



The better land

Alfred Gaul
(1837-1913)

The better land

A. R. Gaul

Andantino ♩ = 96

S *mf* "I hear thee speak of the bet - ter land, _____ Thou call'st its

A *mf* "I hear thee speak of the bet - ter land, _____ Thou call'st its

T *mf* "I hear thee speak _____ of the bet - ter land, _____ Thou call'st its

B *mf* "I hear thee speak of the bet - ter land, _____ Thou call'st its

S ³ chil - dren a hap - py band; _____ Mo-ther! oh, where is that ra - diant

A chil - dren a hap - py band; Mo-ther! oh, where is that ra - diant

T chil - dren a hap - py band; _____ Mo-ther! oh, where _____ is that ra - diant

B chil - dren a hap - py band; Mo-ther! oh, where is that ra - diant



The better land

6

S shore? Shall we not seek it, and weep no more? Is it where the

A shore? Shall we not seek it, and weep no more? Is it where the

T shore? Shall we not seek it, and weep no more? Is it where the

B shore? Shall we not seek it, and weep no more? Is it where the

9

S flow'r of the or - ange blows, And the fire - flies glance thro' the myr - tle

A flow'r of the or - ange blows, And the fire - flies glance thro' the myr - tle

T flow'r of the or - ange blows, And the fire - flies glance thro' the myr - tle

B flow'r of the or - ange blows, And the fire - flies glance thro' the myr - tle

CHOIR ONE

12

S boughs?" "Shall we not seek it, shall we not seek it, shall we not

A boughs?" "Shall we not seek it, shall we not seek it, shall we not

T boughs?" "Shall we not seek it, shall we not seek it, shall we not

B boughs?" "Shall we not

The better land

CHOIR TWO

15

S seek _____ it, and weep no more?" "–Not there, not there, _____ not there, my

A seek it, and weep no more?" "–Not there, not there, not there, my

T seek it, and weep no more?" "–Not there, not there, not there, my

B seek it, and weep no more?"

18

S child!" "–Not there, not there, _____ not there, my child!"

A child!" "–Not there, not there, not there, my child!"

T child!" "–Not there, not there, not there, my child!"

B "–Not there!"

TUTTI

S "Is it where the feath - 'ry palm - trees rise, _____ And the date grows

A "Is it where the feath - 'ry palm - trees rise, _____ And the date grows

T "Is it where the feath - 'ry palm, the palm - trees rise, _____ And the date grows

B "Is it where the feath - 'ry palm - trees rise, _____ And the date grows

The better land

23

S
ripe un - der sun - ny skies? Or midst the green is - lands of glit - t'ring

A
ripe un - der sun - ny skies? Or midst the green is - lands of glit - t'ring

T
ripe un - der sun - ny skies? Or midst the green is - lands of glit - t'ring

B
ripe un - der sun - ny skies? Or midst the green is - lands of glit - t'ring

26

S
seas, Where fra - grant for - ests per - fume the breeze, And strange bright

A
seas, Where fra - grant for - ests per - fume the breeze, And strange bright

T
seas, Where fra - grant for - ests per - fume the breeze, And strange bright

B
seas, Where fra - grant for - ests per - fume the breeze, And strange bright

29

S
birds on their star - ry wings Bear, bear the rich hues of all glo - rious

A
birds on their star - ry wings Bear, bear the rich hues of all glo - rious

T
birds on their star - ry wings Bear, bear the rich hues of all glo - rious

B
birds on their star - ry wings Bear, bear the rich hues of all glo - rious

The better land

CHOIR ONE

32

S things?" — "Shall we not seek it, shall we not seek it, shall we not

A things?" "Shall we not seek it, shall we not seek it, shall we not

T things?" — "Shall we not seek it, shall we not seek it, shall we not

B things?" "Shall we not

CHOIR TWO

36

S seek — it, and weep no more?" — "Not there, not there, — not there, my

A seek it, and weep no more?" — "Not there, not there, not there, my

T seek it, and weep no more?" — "Not there, not there, not there, my

B seek it, and weep no more?"

40

S child!" — "Not there, not there, — not there, my child!"

A child!" — "Not there, not there, not there, my child!"

T child!" — "Not there, not there, not there, my child!"

B "Not there!"

The better land

TUTTI

43 *mf*

S "Is it far a - way, in some re - gion old, Where the riv - ers

A "Is it far a - way, in some re - gion old, Where the riv - ers

T "Is it far a - way, in some re - gion old, Where the riv - ers

B "Is it far a - way, in some re - gion old, Where the riv - ers

46

S wan - der o'er sands of gold, Where the burn - ing rays of the ru - by

A wan - der o'er sands of gold, Where the burn - ing rays of the ru - by

T wan - der o'er sands of gold, Where the burn - ing rays of the ru - by

B wan - der o'er sands of gold, Where the burn - ing rays of the ru - by

49

S shine, And the dia - mond lights up the se - cret mine, And the pearl gleams

A shine, And the dia - mond lights up the se - cret mine, And the pearl gleams

T shine, And the dia - mond lights up the se - cret mine, And the pearl gleams

B shine, And the dia - mond lights up the se - cret mine, And the pearl gleams

The better land

52

S forth from the cor - al strand? _____ Is it there, sweet mo - ther! that _____ bet - ter

