



Six Four-part Songs

Poetry by William Duthie

No. 1.

Drops of Rain

J. Lemmens

(1823 -1881)

Jaak-Nicolaas (Jacques-Nicolas) Lemmens (1823-1881) was born in Zoerle-Parwijs, Waterloo, Belgium. He was first a pupil of his father and later studied organ at the Royal Brussels Conservatoire then in Breslau, Bohemia with a government stipend. In 1849 he was appointed organ professor at the Royal Brussels Conservatoire. In 1857 he married the English soprano Helen Sherrington, who became a leading English concert and operatic singer. From his marriage on, he lived in England and at their castle Linter Ports Zemst, Belgium. He focused on the study of Catholic church music, especially on a method for accompanying Gregorian chant. Lemmens gained international fame as an organ virtuoso, particularly through his performances of Bach. He established a seminary for Catholic organists and choirmasters in Malines (Mechelen), Belgium. He wrote many works for organ, works for piano, two symphonies, a Te Deum, motets, songs, and part-songs.

Pit, pat, pit, pat, there falls the rain
With a melancholy drip,
From the roof's o'er-hanging lip,
Back to streaming earth again;
Where the yellow leaves are lying,
Where the autumn flowers are dying,
While winds are sighing,
Grief-notes in a solemn strain.

Pit, pat, pit, pat, with gentle sound,
Where the grass is tall and rank,
Where the forest glades are dank,
And the sky is walled around,
With a fortress high and leaden,
Which the sickly sunbeams redden;
The drift leaves deaden
Its Music ere it reach the ground.

Pit, pat, pit, pat, so droops the year;
As its moisty hours began
So the darkling moments ran,
And the winter hovers near.
Oh! thou holy summer shining!
Oh! thou autumn light declining!
Sad hearts repining
For the sunlight held so dear!

William Duthie

Drops of rain

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Animato ♩ = 84

The first system of the musical score is for four voices: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The key signature is two sharps (D major) and the time signature is common time (C). The tempo is marked 'Animato' with a metronome marking of ♩ = 84. The Soprano part begins with a piano (*pp*) dynamic and features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with rests. The Alto part follows a similar pattern. The Tenor part is silent for the first two measures. The Bass part also follows the eighth-note pattern. All parts converge on the lyrics 'there falls the rain' in the third measure, marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.

S
Pit, pat, pit, pat, there falls the rain

A
Pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, there falls the rain

T
there falls the rain

B
Pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, There falls the rain

The second system continues the musical score. It begins with a triplet of eighth notes marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The Soprano part has the lyrics 'With a me-lan-cho-ly drip,'. The Alto part has the lyrics 'With a me-lan-cho-ly drip, Pit, pat, pit, pat,'. The Tenor part has the lyrics 'With a me-lan-cho-ly drip, Pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat,'. The Bass part has the lyrics 'With a me-lsn-cho-ly drip, Pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat,'. The dynamics vary throughout, including piano (*p*), forte (*f*), and mezzo-forte (*mf*).

S
With a me - lan - cho - ly drip,

A
With a me - lan - cho - ly drip, Pit, pat, pit, pat,

T
With a me - lan - cho - ly drip, Pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat,

B
With a me - lsn - cho - ly drip, Pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat,

Drops of rain

5

S *mf* There falls the rain From the roof's o'er - hang - ing lip, *sf*

A *mf* There falls the rain From the roof's o'er - hang - ing lip, *sf*

T *mf* There falls the rain From the roof's o'er - hang - ing lip, *sf*

B *mf* There falls the rain From the roof's o'er - hang - ing lip, *sf*

7

S *pp* Pit, pat, pit, pat, *mf* There falls the rain *sf*

A *pp* Pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, *mf* There falls the rain *sf*

T *pp* There falls the rain *mf* *sf*

B *pp* Pit - pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, *mf* There falls the rain *sf*

9

S *p* With a me - lan - cho - ly drip, *sf* There falls the rain *cresc.*

A *p* With a me - lan - cho - ly drip, *sf* There falls the rain *cresc.*

T *p* With a me - lan - cho - ly drip, *sf* There falls the rain *cresc.*

B *p* With a me - lan - cho - ly drip, *sf* Pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, *cresc.*

Drops of rain

11

S From the roof's o'er - hang - ing lip, There falls the rain — Back to

A From the roof's o'er - hang - ing lip, There falls the rain Back to

T From the roof's o'er - hang - ing lip, There falls the rain Back to

B pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, There falla the rain Back to

