



The Old Graveyard

Frederick N. Baxter
(1859–1925)

Frederick Nathaniel Baxter (1859-1925) was born in Risely, Bedfordshire, England, was educated at the University of Durham, and was Fellow of the Royal Academy of Organists. He held organist positions at Colerne Parish Church, Wiltshire; and St. Saviour's Church, Tetbury, Gloucestershire. He was also conductor of the philharmonic and orchestral society in Tetbury. He died in Tetbury. He composed a number of anthems and part-songs.

Blow soft and low, O whispering wind!
Above the tangled grasses deep,
Where those who loved me long ago
Forgot the world, and fell asleep.
No towering shaft or sculptured urn,
Or mausoleum's empty pride
Tells to the curious passerby
Their virtues or the time they died.

I count the old familiar names,
O'ergrown with moss and lichen grey,
Where tangled briar and creeping vine
Across the crumbling tablets stray.
The summer sky is softly blue,
The birds still sing the sweet old strain;
But something from the summertime
Is gone that will not come again.

So many voices have been hushed,
So many songs have ceased for aye,
So many hands I used to clasp
Are folded over hearts of clay;
The busy world recedes from me—
I cease to hear its praise or blame;
The mossy marbles echo back
No hollow sound of empty fame.

I only know, that, calm and still,
They sleep beyond life's woe and wail,
Beyond the fleet of sailing clouds,
Beyond the shadow of the vale.
I only feel, that, tired and worn,
I halt upon the highway bare,
And gaze, with yearning eyes, beyond
To fields that shine supremely fair.

Dulcinea Minerva Mason Jordan (1833-1895)

The Old Graveyard

Part-Song in the manner of Mendelssohn.
Suggested by the fiftieth anniversary of his death.

F. N. Baxter

First system of the musical score for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass). The music is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The Soprano part begins with a rest, then enters with a half note G4, followed by a dotted half note G4. The Alto part begins with a rest, then enters with a quarter note G4, followed by a dotted half note G4. The Tenor part begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a dotted half note G4. The Bass part begins with a rest, then enters with a quarter note G3, followed by a dotted half note G3. The lyrics are: Soprano: O whis - p'ring wind!; Alto: Blow soft and low, O whis - p'ring wind!; Tenor: Blow soft and low, O whis - p'ring wind!; Bass: Blow soft and low, O whis - p'ring wind! The music is marked *p* and *poco rall.*

Second system of the musical score for four voices. The lyrics are: Soprano: Blow soft and low, O whis - p'ring wind! A - bove the tan - gled; Alto: Blow soft and low, O whis - p'ring wind! A - bove the tan - gled; Tenor: Blow soft and low, O whis - p'ring wind! A - bove the tan - gled; Bass: Blow soft and low, O whis - p'ring wind! A - bove the tan - gled. The music is marked *mf*.

The Old Graveyard

9 *cresc.*

S grass - es deep, Where those who loved me long a - go For -

A grass - es deep, Where those who loved me long a - go For -

T grass - es deep, Where those who loved me long a - go For -

B grass - es deep, Where those who loved me long a - go For -

12

S got the world, and fell a - sleep.

A got the world, and fell a - sleep. No tow - 'ring shaft or

T got the world, and fell a - sleep. No tow - 'ring shaft or

B got the world, and fell a - sleep.

15 *p*

S Or mau - so - le - um's em - pty pride

A sculp - tured urn, Or mau - so - le - um's em - pty pride

T sculp - tured urn, Or mau - so - le - um's em - pty pride

B Or mau - so - le - um's em - pty pride

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18

S Tells to the cur - ious pass - er - by Their vir - tues or the

A Tells to the cur - ious pass - er - by Their vir - tues or the

T Tells to the cur - ious pass - er - by Their vir - tues or the

B Tells to the cur - ious pass - er - by Their vir - tues or the

21

S time they died. *p* O whis - p'ring wind! *poco rall.*

A time they died. *p* Blow soft and low, O whis - p'ring wind! *poco rall.*

T time they died. *p* Blow soft and low, O whis - - - p'ring wind! *poco rall.*

B time they died. Blow soft and low, O whis - p'ring wind! *poco rall.*

mf

S I count the old fa - mil - iar names, O'er - grown with moss and

A I count the old fa - mil - iar names, O'er - grown with moss and

T I count the old fa - mil - iar names, O'er - grown with moss and

B I count the old fa - mil - iar names, O'er - grown with moss and

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29 *cresc.*

S li - chen grey, Where tan - gled briar and creep - ing vine A -

A li - chen grey, Where tan - gled briar and creep - ing vine A -

T li - chen grey, Where tan - gled briar and creep - ing vine A -

B li - chen grey, Where tan - gled briar and creep - ing vine A -

32

S cross the crum - bling tab - lets stray.

