

Poems of  
Charles Kingsley  
No. 3

# The Starlings

George A. Macfarren  
(1813-1887)

# The Starlings

G. A. Macfarren

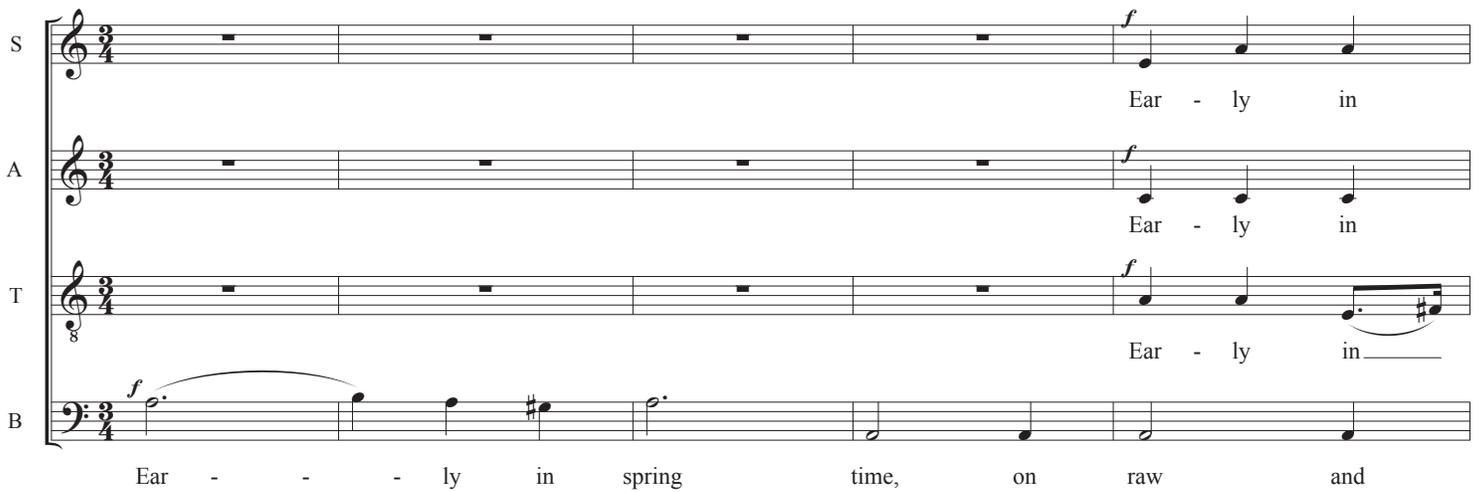
Allegretto non tanto ♩=96

S Ear - ly in

A Ear - ly in

T Ear - ly in

B Ear - - - ly in spring time, on raw and

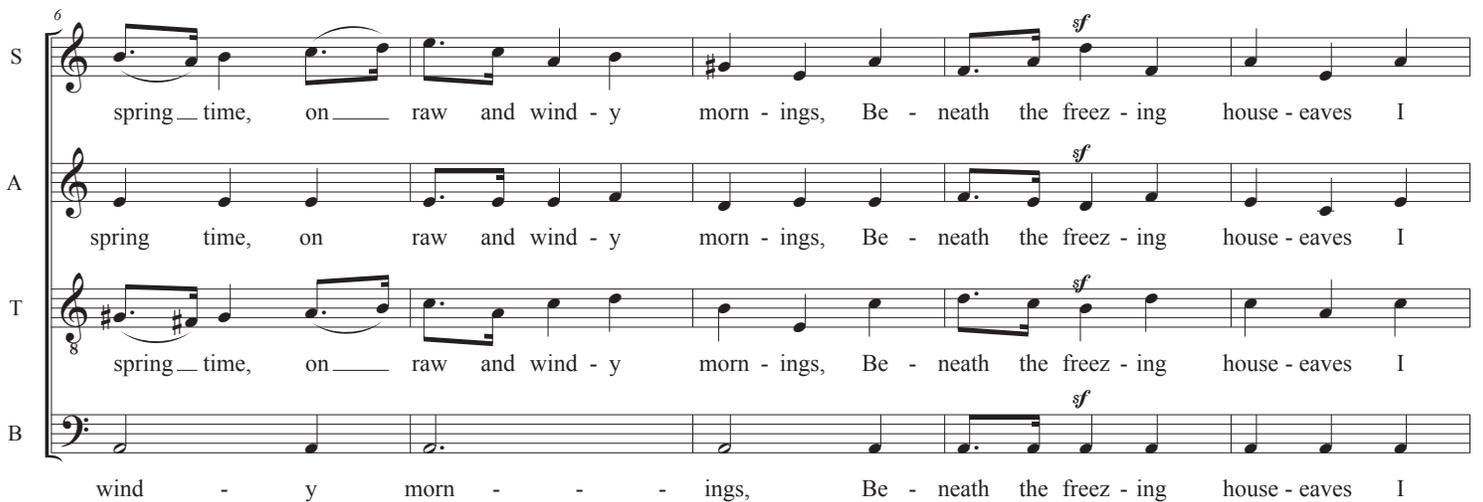
The first system of the musical score is for the vocal parts. It consists of four staves: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked 'Allegretto non tanto' with a quarter note equal to 96 beats per minute. The Soprano, Alto, and Tenor parts begin with a whole rest for the first four measures, then enter with a half note 'Ear' and a quarter note 'ly in'. The Bass part begins with a half note 'Ear', followed by a quarter rest, a quarter note 'ly', and a quarter note 'in' with a fermata. The lyrics are: 'Ear - - - ly in spring time, on raw and'.

