



# SONGS OF THE RIVER

NO. 3  
RESTING

Frederic H. Cowen  
(1852-1935)

# Resting

F. H. Cowen

Lento espressivo  $\text{♩} = 48$

S  
O it is sweet a - while to rest \_\_\_\_\_ Up - on the riv - er's sil - v'ry breast,

A  
O it is sweet a - while to rest \_\_\_\_\_ Up - on the riv - er's sil - v'ry breast,

T  
O it is sweet a - while to rest \_\_\_\_\_ Up - on the riv - er's sil - v'ry breast,

B  
O it is sweet a - while to rest \_\_\_\_\_ Up - on the riv - er's sil - v'ry breast,

5  
S  
Be - neath some o - ver - hang - ing tree, A cool and lea - fy ca - no -

A  
Be - neath some o - ver - hang - ing tree, A cool and lea - fy ca - no -

T  
Be - neath some o - ver - hang - ing tree, A cool and lea - fy ca - no -

B  
Be - neath some o - ver - hang - ing tree, A cool and lea - fy ca - no -

8

S py. ——— There — the sun - rays — can - not fall,

A py. ——— There — the sun - rays can - not, can - not fall,

T py. ——— There — the sun - - - rays — can - not fall,

B py. For there — the sun - rays can - not fall, can - not fall,

12

S ——— And — reign tri - umph - ant — o - ver all, The

A ——— And reign tri - umph - ant o - ver, o - ver all, The

T ——— And reign tri - umph - ant o - ver, o - ver all, The

B ——— And reign tri - umph - ant o - ver all, o - ver all, The

15

S *cresc.* gold - en show'r a - while is stay'd, *f* And hearts all hail, And

A *cresc.* gold - en show'r a - while is stay'd, *f* And hearts all hail, ———

T *cresc.* gold - en show'r a - while is stay'd, *f* And hearts all hail, hearts all

B *cresc.* gold - en show'r a - while is stay'd, *f* And hearts all hail, ———

18 *dim.* *p* *poco rit.*

S hearts all hail the wel - come shade, — the wel - come

A — the wel - come shade, — and hearts all hail the wel - come

T hail — the wel - come shade, and — hearts all hail the wel - come

B — hail the shade, — hail the wel - come

21 *a tempo* *p* *tranquillo*

S shade! — O it is sweet, yes! it is sweet, —

A shade! — O it is sweet, yes! it is sweet, —

T shade! — O it is sweet, — yes! it is sweet, — yes! it is

B shade! — yes! it is

24 *p*

S — yes! it is sweet, — sweet — to rest!

A — yes! it is sweet, — sweet — to rest!

T sweet, — 'tis sweet, — sweet to rest!

B sweet, — 'tis sweet, — sweet to rest!

28 *p*

S O it is sweet a - while to rest, As sinks the sun with - in the West;

A O it is sweet a - while to rest, As sinks the sun with - in the West;

T O it is sweet a - while to rest, As sinks the sun with - in the West;

B O it is sweet a - while to rest, As sinks the sun with - in the West;

32 *p*

S To watch each gold and crim - son beam, Dis - port up - on the flow - ing

A To watch each gold and crim - son beam, Dis - port up - on the flow - ing

T To watch each gold and crim - son beam, Dis - port up - on the flow - ing

B To watch each gold and crim - son beam, Dis - port up - on the flow - ing

35 *p*

S stream; Hear the rip - ples whis - per low, \_\_\_\_\_

A stream; Hear the rip - ples whis - per, whis - per low, \_\_\_\_\_

T stream; Hear the rip - ples whis - per, whis - per low, \_\_\_\_\_

B stream; To hear the rip - ples whis - per low, whis - per low, As

39

S *p* Sooth - ing - ly they ebb, — they ebb and flow, And

A *p* Sooth - ing - ly they ebb and flow, they ebb and flow, And

T *p* Sooth - ing - ly they ebb and flow, they ebb and flow, And

B sooth - ing - ly they ebb, they ebb and flow, ebb and flow, And

42

S *cresc.* seem to sing, a - mid their play, and seem to sing *f* A fare - well to the dy - ing *dim.*

