms where they

T earth, the earth with flow'rs, — and sown the earth, the earth with

B earth with flow'rs, — and sown the earth with

*sempre f* *sempre f* *sempre f* *sempre f*

45

S fell, — And sown the earth with flow'rs. O La - dy, There's

A fell, — And sown the earth with flow'rs. O La - dy, There's

T flow'rs, — with flow'rs. O La - dy, There's

B flow'rs, — with flow'rs.

*f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*



# O Lady, Leave Thy Golden Thread

Tempo 1mo.

49

S fair - y tu - lips in the East, The gar - den of the sun; The

A fair - y tu - lips in the East, The gar - den of the sun; The

T fair - y tu - lips in the East, The gar - den of the sun; The

B *p* fair - y tu - lips in the East, The gar - den of the sun; The ver - y

53

S ver - y streams re - flect the hues, And blos - som as they run: While

A ver - y streams re - flect the hues, And blos - som as they run: While

T ver - y streams re - flect the hues, And blos - som as they run: While

B streams re - flect the hues, And blos - som as they run: While

57

S Morn opes like a crim - son rose, Still wet with pearl - y show'rs; Then,

A Morn opes like a crim - son rose, Still wet with pearl - y show'rs; Then,

T Morn opes like a crim - son rose, Still wet with pearl - y show'rs; Then,

B Morn opes like a crim - son rose, Still wet with pearl - y show'rs; Then,

## O Lady, Leave Thy Silken Thread

61

S La - dy, leave the silk - en thread Thou twi - nest, thou

A La - dy, leave the silk - en thread Thou twi - nest, thou

T La - dy, leave the silk - en thread Thou twi - nest, thou

B La - dy, leave the silk - en thread Thou twi - - - nest,

*cresc.*

64

S twi - nest, thou twi - nest in - to flow'rs, thou twi - nest

A twi - nest, thou twi - nest in - to flow'rs,

T twi - nest, thou twi - nest in - to flow'rs, thou twi - nest

B twi - - - nest, twi - nest in - to flow'rs,

*cresc.*

*f*

67

S in - to flow'rs! O La - dy, leave thy silk - en

A in - to flow'rs! O La - dy, leave thy silk - en

T in - to flow'rs! O La - dy, leave thy silk - en

B in - to flow'rs! O La - dy,

*mf*

*dim.*

70

S *p* thread, Then, La - dy, leave thy silk - en thread *sf* thou twi - nest *sf* in - to *pp* *morendo* flow'rs!

A *p* thread, Then, La - dy, leave thy silk - en thread *sf* thou twi - nest *sf* in - to *pp* *morendo* flow'rs!

T *p* thread, Then, La - dy, leave thy silk - en thread *sf* thou twi - nest *sf* in - to *pp* *morendo* flow'rs!

B *p* — silk - - - en — thread — — — thou twi - nest in - to flow'rs!

Novello, Ewer and Co.  
(1860-1885)

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