13

S stream - ing earth a - gain; There falls the rain — Back to

A stream - ing earth a - gain; There falls the rain Back to

T stream - ing earth a - gain; There falls the rain Back to

B stream - ing earth a - gain; Pit, pat, pit, There falls the rain Back to

15

S stream - ing earth a - gain; Where — the — yel - low

A stream - ing earth a - gain; Where — the — yel - low

T stream - ing earth a - gain; Where the yel - low

B stream - ing earth a - gain; Pit, pat, pit, pat, pit,

17

S leaves are ly - ing, Where the au - tumn

A leaves are ly - ing, Where the au - tumn

T leaves are ly - ing, Where the au - tumn

B pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, *pp* pit, pat, pit, pat, pit,

19

S flowers are dy - ing, While winds are sigh - ing, *cresc.*

A flowers are dy - ing, While winds are sigh - ing, *cresc.*

T flowers are dy - ing, While winds are sigh - ing, *cresc.*

B pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, *cresc.* pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat,

21

S while winds are sigh - ing, *f* Grief - notes in a so - lemn strain, *p*

A while winds are sigh - ing, *f* Grief - notes in a so - lemn strain, *p*

T while winds are sigh - ing, *f* Grief - notes in a so - lemn strain, *p*

B *f* pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, *p* Grief-notes in a so - lemn strain, Pit, pat, pit,

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24

S Grief - notes in a so - lem strain.

A Grief - notes in a so - lem strain.

T Grief - notes in a so - lem strain.

B pat, Grief - notes in a so - lem strain.

26

S *pp* Pit, pat, pit, pat, *mf* with gen - tle sound,

A *pp* Pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, *mf* with gen - tle sound,

T *mf* with gen - tle sound,

B *pp* Pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, *mf* with gen - tle sound,

28

S *p* Where the grass is tall and rank, *sf*

A *p* Where the grass is tall and rank, *sf* *pp* Pit, pat, pit, pat,

T *p* Where the grass is tall and rank, *sf* *pp* Pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat,

B *p* Where the grass is tall and rank, *sf* *pp* Pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat,

Drops of rain

30 *mf* *sf*

S With gen - tle sound, Where the fo - rest glades are dank,

A With gen - tle sound, Where the fo - rest glades are dank,

T With gen - tle sound, Where the fo - rest glades are dank,

B With gen - tle sound, Where the fo - rest glades are dank,

32 *pp* *mf* *sf*

S Pit, pat, pit, pat, with gen - tle sound,

A Pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, with gen - tle sound,

T with gen - tle sound,

B Pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, with gen - tle sound

34 *p* *sf* *cresc.*

S Where the grass is tall and rank, with gen - tle sound,

A Where the grass is tall and rank, with gen - tle sound,

T Where the grass is tall and rank, with gen - tle sound,

B Where the grass is tall and rank, Pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat,

Drops of rain

36

S Where the fo - rest glades are dank, with gen - tle sound, — And the

A Where the fo - rest glades are dank, with gen - tle sound, And the

T Where the fo - rest glades are dank, with gen - tle sound, And the

B pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, with gen - tle sound, And the

38

S sky is wall'd a - round, with gen - tle sound, — And the

A sky is wall'd a - round, with gen - tle sound, And the

T sky is wall'd a - round, with gen - tle sound, And the

B sky is wall'd a - round, Pit - pat, pit, with gen - tle sound, And the

40

S sky is wall'd a - round With a for - tress

A sky is wall'd a - round With a for - tress

T sky is wall'd a - round With a for - tress

B sky is wall'd a - round Pit, pat, pit, pat, pit,

42

S high and lead - en, Which the sick - ly

A high and lead - en, Which the sick - ly

T high and lead - en, Which the sick - ly

B pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, *pp* pit, pat, pit, pat, pit,

44

S sun - beams red - den; the drift leaves dead - en, *cresc.*

A sun - beams red - den; the drift leaves dead - en, *cresc.*

T sun - beams red - den; the drift leaves dead - en, *cresc.*

B pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, *cresc.* pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat,

46

S the drift leaves dead - en Its Mu - sic ere it *f* *p*

A the drift leaves dead - en Its Mu - sic ere it *f* *p*

T the drift leaves dead - en Its Mu - sic ere it *f* *p*

B pat, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, *f* *p* Its Mu - sic ere it

48

S reach the ground, Mu - sic ere it reach the ground.

A reach the ground, Mu - sic ere it reach the ground.

T reach the ground, Mu - sic ere it reach the ground.

B reach the ground, Pit, pat, pit, pat, Its Mu - sic ere it reach the ground.