A *cresc.* seem to sing, a - mid their play, and seem to sing *f* fare - well to *dim.*

T *cresc.* seem to sing, a - mid their play, and seem to sing *f* fare - well to the dy - ing *dim.*

B *cresc.* seem to sing, a - mid their play, and seem to sing, *f* sing fare -

46

S *p* day, — *poco rit.* the dy - ing *a tempo* day! — *p* *tranquillo* O it is sweet,

A *p* day, — *poco rit.* a fare - well to the dy - ing *a tempo* day! — *p* *tranquillo* O it is sweet,

T *p* day, — *poco rit.* a fare - well to the dy - ing *a tempo* day! — *p* *tranquillo* O it is sweet, — yes! it is

B *poco rit.* *p* well — *a tempo* to the dy - ing day! —

50

The musical score is for four voices: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). It is in the key of D major (two sharps) and 3/4 time. The score begins at measure 50. The lyrics are: "yes! it is sweet, \_\_\_\_\_ yes! it is sweet, \_\_\_\_\_ sweet \_\_\_\_\_ to rest!". Performance markings include *dim.* (diminuendo) over the first two phrases, *pp* (pianissimo) and *poco rall.* (poco rallentando) over the final phrase. The Soprano and Alto parts have a melodic line with a fermata at the end. The Tenor and Bass parts have a more rhythmic line with a fermata at the end.

S  
yes! it is sweet, \_\_\_\_\_ yes! it is sweet, \_\_\_\_\_ sweet \_\_\_\_\_ to rest!

A  
yes! it is sweet, \_\_\_\_\_ yes! it is sweet, \_\_\_\_\_ sweet \_\_\_\_\_ to rest!

T  
sweet, \_\_\_\_\_ yes! it is sweet, \_\_\_\_\_ 'tis sweet, \_\_\_\_\_ sweet to rest!

B  
yes! it is sweet, \_\_\_\_\_ 'tis sweet, \_\_\_\_\_ sweet to rest!

Novello, Ewer and Company  
(1891)

**Sir Frederic Hymen Cowen** (1852-1935) was born Hymen Frederick Cohen in Kingston, Jamaica. His father became treasurer to “Her Majesty’s Opera” and the family moved to England when Frederic was age four. At age six, his composition *Minna-waltz* was published and, at age eight, an operetta, *Garibaldi*. His first public piano recital was when he was eleven. In 1865, he won the Mendelssohn Scholarship at the Leipzig Conservatorium. However, he did not accept the award and attended the institution as an independent student, since his parents unwilling to give up control of him, as required by the prize. After returning to England, he became successful as a composer. His *Symphony No. 3 in C minor* (1880) became the most regularly and widely performed British symphony until Elgar’s First. From 1888-1892 he was conductor of Philharmonic Society of London after the resignation of Sir Arthur Sullivan (reappointed in 1899). In 1896, Cowen was appointed conductor of the Liverpool Philharmonic Society and of the Hallé Orchestra. He also conducted the Bradford Festival Choral Society, the Bradford Permanent Orchestra, and the Scottish Orchestra (Royal Scottish National Orchestra). Cowen received honorary doctorates from Cambridge and Edinburgh, and was knighted in 1911.

Upon the river's silvery breast,  
Beneath some overhanging tree,  
A cool and leafy canopy.  
For there the sunrays cannot fall,  
And reign triumphant over all,  
The golden shower awhile is stayed,  
And hearts all hail the welcome shade!

O it is sweet awhile to rest,  
As sinks the sun within the West;  
To watch each gold and crimson beam,  
Disport upon the flowing stream;  
To hear the ripples whisper low,  
As soothingly they ebb and flow,  
And seem to sing, amid their play,  
sing farewell to the dying day!

Edward Oxenford

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