

Robert Frost (1874-1963):
A Boy's Will [1913; 1915]

To Randall Thompson, who brought the Spring

Frost in the Fall

Peter Bird

1. A Line-Storm Song

Moderato ♩ = 108

Musical score for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass, measures 1-6. The Soprano part begins with a *p* dynamic and the word "Oh". The Alto part begins with a *mp* dynamic and the word "Oh". The Tenor part begins with a *p* dynamic and the word "Oh". The Bass part begins with a *p* dynamic and the word "Oh".

Musical score for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass, measures 7-12. Measure 7 is marked with a box containing the letter 'A'. The Soprano part has lyrics: "Oh" and "The road is for-lorn all". The Alto part has lyrics: "Oh" and "The line-storm clouds fly tat-ter'd and swift,". The Tenor part has lyrics: "Oh" and "Oh". The Bass part has lyrics: "Oh" and "Oh".

Musical score for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass, measures 13-18. The Soprano part has lyrics: "day," and "Oh" and "Ah...". The Alto part has lyrics: "Where a my-ri - ad snow-y quartz stones lift," and "And the hoof-prints van-ish a -". The Tenor part has lyrics: "Oh" and "And the hoof-prints van-ish a -". The Bass part has lyrics: "Oh" and "Oh".

Frost in the Fall

2

19

S. The road-side flow-ers, too wet for the bee, Ex-pand their blooms in vain. *mp* *mf*

A. way. Ex-pand their blooms in vain. *mp* *mf*

T. way. Oh Come *mp*

B. Come

25

S. Oh Oh Oh

A. Oh Oh

T. o-ver the hills and far with me, And be my love in the rain. *mf*

B. o-ver the hills and far with me, And be my love in the rain. *mf*

32

S. All song of the woods is crush'd like some wild, eas - il - y shat - ter'd *mp* *mf*

A. Oh All song of the woods is crush'd like some wild eas - il - y shat - ter'd *mp*

T. Oh

B. Oh

38 **C** (tutti) *mp*

S. *mp* rose. Ah

A. *mp* rose. Ah

T. *mf* Come, be my love in the wet woods; come, where the boughs rain

B. *mf* Come, be my love in the wet woods; come, where the boughs rain

43 **D** *f*

S. *f* There is the gale to urge behind And bruit

A. *mf* Ah

T. *mf* when it blows. Ah Ah Ah

B. *mf* when it blows. Ah Ah

50 **E** *mf* *mp*

S. *mf* our sing-ing down, Ah

A. Ah

T. *mf* And shal-low wa - ters a - flut - ter with wind

B. *mf* Ah And shal-low wa - ters Ah

Frost in the Fall

4

55 F

S. *mf* What mat - ter if we go

A. *mp* Ah *mf* What

T. From which to *mp* mat - ter if we go
To gath - er your gown, What mat - ter if we go

B. Which to *mp* ...mat - ter if we go
From which to gath - er your gown.

60 *mp*

S. clear to the west, and come not through dry - shod? Wild - ing brooch shall wet your breast: the

A. *mp* clear to the west, and come not through dry - shod? Wild - ing brooch shall wet your breast: the

T. clear to the west, and come not through dry - shod? For wild - ing brooch shall wet your breast: the

B. clear to the west, and come not through dry - shod? For wild - ing brooch shall wet your breast: The

65 G *mf*

S. rain-fresh gold-en - rod. Ah *f* But it seems like the sea's

A. *mf* rain-fresh gold-en - rod. *mp* Oh, nev-er this whelm-ing East wind swells *f*

T. rain-fresh gold-en - rod. Ah *f* But it seems like the sea's

B. *mf* rain-fresh gold-en - rod. *mp* Ah *f* Oh, nev-er this whelm-ing East wind swells *mf* Ah

71

S. *mp* re - turn Ah

A. To the an - cient lands where it left the shells *mf* Be -

T. *f* re - turn To the an - cient lands where it left the shells Be -

B. *mf* Ah

77

S. *mf* Ah *f* And it seems like the time when, af - ter doubt, *mf* Our love came

A. fore the time of the fern; *mf* Our love came

T. *f* fore the time of the fern; And it seems like the time when, af - ter doubt, *mf* Our love came

B. Ah *mf* Our love came

82

S. *f* back a - main. *mf* Ah

A. *f* back a - main. *mf* Ah

T. *f* back a - main. Oh, come forth in - to the storm and rout And be my

B. *f* back a - gain. Come Oh, come forth in - to the storm and rout *f* And be my

Frost in the Fall

6

88 *rit.* *mf*

S. My love;

A. *mf* Ah *mp* My

T. 8 love in the rain. *mp* My

B. love in the rain.

92 *Andante* (♩ = 95) *p*

S. In the rain.

A. *p* love in the rain.

T. 8 love in the rain.

B. *mp* Rain. In the rain.

Frost in the Fall

2. October

H

97 **Largo** (♩ = 48)

S. *p* O hush'd Oc-to-ber morn-ing mild, *p* Leaves have rip-en'd to the fall;

A. *p* O hush'd Oc-to-ber morn-ing mild, *mp* Thy leaves have rip-en'd to the fall;

T. *p* O hush'd Oc-to-ber morn-ing mild, *mp* Leaves have rip-en'd to the fall;

B. *p* O hush'd Oc-to-ber morn-ing mild, *mp* Thy leaves have rip-en'd to the fall;

102 *mf* Ah. *mp* Ah.

