



The Mocking Bird's Question

**Jacob F. King
(1856-1904)**

Jacob Franklin King (1856-1904) was born in Wayne County, Ohio, and became well known as a music teacher and publisher. He lived in Orville, Ohio, where he operated a music publishing business. For some time, he lived in Walcottville, Indiana, and operated the business there. He was active teaching music conventions and singing schools throughout the region. He wrote and compiled singing class books and wrote numerous hymns and songs for the music instruction. He died in Washington, Illinois, after travelling there to conduct a two-week singing school.

In the orange tree in the distance,
I hear the mocking bird sing;
O bright and sunny the weather,
Now in the early spring.

His notes are clear and mellow,
Melodious to the ear,
He merrily asks the question:
“What cheer? What cheer? What cheer?”

*Still every spring I hear it,
The notes to my heart are dear;
From orange, magnolia, or pine tree,
The mocking bird's question, “what cheer.”*

Dear little bird, should I answer?
Do you think you could ever know?
The height of human pleasure,
The depth of human woe?

Sing to your mate in the treetop,
Your song so sweet and clear,
But ask not your mortal neighbor
The question of “What cheer?”

Florence N. Reynolds

The Mocking Bird's Question

J. F. King

Moderato

S *mp* In the or - ange tree in the dis - tance, *p* I hear the mock - ing bird sing; *mp* O

A *mp* In the or - ange tree in the dis - tance, *p* I hear the mock - ing bird sing; *mp* O

T *mp* In the or - ange tree in the dis - tance, *p* I hear the mock - ing bird sing; *mp* O

B *mp* In the or - ange tree in the dis - tance, *p* I hear the mock - ing bird sing; *mp* O

6
S *cresc.* bright and sun - ny the weath - er, Now in the ear - ly spring. *p* His

A *cresc.* bright and sun - ny the weath - er, Now in the ear - ly spring. *p* His

T *cresc.* bright and sun - ny the weath - er, Now in the ear - ly spring. *p* His

B *cresc.* bright and sun - ny the weath - er, Now in the ear - ly spring. *p* His



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10

S notes are clear and mel - low, Mel - o - dious to the ear, He

A notes are clear and mel - low, Mel - o - dious to the ear, He

T notes are clear and mel - low, Mel - o - dious to the ear, He

B notes are clear and mel - low, Mel - o - dious to the ear, He

14 *cresc.* *f*

S mer - ri - ly asks the ques - tion: "What cheer? What cheer? What cheer?"

A *cresc.* *f* mer - ri - ly asks the ques - tion: "What cheer? What cheer? What cheer?"

T *cresc.* *f* mer - ri - ly asks the ques - tion: "What cheer? What cheer? What cheer?"

B *cresc.* *f* mer - ri - ly asks the ques - tion: "What cheer? What cheer? What cheer?"

CHORUS

18 *f* *mf*

S Still ev - 'ry spring I hear it, The notes to my heart are dear, From

A *f* *mf* Still ev - 'ry spring I hear it, The notes to my heart are dear, From

T *f* *mf* Still ev - 'ry spring I hear it, The notes to my heart are dear, From

B *f* *mf* Still ev - 'ry spring I hear it, The notes to my heart are dear, From

The Mocking Bird's Question

22

S or - ange, mag - no - lia, or pine tree, The mock - ing bird's ques - tion, "what cheer." ___

A or - ange, mag - no - lia, or pine tree, The mock - ing bird's ques - tion, "what cheer." ___

T or - ange, mag - no - lia, or pine tree, The mock - ing bird's ques - tion, "what cheer." ___

B or - ange, mag - no - lia, or pine tree, The mock - ing bird's ques - tion, what cheer." ___

26

S Dear lit - tle bird, should I an - swer? Do you think you could ev - er know? ___ The

A Dear lit - tle bird, should I an - swer? Do you think you could ev - er know? ___ The

T Dear lit - tle bird, should I an - swer? Do you think you could ev - er know? ___ The

B Dear lit - tle bird, should I an - swer? Do you think you could ev - er know? ___ The

31

S height of hu - man pleas - ure, The depth of hu - man woe? ___ Sing

A height of hu - man pleas - ure, The depth of hu - man woe? ___ Sing

T height of hu - man pleas - ure, The depth of hu - man woe? ___ Sing

B height of hu - man pleas - ure, The depth of hu - man woe? ___ Sing

The Mocking Bird's Question

35

S to your mate in the tree - top, Your song so sweet and clear, But

A to your mate in the tree - top, Your song so sweet and clear, But

T to your mate in the tree - top, Your song so sweet and clear, But

B to your mate in the tree - top, Your song so sweet and clear, But

39

cresc.
S ask not your mor - tal neigh - bor the ques - tion of "What cheer?"

cresc.
A ask not your mor - tal neigh - bor the ques - tion of "What cheer?"

cresc.
T ask not your mor - tal neigh - bor the ques - tion of "What cheer?"

cresc.
B ask not your mor - tal neigh - bor the ques - tion of "What cheer?"

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