A forth from the cor - al strand? Is it there, sweet mo - ther! that bet - ter

T forth from the cor - al strand? _____ Is it there, sweet mo - ther! that bet - ter

B forth from the cor - al strand? Is it there, sweet mo - ther! that bet - ter

CHOIR ONE

55

S land?" _____ "Shall we not seek it, shall we not seek it, shall we not

A land?" "Shall we not seek it, shall we not seek it, shall we not

T land?" _____ "Shall we not seek it, shall we not seek it, shall we not

B land?" "Shall we not

CHOIR TWO

59

S seek _____ it, and weep no more?" "Not there, not there, _____ not there, my

A seek it, and weep no more?" "Not there, not there, not there, my

T seek it, and weep no more?" "Not there, not there, not there, my

B seek it, and weep no more?"

The better land

63 *f* *dim.*

S child!" "Not there, not there, not there, my child!"

A child!" "Not there, not there, not there, my child!"

T child!" "Not there, not there, not there, my child!"

B "Not there!"

TUTTI

66 *Largo* $\text{♩} = 46$ *with solemnity* *p*

S "Eye hath not seen it, my gen - tle boy!"

A "Eye hath not seen it, my gen - tle boy!"

T "Eye hath not seen it, my gen - tle boy!"

B "Eye hath not seen it, my gen - tle boy!"

68 *mf*

S Ear hath not heard its deep songs of joy!

A Ear hath not heard its deep songs of joy!

T Ear hath not heard its deep songs of joy!

B Ear hath not heard its deep songs of joy!

The better land

70 *f*

S Dreams can - not pic - ture a world so fair-

A Dreams can - not pic - ture a world so fair-

T Dreams can - not pic - ture a world so fair-

B Dreams can - not pic - ture a world so fair-

72 *p*

S Sor - row and death may not en - ter there:

A Sor - row and death may not en - ter there:

T Sor - row and death may not en - ter there:

B Sor - row and death may not en - ter there:

74 *f*

S Time doth not breathe on its fade - less bloom

A Time doth not breathe on its fade - less bloom

T Time doth not breathe on its fade - less bloom

B Time doth not breathe on its fade - less bloom

The better land

CHOIR 1 SOPR.

mf For be - yond the clouds and be - yond the tomb," *ad lib. to the end* *mf* "Shall we not seek it,

CHOIR 2 SOPR.

mf For be - yond the clouds and be - yond the tomb," *p* "It is there, *p* it is

A

mf For be - yond the clouds and be - yond the tomb," *p* "It is there, *p* it is

T

mf For be - yond the clouds and be - yond the tomb," *p* "It is there, *p* it is

B

mf For be - yond the clouds and be - yond the tomb," *p* "It is there, *p* it is

⁷⁹

S

mf shall we not seek it, sweet mo - ther?"

2-S

p there, it is there, is there, my child!"

A

p there, it is there, is there, my child!"

T

p there, it is there, is there, my child!"

B

p there, it is there, is there, my child!"

Alfred Robert Gaul (1837-1913) was born in Norwich. He became a chorister in Norwich Cathedral at age nine, then was organist at St. John's Church, Ladywood. He graduated from Cambridge University in 1863 and became conductor of the Walsall Philharmonic Society in 1887. Gaul spent much of his professional life in Birmingham, where he was Master of Music at St Augustine's Church, Edgbaston. He also taught harmony and counterpoint at the Birmingham and Midland Institute and the King Edward VI High School for Girls. Gaul wrote a large quantity of oratorios, cantatas, hymn tunes, chants, part songs, and pianoforte pieces. One of his most enduring works is his cantata *The Holy City* (1882).

"I hear thee speak of the better land,
Thou call'st its children a happy band;
Mother! oh, where is that radiant shore?
Shall we not seek it, and weep no more?
Is it where the flower of the orange blows,
And the fire-flies glance thro' the myrtle boughs?"
"—Not there, not there, my child!"

"Is it where the feathery palm-trees rise,
And the date grows ripe under sunny skies?
Or midst the green islands of glittering seas,
Where fragrant forests perfume the breeze,
And strange bright birds on their starry wings
Bear the rich hues of all glorious things?"
"—Not there, not there, my child!"

"Is it far away, in some region old,
Where the rivers wander o'er sands of gold,
Where the burning rays of the ruby shine,
And the diamond lights up the secret mine,
And the pearl gleams forth from the coral strand?
Is it there, sweet mother! that better land?"
"—Not there, not there, my child!"

"Eye hath not seen it, my gentle boy!
Ear hath not heard its deep songs of joy!
Dreams cannot picture a world so fair—
Sorrow and death may not enter there:
Time doth not breathe on its fadeless bloom
For beyond the clouds and beyond the tomb,
—It is there, it is there, my child!"

Felicia Dorothea Hemans (1793-1835)

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