A. *mf* To-mor-row's wind, if it be wild, Should waste them

T. *mf* To-mor-row's wind, if it be wild, Should waste them

B. *mf* Ah. Wind. Wind.

106 *mp* **accel.** (+20%)

S. The crows a - bove the for-est call; To-mor-row

A. *mp* ...all. *mp* all. Crows a - bove the for-est call; To-mor-row

T. *mp* all. Crows, crows... call; To-mor-row

B. *mp* All. *p* Cah;_ cah;_ cah;_ cah. *mf* To - mor-row

Frost in the Fall

8

Adagio (♩ = 58)

109

S. *mf* they may form and *mp* go. *p* Ah *mp* Be -

A. *mf* they may form and *mp* go. *mp* O hush'd Oc-to-ber morn-ing mild, Be -

T. *mf* they may form and *mp* go. *mp* O hush'd Oc-to-ber morn-ing mild, Be -

B. *mp* they may form and *mp* go. *mp* Ah Be -

113

S. *mf* gin the hours of this day slow, Make the day seem to us less brief.

A. *mf* gin the hours of this day slow, Make the day seem to us less brief.

T. *mf* gin the hours of this day slow, *mf* Hearts not a -

B. *mf* gin the hours of this day slow, *mf* Hearts not a -

117

S. *mf* Be - guile us in the way you know: Re -

A. *mf* Be - guile us in the way you know: Re -

T. *mf* verse to be - ing be - guil'd, *mp* Be - guile us in the way you know: Re -

B. *mf* verse to be - ing - be - guil'd, *mp* Be - guile us in the way you know: Re -

I

121

S. *mp* lease one leaf at break of day; At noon re-lease an - oth - er leaf; Ah *mf* One from our

A. lease one leaf at break of day; At noon re-lease an - oth - er leaf;

T. lease one leaf at break of day; At noon re-lease an - oth - er leaf;

B. lease one leaf at break of day; At noon re-lease an - oth - er leaf;

125

S. *mp* trees, *p* one far a - way; one far a - way; Re - tard the

A. *mp* one far a - way; *p* Ah One far a - way; Ah Re - tard the

T. Ah *p* Ah Re - tard the

B. *mp* Ah *p* Ah Re - tard the

130

S. *mp* sun with gen - tle mist; En - chant the land with am - e - thyst. *mf*

A. *mp* sun with gen - tle mist; En - chant the land with am - e - thyst. *mf*

T. *mp* sun with gen - tle mist; En - chant the land with am - e - thyst. *mf*

B. *mp* sun with gen - tle mist; En - chant the land with am - e - thyst. *mf*

Frost in the Fall

J

10

Largo (♩ = 50)

135

mp (same pitch) *mf* *mp* *p*

S. Slow. For the grapes' sake, if they were all, Whose

A. Slow, slow! For the grapes' sake, if they were all, Whose

T. Slow, slow! For the grapes' sake, if they were all, Whose

B. Slow, slow! For the grape' sake, if they were all,

139

S. leaves al-read-y are burnt with frost, Whose clus-ter'd fruit must be

A. leaves al-read-y are burnt with frost, Whose clus-ter'd fruit must else be

T. leaves al read-y are burnt with frost, Clus-ter'd fruit must else be

B. ...leaves al-read-y are burnt with frost, Whose clus-ter'd fruit must else be

142

mp *p* *rit.*

S. lost, For the grapes' sake, a-long the wall.

A. lost, For the grapes' sake, a-long the wall.

T. lost, For the grapes' sake, a-long the wall.

B. lost, For the grapes' sake, a-long the wall.

K

Frost in the Fall

3. Reluctance

Andante (♩ = 72)

S. *p* Oo

A. *p* Oo

T. *mp* (or solo)
8 Out through the fields and the woods And o - ver the walls I have wend ed;

B. *p* Oh

S. 152 Oo

A. Oo

T. 8 I have climb'd the hills of view And look'd at the world, and de scend ed;

B. *p* Oh

S. 159 *p* (tutti) Ah

A. *p* (tutti) Ah

T. *mf* Ah I have come by the high-way home, And lo, it is end-ed. Ah

B. Ah

Frost in the Fall

12

L

In 2; same beat ($\text{♩} = 72$)

