



Six Irish Airs  
(2)

How dear to me  
the hour

AIR: THE TWISTING OF THE ROPE

Charles Villiers Stanford  
(1852-1924)

How dear to me the hour when daylight dies,  
And sunbeams melt along the silent sea.  
For then sweet dreams of other days arise,  
And memory breathes her vesper sigh to thee.

And as I watch the line of light that plays  
Along the smooth wave toward the burning west,  
I long to tread that golden path of rays  
And think 'twould lead to some bright isle of rest.

Thomas Moore (1779-1852)

# How dear to me the hour

AIR: THE TWISTING OF THE ROPE

C. V. Stanford

Adagio

S  
A  
T  
B

And  
And  
And  
And

And dear to me the hour — when day - light dies, And

Detailed description: This system shows the first four staves of the vocal score. The Soprano (S), Alto (A), and Tenor (T) parts are mostly rests, with a final note on a half note 'And' marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The Bass (B) part begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a half note 'And', followed by a melodic line: 'dear to me the hour — when day - light dies, And'. The time signature is 3/4 and the key signature has one flat (Bb).

S  
A  
T  
B

sun - beams melt a - long — the si - lent sea. For —  
sun - beams melt a - long the sea. For —  
sun - - - beams melt a - long the sea. For  
sun - - - beams melt a - long the sea. For —

Detailed description: This system continues the vocal score. The Soprano (S) part has a triplet of eighth notes 'sun - beams melt' followed by a long note 'a - long' and then 'the si - lent sea. For —'. The Alto (A) part has a similar line: 'sun - beams melt a - long the sea. For —'. The Tenor (T) part has 'sun - - - beams melt a - long the sea. For'. The Bass (B) part has 'sun - - - beams melt a - long the sea. For —'. The time signature is 3/4 and the key signature has one flat (Bb).



## How dear to me the hour

5

S then sweet dreams of oth - er days a - rise, And *pp*

A then sweet dreams of oth - er days a - rise, And *pp*

T then sweet dreams of oth - er days a - rise, And *pp*

B then sweet dreams of oth - er days a - rise, And *pp*

7

S mem - 'ry breathes her ves - per sigh to thee. For

A mem - 'ry breathes her ves - per sigh to thee. For

T mem - 'ry breathes her ves - per sigh to thee. For

B mem - 'ry breathes her ves - per sigh to thee. For

9

S then sweet dreams of oth - er days a - rise, And

A then sweet dreams of oth - er days a - rise, And

T then sweet dreams of oth - er days a - rise, And

B then sweet dreams of oth - er days a - rise, And

# How dear to me the hour

11

S mem - 'ry breathes her ves - per sigh \_\_\_\_\_ to thee.

A mem - - - 'ry breathes her sigh \_\_\_\_\_ to thee.

T mem - - - 'ry breathes her sigh \_\_\_\_\_ to thee.

B mem - - - 'ry breathes her sigh \_\_\_\_\_ to thee.

14 15

S \_\_\_\_\_ A -

A \_\_\_\_\_ A -

T \_\_\_\_\_ A -

B *p* And as I watch the line \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ light \_\_\_\_\_ that plays A -

17

S long the smooth wave t'ward \_\_\_\_\_ the burn - ing west, I \_\_\_\_\_

A *p* A - long the wave to - ward the west, I \_\_\_\_\_

T long the wave to - ward \_\_\_\_\_ the west, I

B long the wave to - ward the west, I \_\_\_\_\_

## How dear to me the hour

19

S long — to — tread — that — gold - en — path — of rays And *pp*

A long to tread that gold - en path of rays And *pp*

T long to tread that gold - en — path of rays And *pp*

B long to tread that gold - en path of rays And *pp*

21

S think 'twould lead to some — bright — isle — of rest. I —

A think 'twould lead to some bright isle — of rest. I

T think 'twould lead to some — bright — isle — of rest. I

B think 'twould lead to some bright isle of rest. I

23

S long — to — tread — that — gold - en — path — of rays And

A long to tread that gold - en path of rays And

T long — to — tread that gold - en — path of rays And

B long to tread that gold - en path of rays And

# How dear to me the hour

25 *Piú lento*

S  
think 'twould lead to some bright isle of rest.

A  
lead to some bright isle of rest.

T  
lead to some bright isle of rest.

B  
think 'twould lead to some bright isle of rest.

J. Curwen & Sons  
(1922)

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