

Prelude XXII /The Two April Mornings

For public performance, one person should read aloud the first six or seven verses before singing begins.

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| <p>1 We walk'd along, while bright and red
Uprose the morning sun;
And Matthew stopp'd, he look'd, and said
'The will of God be done!'</p> <p>2 A village schoolmaster was he,
With hair of glittering gray;
As blithe a man as you could see
On a spring holiday.</p> <p>3 And on that morning, through the grass
And by the steaming rills
We travell'd merrily, to pass
A day among the hills.</p> <p>4 'Our work,' said I, 'was well begun;
Then from thy breast what thought,
Beneath so beautiful a sun
So sad a sigh has brought?'</p> <p>5 A second time did Matthew stop;
And fixing still his eye
Upon the eastern mountain-top,
To me he made reply:</p> <p>6 'Yon cloud with that dark purple cleft
Brings fresh into my mind
A day like this, which I have left
Full thirty years behind.</p> <p>7 'And just above yon slope of corn
Such colours, and no other,
Were in the sky that April morn
Of this the very brother.</p> | <p>8 'With rod and line I sued the sport
Which that sweet season gave,
And coming to the church, stopp'd short
Beside my daughter's grave.</p> <p>9 'Nine summers had she scarcely seen,
The pride of all the vale;
And then she sang: -- she would have been
A very nightingale.</p> <p>10 'Six feet in earth my Emma lay;
And yet I loved her more --
For so it see'd, -- than till that day
I'er had loved before.</p> <p>11 'And turning from her grave, I met,
Beside the churchyard yew
A blooming Girl, whose hair was wet
With points of morning dew.</p> <p>12 'A basket on her head she bare;
Her brow was smooth and white:
To see a child so very fair,
It was a pure delight!</p> <p>13 'There came from me a sigh of pain
Which I could ill confine;
I look'd at her, and look'd again;
And did not wish her mine!'</p> <p>14 --Matthew is in his grave, yet now
Methinks I see him stand
As at that moment, with a bough
Of wilding in his hand.</p> |
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Pronunciations: caa (cat) roh (roe) ow (cloud) oo (moon) eh (pet) gay (day)

Lento (♩=72-80)

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Soprano We — walk'd a - long, while bright and red up - rose the morn-ing sun, and

p

Alto Wee, wee wah, ah -- aa

p

Tenor Wee, wee wah, ah roh: aa

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Bass Wee, ah wah, wee wah, ah reh, ah roh mah suh; aa