



**V I C T O R I A N W O M E N**

**A border ballad**

**Oliveria Prescott**

**(1843-1919)**

**Oliveria Louisa Prescott** (1843-1919) was born in London. She studied at the Royal Academy of Music under George Alexander Macfarren and became his artistic assistant and copyist. She wrote a number of books on music including “Form or Design in Vocal and Instrumental Music” and “About music, and what it is made of; a book for amateurs”, the later published in 1904 and dedicated: “To the memory of My Master George Alexander Macfarren. ‘I was eyes to the blind’—Job xxix.15.” She lectured in harmony and composition for Newnham College, Cambridge, and taught harmony at the High School for Girls in Baker Street, London. She composed two symphonies, several overtures, a piano concerto, shorter orchestral pieces, vocal and choral works.

It was over the clover, and over the corn,  
And over the meadow that merry May morn,  
That he bore me with him on the back of his bay,  
To the gay village green, to the Queen of the May.

It was over the valleys and hills far from sight,  
By glen and by torrent at deep dead of night,  
That his fierce rival carried me helpless away,  
And swore he would wed me with breaking of day.

It was over the mountains my love followed me,  
From the rage of his rival his true love to free;  
And there in the grey dawn his foeman he found,  
And when the day broke there was blood on the ground.

It is over the mountains away to the sea,  
It is over the ocean my true love must flee;  
And he prays me to leave him, a felon outcast;  
But if e'er I forsake him, that day be my last.

Francis William Bourdillon (1852-1921)

# A border ballad

Oliveria Prescott

Allegro spiritoso  $\text{♩} = 138$

S  
It was o - ver the clo - ver, and o - ver the corn, And o - ver the

A  
It was o - ver the clo - ver, and o - ver the corn, And o - ver the

T  
It was o - ver the clo - ver, and o - ver the corn, And o - ver the

B  
It was o - ver the clo - ver, and o - ver the corn, And o - ver the

S  
mea - dow that mer - ry May morn, That he bore me with him on the back of his

A  
mea - dow that mer - ry May morn, That he bore me with him on the back of his

T  
mea - dow that mer - ry May morn, That he bore me with him on the back of his

B  
mea - dow that mer - ry May morn, That he bore me with him on the back of his



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## A border ballad

7

S bay, To the gay vil - lage green, to the Queen of the May. It was o - ver the

A bay, To the gay vil - lage green, to the Queen of the May. It was o - ver the

T bay, To the gay vil - lage green, to the Queen of the May. It was o - ver the

B bay, To the gay vil - lage green, to the Queen of the May. It was o - ver the

*p legato*

10

S val - leys and hills — far from sight, By glen — and by tor - rent at deep — dead of

A val - leys and hills far from sight, By glen and by tor - rent at deep dead of

T val - leys and hills far from sight, By glen and by tor - rent at deep dead of

B val - leys and hills — far from sight, By glen — and by tor - rent at deep — dead of

13

S night, — That his fierce — ri - val car - ried me help - less a - way, And —

A night, That his fierce ri - val car - ried me help - less a - way, And

T night, That his fierce ri - val car - ried me help - less a - way, And

B night, — That his fierce — ri - val car - ried me help - less a - way, And

*cresc.*

*f*

16

S  
swore he would wed me with break - ing of day.

A  
swore he would wed me with break - ing of day.

T  
swore he would wed me with break - ing of day.

B  
swore he would wed me with break - ing of day.

*mf*

S  
It was o - ver the moun - tains my love fol - lowed me, From the rage of his

A  
It was o - ver the moun - tains my love fol - lowed me, From the rage of his

T  
It was o - ver the moun - tains my love fol - lowed me, From the rage of his

B  
It was o - ver the moun - tains my love fol - lowed me, From the rage of his

21

S  
ri - val his true love to free; And there in the grey dawn his foe - man he

A  
ri - val his true love to free; And there in the grey dawn his foe - man he

T  
ri - val his true love to free; And there in the grey dawn his foe - man he

B  
ri - val his true love to free; And there in the grey dawn his foe - man he

## A border ballad

24 *cresc.* *p* *legato. sotto voce*

S found, And when the day broke there was blood on the ground. It is o - ver the

A found, And when the day broke there was blood on the ground. It is o - ver the

T found, And when the day broke there was blood on the ground. It is o - ver the

B found, And when the day broke there was blood on the ground. It is o - ver the

27

S moun - tains a - way to the sea, It is o - ver the o - cean my true love must

A moun - tains a - way to the sea, It is o - ver the o - cean my true love must

T moun - tains a - way to the sea, It is o - ver the o - cean my true love must

B moun - tains a - way to the sea, It is o - ver the o - cean my true love must

30 *cantabile* *pp*

S flee; And he prays me to leave him, a fe - lon

A flee; And he prays me to leave him, a fe - lon

T flee; And he prays me to leave him, a fe - lon

B flee; And he prays me to leave him, a fe - lon

33

S out - cast; But if e'er I for - sake

A out - cast; But if e'er I for - sake

T out - cast; But if e'er I for - sake

B out - cast; But if e'er I for - sake

36

S — him, if e'er I for - sake him, if e'er I for -

A — him, if e'er I for - sake him, if e'er I for -

T — him, if e'er I for - sake him, if e'er I for -

B — him, if e'er I for - sake him, if e'er I for -

39

S sake him, for - sake him, that day be my last.

A sake him, for - sake him, that day be my last.

T sake him, for - sake him, that day be my last.

B sake him, for - sake him, that day be my last.

*marcato rit.*

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