167

S. *mp* The leaves are all dead on the ground,

A. *mp* The leaves are all dead on the ground, on the ground,

T. (tutti) *p* Ah Ah *mp* The leaves are all

B. *mp* Ah The leaves are all

175

S. *mp* Save those that the oak is keep - ing. — To rav-el them one_ by one And

A. *mp* Save those that the oak is keep - ing. — To rav-el them one by one And

T. *mf* on dead on the ground. —

B. *mf* on dead on the ground. — *p* Ah

183

S. *mp* let them go scrap-ing and creep - ing Out o-ver the crust-ed snow — When o -

A. *mp* let them to scrap-ing and creep - ing Out o-ver the crust-ed snow When o -

T. *p* *mp* And the dead leaves lie hud - dled and still. —

B. *p* *mp* And the dead leaves lie hud - dled and still. —

M

191

S. *mp*
 there are sleep- ing. And the dead leaves lie hud- dled and still,

A. *mp*
 there are sleep- ing. And the dead leaves lie hud- dled and still,

T. *mp* *mf*
 The leaves are all dead

B. *mp* *mf*
 Sleep - ing. The leaves are all dead

199

S. *mp* *mp* *mp*
 No long-er blown hi-ther and thi- ther; The last lone as-ter is gone; The

A. *mp* *mp*
 No long-er blown hi-ther and thi- ther; The last lone as-ter is gone;

T. *mp* *p*
 on the ground. Gone.

B. *mp* *p*
 on the ground. Gone.

207

S. *mf* *mp*
 flow-ers of witch-haz-el with- er; flow - ers wi - - ther; The

A. *mp*
 Flow-ers of witch-haz-el with- er; The

T. *mp*
 And the dead leaves lie hud - dled and still.

B. *mp*
 And the dead leaves lie hud - dled and still.

Frost in the Fall

14

N

Same beat (♩ = 72)

215

S. *mf*
heart is still ach-ing to seek, But the feet ques-tion 'Whi-ther?'

A. heart is still ach-ing to seek,

T. *mp*
Still.

B. *mp*
Still.

222

S. (divisi) *p* Ah. *mp* Ah, when to the heart of man *p* Ah *mp* Was it e-ver less than a trea-son

A. *p* Ah. *mp* (tutti) Was it e-ver less than a trea-

T. (tutti) *mp* Ah, when to the heart of man Was it e-ver less than a trea-son.

B. *mp* Was it e-ver less than a trea-

229

S. To go with the drift of things, Ah Ah

A. son To go with the drift of things, yield with a grace to rea-son, Ah. *p*

T. *mp* To go with the drift of things, To yield with a grace to rea-son, And bow

B. *mp* son To go with the drift of things, yield with a grace to rea-son, And bow

237

S. Ah. *p*

A. Ah.

T. and ac - cept, and ac - cept the end *mf*

B. and ac - cept, ac - cept the end *mf*

rit.

241

S. Ah. Ah. Ah. *mp*

A. Ah. Ah. *mp*

T. Of a love or a sea - son?

B. Love or a sea - son? Ah.

Three poems from *A Boy's Will* [1913; 1915] by Robert Frost (1874-1963)

A Line-storm Song

THE line-storm clouds fly tattered and swift,
The road is forlorn all day,
Where a myriad snowy quartz stones lift,
And the hoof-prints vanish away.
The roadside flowers, too wet for the bee,
Expend their bloom in vain.
Come over the hills and far with me,
And be my love in the rain.

**The birds have less to say for themselves*

In the wood-world's torn despair

Than now these numberless years the elves,

*Although they are no less there:**

All song of the woods is crushed like some
Wild, easily shattered rose.

Come, be my love in the wet woods; come,
Where the boughs rain when it blows.

There is the gale to urge behind

And bruit our singing down,

And the shallow waters aflutter with wind

From which to gather your gown.

What matter if we go clear to the west,

And come not through dry-shod?

For wilding brooch shall wet your breast:

The rain-fresh goldenrod.

Oh, never this whelming east wind swells

But it seems like the sea's return

To the ancient lands where it left the shells

Before the age of the fern;

And it seems like the time when after doubt

Our love came back again.

Oh, come forth into the storm and rout

And be my love in the rain.

*[*lines omitted from this setting*]*

October

O HUSHED October morning mild,

Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;

To-morrow's wind, if it be wild,

Should waste them all.

The crows above the forest call;

To-morrow they may form and go.

O hushed October morning mild,

Begin the hours of this day slow,

Make the day seem to us less brief.

Hearts not averse to being beguiled,

Beguile us in the way you know;

Release one leaf at break of day;

At noon release another leaf;

One from our trees, one far away;

Retard the sun with gentle mist;

Enchant the land with amethyst.

Slow, slow!

For the grapes' sake, if they were all,

Whose leaves already are burnt with frost,

Whose clustered fruit must else be lost—

For the grapes' sake along the wall.

Reluctance

OUT through the fields and the woods

And over the walls I have wended;

I have climbed the hills of view

And looked at the world, and descended;

I have come by the highway home,

And lo, it is ended.

The leaves are all dead on the ground,

Save those that the oak is keeping

To ravel them one by one

And let them go scraping and creeping

Out over the crusted snow,

When others are sleeping.

And the dead leaves lie huddled and still,

No longer blown hither and thither;

The last lone aster is gone;

The flowers of witch-hazel wither;

The heart is still aching to seek,

But the feet question 'Whither?'

Ah, when to the heart of man

Was it ever less than a treason

To go with the drift of things,

To yield with a grace to reason,

And bow and accept, and accept the end

Of a love or a season?