

The Oxford Choral Songs

General Editor

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Male Voices

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O breathe not his name

Part Song for Men's Voices

THOMAS MOORE

S. E. LOVATT

Andante (*Quietly, smoothly, with serious expression*)
Key G mi.

The musical score is arranged in five systems. The first system contains four vocal staves: TENOR I, TENOR II, BARITONE, and BASS. The TENOR I, II, and BARITONE staves are mostly empty, with only a few notes at the end of the piece. The BASS staff begins with a melodic line starting on a half note G, followed by quarter notes A, B, and C, then a half note D, and finally a half note E. The lyrics 'O breathe not his name, let it sleep,' are written below the BASS staff. The second system contains a PIANOFORTE staff, which is marked '(for rehearsal only)'. It features a piano accompaniment with a bass line that mirrors the BASS vocal line and a treble line with sustained chords. The tempo and performance instructions are repeated above the PIANOFORTE staff.

TENOR I

TENOR II

BARITONE

BASS

O breathe not his name, let it sleep,

PIANOFORTE
(for rehearsal only)

Andante (*Quietly, smoothly, with serious expression*)

Where
let it sleep in the shade

Dmit

His rel - ics are laid:
His rel - ics are laid:
cold and un-hon - our'd his rel - ics are laid:
Where cold his rel - ics are laid:

Ami^t :— :— | d' :t :— .d' | ra' :ma' :ra' }
dim.

Sad, si - lent, and dark be the
 ||m¹ :— :— | se :se :— .se | se :— :se }
dim.

Sad, si - lent, and dark the
 ||^tm :— :f | — :f :— .f | f :s :f }
dim.

Sad, si - lent, and dark be the
 ||^tm :l, :r | — :r :d | t, :— :t, }
dim.

Sad, si - lent, and dark the

dim.

Delicato

||d^t :— .d' :||m¹ | f :— .s :l | r' :d' :— .t }
mf

tears that we shed, As the night - dew that
 ||se :— .se :||m¹ | f :— :m .f | r :m :f }
mf

tears that we shed, As the night - dew that
 ||m :— .f :||m¹t, | d :— :de | l, :— :— }
mf

tears that we shed, As night -
 ||d :— :de,se, | l, :— :s, .l, | f, :m, :r, }
mf

tears we shed, As the night - dew that

Delicato

falls on the grass o'er his head
 falls on the grass o'er his head
 dew falls o'er his head
 falls o'er his head

mp

Detailed description: This system contains four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in G major with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: 'falls on the grass o'er his head' (top two staves), 'dew falls o'er his head' (middle two staves), and 'falls o'er his head' (bottom staff). The piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *f* (forte). There are various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and phrasing slurs.

Poco più mosso (non troppo)

tho' in
 But the night - dew that falls
 But the night - dew that falls in
 But the dew that falls in

pp *poco cresc.* *poco dim.*

Detailed description: This system contains four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'tho' in' (top staff), 'But the night - dew that falls' (middle two staves), and 'But the dew that falls in' (bottom staff). The piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. Dynamics include *pp* (pianissimo), *poco cresc.* (poco crescendo), and *poco dim.* (poco decrescendo). A chord symbol *Dmaj³* is present above the piano part. The tempo marking is 'Poco più mosso (non troppo)'. There are various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and phrasing slurs.

si - lence it weeps, Shall bright - en with
 in si - lence it weeps, Shall bright - en with

poco cresc.

The first system of the musical score consists of four staves. The top two staves are vocal lines, and the bottom two are piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "si - lence it weeps, Shall bright - en with" on the first line, and "in si - lence it weeps, Shall bright - en with" on the second line. The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand. A dynamic marking of *poco cresc.* is present above the piano part.

ver - dure the grave where he sleeps, And the
 ver - dure the grave where he sleeps, And the

f *Ami* *ten.*

The second system of the musical score consists of four staves. The top two staves are vocal lines, and the bottom two are piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "ver - dure the grave where he sleeps, And the" on the first line, and "ver - dure the grave where he sleeps, And the" on the second line. The piano part continues with a similar melodic and harmonic structure. Dynamic markings include *f*, *Ami*, and *ten.*

: : | : : | : : }
 :f .m :r .f | f :m :— .s | f^{Dmi} d .m :r .d :— .t, }
 tear that we shed, in se - cret it
 :l :— .l :t | d' :— :t .d' | r' :l :s }
 tear that we shed, tho' in se - cret it
 :r :— :s, | l, :— :l, | ta,f :f :s, }
 tear we shed, in se - cret it

: : (a) :s | l :l :t | d' :— .d' :d' |
cresc.
 Shall long keep his mem - o - ry
 :d :— : : : :s | d' :t .l :se .t |
cresc.
 rolls, Shall long keep his
 :f :m :s :s :f .m :r .f | m :— :d |
cresc.
 rolls, Shall long keep his mem - - 'ry
 :l, :— :m, | f, :r, :s, | l, :— :m, |
cresc.
 rolls, Shall long keep his mem - - 'ry

Allargando

Tempo I

||r' :— |— :d' .r' | m' : : : : |

green in our souls.

||l :d' lt :d' .t | t : : : : |

mem - 'ry green in our souls.

||d :l |— .l :l | se : : : : |

green in our souls.

||f, :— |f :s .f | m : : : : | f G mi : : : : | d .t, :l, :s, |

green in our souls. O breathe not his

Allargando

Tempo I

|| : : : : | : : : : | : : : : | : : : : | : : : : | : : : : | : : : : | : : : : |

O breathe not his

|| : : : : | : : : : | : : : : | : : : : | : : : : | : : : : | : : : : | : : : : |

O breathe not his

|| : : : : | : : : : | : : : : | : : : : | : : : : | : : : : | : : : : | : : : : |

O breathe not his

||f, :— |s, :l, | m, :— :— |— :— :— |— : : : : |

name, let it sleep,

dim. poco a poco

Dmit

* ||r :- | :- . | : lr :m | t,m :- | :- . | : lm :^ ||

name, — let it sleep, — sleep. *pp*

||l, :- | :- . | : lt, :d | fe,t, :- | :- . | : lde :^ ||

name, — let it sleep, — sleep. *pp*

||f, :- | :- . | : lf, :s, | re,se, :- | :- . | : ll, :^ ||

name, — let it sleep, — sleep. *pp*

|| : lt, :d, | l, :- | :- | — : ^d, :r, | l, :- | :- :^ ||

let it sleep, — let it sleep. *pp*

dim. poco a poco

pp

dim. poco a poco

* ||r :- | :- . | : ^m | t | l :- | :- . | : l | s :f | m :- | :- :^ ||

name, — let it sleep, — let it sleep. *pp*

||l, :- | :- . | : t^m :f | m :- | :- . | : m | r :r | de :- | :- :^ ||

name, — let it sleep, — let it sleep. *pp*

||f, :- | :- . | : ^d :r | d :- | :- . | : d | t, :ta, | l, :- | :- :^ ||

name, — ^{Dmit} let it sleep, — let it sleep. *pp*

|| : lt, :d, | t^m, :- | :- | — : | :- . | f, :- | :- s, | l, :- | :- :^ ||

let it sleep, — let it sleep. *pp*

dim. poco a poco

pp

* Alternative endings

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