

Sing, Little Bird

Words by
Daniel Charles Damon

The Ukrainian Folk Song SHCHEDRYK
arranged by

Mykola Leontovych
adapted by
Daniel Charles Damon



A Note About This Arrangement

"Shchedryk" (lit. "Bountiful Evening") is a Ukrainian shchedrivka, or New Year's song, known in English as "The Little Swallow". The song tells a story of a swallow flying into a household to sing of the wealth that will come with the following spring. "Shchedryk" was originally sung on the night of 13 January, New Year's Eve in the Julian Calendar.

The song was arranged by the Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych between 1901 and 1919 with early performances of the piece being performed by students at Kyiv University. It was made into a Christmas carol, "Carol of the Bells", by the American composer and educator Peter J. Wilhousky, following a performance of Leontovych's composition by Alexander Koshetz's Ukrainian National Chorus at Carnegie Hall on 5 October, 1922. Wilhousky copyrighted and published his own lyrics in 1936. The music has since become strongly associated with Christmas.

I previously had written a new Easter text, "Look at the Light," for another well-know Christmas carol, "What Is This Lovely Fragrance." I felt inspired to try another Christmas/Easter pairing by writing a new text for this familiar Ukrainian carol. The swallow in the original text gave me the idea of a little bird singing the good news of the resurrection.

—Dan Damon

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Allegretto

p

Soprano

Sing, lit - tle bird, tell us the word, here in the dawn, when hope is gone,

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

p

5 *cresc.*

at break of day, stone rolled a - way, hear - ing good news, all grief we lose.

p

Al - - - le - - - lu - - - ia.

cresc.

9

Call - ing our name, end - ing our shame, Christ, faith - ful friend, loves with - out end.

Al - - - le - - - - lu - - - - ia.

p

Al - - - le - - - - lu - - - - ia.

8

8

8

8

13

mp

Peal out our praise, glad voic - es raise, joy - ful - ly sing, bells bold - ly ring.

mp

Peal out our praise, glad voic - es raise, joy - ful - ly sing, bells bold - ly ring.

mp

Peal out our praise, glad voic - es raise, joy - ful - ly sing, bells bold - ly ring.

mp

Peal out our praise, glad voic - es raise, joy - ful - ly sing, bells bold - ly ring.

mp

8

8

8

8

17 *mf* *cresc.*

Lift - ing our song, here we be - long, death is no more, life is re - stored.

mf *cresc.*

Lift - ing our song, here we be - long, death is no more, life is re - stored.

mf *cresc.*

Al - - - le - - - lu - - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

mf *cresc.*

Lift - ing our song, here we be - long, death is no more, life is re - stored.

21 *f*

On Eas - ter Day love found a way, now the world knows, Je - sus a - rose.

f

On Eas - ter Day love found a way, now the world knows, Je - sus a - rose.

f

On Eas - ter Day, love found a way, now the world knows, Je - sus a - rose.

f

On Eas - ter Day, love found a way, now the world knows, Je - sus a - rose.

25 *p sub.* *f* *p sub.* *f*

Sing al - le - lu - a! Ring al - le - lu - ia!

p sub. *f* *p sub.* *f*

Sing al - le - lu - ia! Ring al - le - lu - ia!

p sub. *f* *p sub.* *f*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

p sub. *f* *p sub.* *f*

Al - - - le - - - lu - - - ia.

29 *p* D.C.

Sing, lit - tle bird, what we have heard, here in the dawn, when hope was gone.

p

Al - - - le - - - lu - - - ia.

p

Al - - - le - - - lu - - - ia.

p

Al - - - le - - - lu - - - ia.

33 *pp*

Al - le - lu - ia.

pp

Al - le - lu - ia.

pp gradually slowing

Sing, lit - tle bird, what we have heard, here in the dawn, when hope was gone.

pp

Al - le - lu - ia.

37 *f*

Al - le - lu - ia!

f

Al - le - lu - ia!

f

Al - le - lu - ia!

f

Al - le - lu - ia!