S spring time, on raw and wind - y morn - ings, Be - neath the freez - ing house - eaves I

A spring time, on raw and wind - y morn - ings, Be - neath the freez - ing house - eaves I

T spring time, on raw and wind - y morn - ings, Be - neath the freez - ing house - eaves I

B wind - y morn - - - ings, Be - neath the freez - ing house - eaves I

The second system of the musical score continues the vocal parts. It consists of four staves: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The Soprano, Alto, and Tenor parts continue with the lyrics: 'spring time, on raw and wind - y morn - ings, Be - neath the freez - ing house - eaves I'. The Bass part continues with the lyrics: 'wind - y morn - - - ings, Be - neath the freez - ing house - eaves I'. The lyrics are: 'spring time, on raw and wind - y morn - ings, Be - neath the freez - ing house - eaves I'.

# The Starlings

11

S heard the star - lings sing— “Ah! drear - y

A heard the star - lings sing— “Ah! drear - y

T heard the star - lings sing— “Ah! drear - y

B heard the star - lings sing— “Ah! drear - y

16

S March month, is this then a time for

A March month, Ah! is this then a time for

T March month, is this then a time for

B March month, is this then a time for

21

S build - ing wear - i - ly? wear - i - ly? wear - i - ly? Sad,

A build - ing wear - i - ly? wear - i - ly? wear - i - ly?

T build - ing wear - i - ly? wear - i - ly? wear - i - ly?

B build - ing wear - i - ly? wear - i - ly? wear - i - ly?