51

S *pp* Pit, pat, pit, pat, *mf* so droops the year;

A *pp* Pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, *mf* so droops the year;

T *mf* so droops the year;

B *pp* Pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, *mf* so droops the year;

53

S *p* As its moist - y hours be - gan *sf*

A *p* As its moist - y hours be - gan *sf* *pp* Pit, pat, pit, pat,

T *p* As its moist - y hours be - gan *sf* *pp* Pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat,

B *p* As its mois - ty hours be - gan *sf* *pp* Pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat,

Drops of rain

55 *mf* so droops the year; So the dark - ling mo - ments ran, *sf*

A *mf* so droops the year; So the dark - ling mo - ments ran, *sf*

T *mf* so droops the year; So the dark - ling mo - ments ran, *sf*

B *mf* so droops the year; So the dark - ling mo - ments ran, *sf*

57 *pp* Pit, pat, pit, pat, *mf* so droops the year; *sf*

A *pp* Pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, *mf* so droops the year; *sf*

T *mf* so droops the year; *sf*

B *pp* Pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, *mf* so droops the year; *sf*

59 *p* As its moist - y hours be - gan, *sf* so droops the year; *cresc.*

A *p* As its moist - y hours be - gan, *sf* so droops the year; *cresc.*

T *p* As its moist - y hours be - gan, *sf* so droops the year; *cresc.*

B *p* As its mois - ty hours be - gan, *sf* Pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, *cresc.*

61

S So the dark - ling mo - ments ran, so droops the year; — And the

A So the dark - ling mo - ments ran, so droops the year; And the

T So the dark - ling mo - ments ran, so droops the year; And the

B pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, so droops the year; And the

63

S win - ter ho - vers near. so droops the year; — And the

A win - ter ho - vers near. so droops the year; And the

T win - ter ho - vers near. so droops the year; And the

B win - ter ho - vers near. Pit - pat, pit, so droops the year; And the

65

S win - ter ho - vers near. Oh! — thou — ho - ly

A win - ter ho - vers near. Oh! — thou — ho - ly

T win - ter ho - vers near. Oh! — thou ho - ly

B win - ter ho - vers near. Pit, pat, pit, pat, pit,

67

S
sum - mer shin - ing! Oh! thou au - tumn

A
sum - mer shin - ing! Oh! thou au - tumn

T
sum - mer shin - ing! Oh! thou au - tumn

B
pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, *pp* pit, pat, pit, pat, pit,

69

S
light de - clin - ing! *cresc.* sad hearts re - pin - ing,

A
light de - clin - ing! *cresc.* sad hearts re - pin - ing,

T
light de - clin - ing! *cresc.* sad hearts re - pin - ing,

B
pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, *cresc.* pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit,

71

S
f sad hearts re - pin - ing *sf* For the sun - light held so dear!

A
f sad hearts re - pin - ing *sf* For the sun - light held so dear!

T
f sad hearts re - pin - ing *sf* For the sun - light held so dear!

B
f pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, pat, pit, *p* For the sun - light held so dear, Pit, pat, pit,

74

S For the sun - light held so dear!

A For the sun - light held so dear!

T For the sun - light held so dear!

B pat, For the sun - light held so dear!

Novello, Ewer, and Co.
(1875-1890)

REVIEW

The Musical Times
June 1, 1869

Six Four-part Songs (SATB)
By J. Lemmens
Poetry by William Duthie

1. Drops of Rain
2. The Fairy Ring
3. The Light of Life
4. Oh, welcome him
5. Sunshine through the clouds
6. The Corn Field

There is much character in the first of these part-songs, the pattering of the rain-drops being admirably represented by staccato notes for the voices; and the cantabile melody for the upper three voices, whilst the bass obstinately maintains the "pit, pat," may be made very effective with a good choir. No. 2, "The Fairy Ring," commences with an agreeable, but peculiar melody, halting on the second beat of the bar in 3/4 rhythm. The voice parts throughout this Fairy song are uniformly well written; and there is a light and graceful character about the treatment of the words which will always please an audience. No. 3, "The Light of Life," is, in our opinion, the best of the set. The animated subject at the commencement peaks the words with remarkable fidelity; and throughout the composition there are several effective points of imitation, the concluding phrase of the verse being especially worthy of note. No. 4, "Oh, welcome him," is somewhat common-place, but effective in parts, especially where the bass takes the solo, in G minor, to the words, "The night was dark," and afterwards holds on the D as a dominant pedal. No. 5, "Sunshine through the clouds," has an appropriately tranquil theme, which is harmonized with care and judgment. The change to 2/4 rhythm has a good effect. No. 6, "The Corn Field," is a flowing melody, in 6/8 rhythm, in the treatment of which some happy contrapuntal effects occur. There is much interest in this song; and it will amply repay careful study. The whole of the compositions in this book are highly favourable specimens of the author's power to write effective and healthy part-music.

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