A cross the crum - bling tab - lets stray. *p* The sum - mer sky is

T cross the crum - bling tab - lets stray. *p* The sum - mer sky is

B cross the crum - bling tab - lets stray.

35 *p*

S The birds still sing the sweet old strain; But

A soft - ly blue, *p* The birds still sing the sweet old strain; But

T soft - ly blue, *p* The birds still sing the sweet old strain; But

B *p* The birds still sing the sweet old strain; But

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38

S some - thing from the sum - mer - time Is gone that will not

A some - thing from the sum - mer - time Is gone that will not

T some - thing from the sum - mer - time Is gone that will not

B some - thing from the sum - mer - time Is gone that will not

41

S come a - gain. *p* O whis - p'ring wind! *poco rall.*

A come a - gain. *p* Blow soft and low, O whis - p'ring wind! *poco rall.*

T come a - gain. *p* Blow soft and low, O whis - p'ring wind! *poco rall.*

B come a - gain. *p* Blow soft and low, O whis - p'ring wind! *poco rall.*

mf

S So man - y voic - es have been hushed, So man - y songs have

A So man - y voic - es have been hushed, So man - y songs have

T So man - y voic - es have been hushed, So man - y songs have

B So man - y voic - es have been hushed, So man - y songs have

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49 *cresc.*

S ceased for aye, So man - y hands I used to clasp Are

A ceased for aye, So man - y hands I used to clasp Are

T ceased for aye, So man - y hands I used to clasp Are

B ceased for aye, So man - y hands I used to clasp Are

52

S fold - ed o - ver hearts of clay;

A fold - ed o - ver hearts of clay; *p* The bus - y world re -

T fold - ed o - ver hearts of clay; *p* The bus - y world re -

B fold - ed o - ver hearts of clay;

55 *p*

S I cease to hear its praise or blame; The

A cedes from me— *p* I cease to hear its praise or blame; The

T cedes from me— *p* I cease to hear its praise or blame; The

B I cease to hear its praise or blame; The

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58

S moss - y mar - bles ech - o back No hol - low sound of

A moss - y mar - bles ech - o back No hol - low sound of

T moss - y mar - bles ech - o back No hol - low sound of

B moss - y mar - bles ech - o back No hol - low sound of

61

S em - pty fame. *p* O whis - p'ring wind! *poco rall.*

A em - pty fame. *p* Blow soft and low, O whis - p'ring wind! *poco rall.*

T em - pty fame. *p* Blow soft and low, O whis - - - p'ring wind! *poco rall.*

B em - pty fame. *p* Blow soft and low, O whis - p'ring wind! *poco rall.*

mf

S I on - ly know, that, calm and still, They sleep be - yond life's

A I on - ly know, that, — calm and still, They sleep be - yond life's

T I on - ly know, that, — calm and still, They sleep be - yond life's

B I on - ly know, that, calm and still, They sleep be - yond life's

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69 *cresc.*

S woe and wail, Be - yond the fleet of sail - ing clouds, Be -

A woe and wail, Be - yond the fleet of sail - ing clouds, Be -

T woe and wail, Be - yond the fleet — of sail - ing clouds, Be -

B woe and wail, Be - yond the fleet — of sail - ing clouds, Be -

72

S yond the shad - ow of the vale.

A yond the shad - ow of the vale. I on - ly feel, that,

T yond the shad - ow of the vale. I on - ly feel, that,

B yond the shad - ow — of the vale.

75 *p*

S I halt up - on the high - way bare, And

A tired and worn, I halt up - on the high - way bare, And

T tired and worn, I halt up - on the high - way bare, And

B I halt up - on the high - way bare, And

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78

S gaze, with year - ing eyes, be - yond To fields that shine su -

A gaze, with year - ing eyes, be - yond To fields that shine su -

T gaze, with year - ing eyes, be - yond To fields that shine su -

B gaze, with year - ing eyes, be - yond To fields that shine su -

81

S preme - ly fair. O whis - p'ring wind!

A preme - ly fair. Blow soft and low, O whis - p'ring wind!

T preme - ly fair. Blow soft and low, O whis - - - p'ring wind!

B preme - ly fair. Blow soft and low, O whis - p'ring wind!

poco rall.

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