## The Starlings

26

S sad \_\_\_\_\_ to think that the year is but \_\_\_\_\_ be -

A Sad to think that the year is but be - gun,

T Sad to think that the year \_\_\_\_\_ is but be - gun,

B Sad to think that the year is but be - gun,

31

S gun, Sad, sad, but be -

A Sad, sad, to think, to think that the year, the year \_\_\_\_\_ is but be -

T Sad, sad, to think, to think that the year, the year is but be -

B Sad, sad, to think, to think that the year, the year \_\_\_\_\_ is but be -

37

S gun, \_\_\_\_\_ the year \_\_\_\_\_ is but be - gun." \_\_\_\_\_

A gun, \_\_\_\_\_ the year \_\_\_\_\_ is but be - gun." \_\_\_\_\_

T gun, \_\_\_\_\_ the year \_\_\_\_\_ is but be - gun." \_\_\_\_\_

B gun, \_\_\_\_\_ the year \_\_\_\_\_ is but be - gun." \_\_\_\_\_

# The Starlings

43

S Late in the

A Late in the

T Late in the

B *p* Late in the Autumn, on still and

48

S Au - tumn, on still and cloud - less eve - nings, A -

A Au - tumn, on still and cloud - less eve - nings, A -

T Au - tumn, on still and cloud - less eve - nings, A -

B cloud - - - less eve - - - - nings, A -

51

S mong the gold - en reed - beds, I heard the star - ling sing—

A mong the gold - en reed - beds, I heard the star - ling sing—

T mong the gold - en reed - beds, I heard the star - ling sing—

B mong the gold - en reed - beds, I heard the star - ling sing—

## The Starlings

55

S "Ah! that sweet March month, when

A "Ah! that sweet March month, Ah! when

T "Ah! that sweet March month, when

B "Ah! that sweet March month, when

61

S we and our mates were court - ing mer - ri - ly, mer - ri - ly, *cresc.*

A we and our mates were court - ing mer - ri - ly, mer - ri - ly, mer - ri - ly, *cresc.* *f >*

T we and our mates were court - ing mer - ri - ly, mer - ri - ly, *cresc.*

B we and our mates were court - ing mer - ri - ly, mer - ri - ly, *cresc.*

66

S mer - ri - ly. Sad, sad to think that the year is

A - - ri - ly. Sad to think that the year is

T mer - ri - ly. Sad to think that the year is

B mer - ri - ly. Sad to think that the year is

# The Starlings

71

S all \_\_\_\_\_ but done, all,

A all but done, Sad, sad to think, to

T all but done, Sad, sad to think, to

B all but done, Sad, sad to think, to

75

S \_\_\_\_\_ all, all but

A think that the year, the year \_\_\_\_\_ is all but

T think that the year, the year \_\_\_\_\_ is all but

B think that the year, the year \_\_\_\_\_ is all but

79

S done, \_\_\_\_\_ The year \_\_\_\_\_ is all but done." \_\_\_\_\_

A done, \_\_\_\_\_ The year \_\_\_\_\_ is all but done." \_\_\_\_\_

T done, \_\_\_\_\_ The year \_\_\_\_\_ is all but done." \_\_\_\_\_

B done, \_\_\_\_\_ The year \_\_\_\_\_ is all but done." \_\_\_\_\_

**Sir George Alexander Macfarren** (1813-1887) was born in London. From early youth, he suffered from poor health and weak eyesight. His eyesight continually deteriorated until he became totally blind in 1860. However, his blindness had little effect on his productivity. Macfarren began to study music when he was fourteen and, at sixteen, entered the Royal Academy of Music. Because of his eyesight, he abandoned performance and concentrated on composition. He later taught at the Academy, eventually becoming a principal. He was also appointed professor of music at Cambridge University in 1875. He was conductor at Covent Garden, London; founder the Handel Society; program note writer for the Philharmonic Society; and edited the works of Handel and Purcell. He wrote 18 operas, 13 oratorios and cantatas, 9 symphonies, and 162 songs. He was active as writer of part-songs, literature for the many amateur choirs appearing throughout the country. He was knighted in 1883 on the same day as Arthur Sullivan and George Grove. His brother Walter Macfarren (1826-1905) was a pianist, composer and professor of the Royal Academy.

Early in spring time, on raw and windy mornings,  
Beneath the freezing house-eaves I heard the starlings sing—  
“Ah! dreary March month, is this then a time for building wearily?  
Sad, sad, but begun, the year is but begun.”

Late in the Autumn, on still and cloudless evenings,  
Among the golden reed-beds, I heard the starling sing—  
“Ah! that sweet March month, when we and our mates were courting merrily,  
Sad, sad to think that the year is all but done.”

Charles Kingsley (1819-1875)

**The Reverend Charles Kingsley** (1819-1875) was born at Holne Vicarage near Dartmoor, Devonshire. He was a parish priest and became one of the most prolific authors in Victorian England. He wrote poetry, novels, historical works, sermons, religious tracts, scientific treatises, and works of political, social, and literary criticism. He was a prominent social reformer, political activist, and held positions as Professor of Modern History at Cambridge, chaplain to Queen Victoria, the private tutor to the future Edward VII, and the canon of Westminster. He entered into social movements to helping the poor. He was committed to the Christian Socialist movement and sympathetic to the Chartist movement- a working-class movement for political reform in 19th century Great Britain. His writings often addressed the deplorable working and living conditions in England, the need for sanitation, the importance of science, the abolition of slavery, and the role of the artist in society.

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