

## OFT, IN THE STILLY NIGHT

Poem by Thomas Moore

Set to Music by

C. Hubert H. Parry

Unaccompanied Part Song composed for the Eton College Musical Society, October 1866

**VOCAL SCORE** 



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The "renaissance" in English music is generally agreed to have started in the late Victorian period, beginning roughly in 1880, and was most notable for compositions by C.V. Stanford, C. Hubert H. Parry, Edward Elgar, Henry Walford Davies, Harold Darke and others. Public demand for major works in support of the annual choral festivals held throughout England at that time was considerable which led to the creation of many large scale works for orchestra with soloists and chorus. Although a number of those works found their way into print and are regularly performed today, a considerable number of compositions, both large-scale and more intimate works, are not available. These works either were never published or were published but are no longer available in the publishers' catalogues. While the existence of these works is documented in biographies of the composers, the ability to study and, most importantly, to perform these compositions is not possible.

Changes in the International copyright laws in the mid-1970's played a pivotal role in creating this void, opening a significant number of musical compositions to public access. As a result, music publishers lost the ability to generate revenue from the sale/rental of such music. Performance score inventories of these works were eliminated. In addition, for many compositions, the only published material were vocal scores - full scores and orchestra parts were hand notated for the premiere of a work and then were 'recycled' for future performances. While full score autograph manuscripts are now accessible through the major music libraries in the UK, the hand-notated parts have long since been lost. These autograph full score manuscripts along with copies of the published vocal scores are now the only resources available for studying and performing these works.

The English Heritage Music Series has been created to ensure that these compositions are preserved, are accessible for scholarly research and, most importantly, are available for performance by future generations. Its mission is to:

- Source unpublished/out-of-print English composer compositions that are in the U.S. public domain
- Preserve these compositions through the preparation of performance scores using notation software
- Provide open Internet access to the scores to facilitate study, performance and sharing of performance material (program notes, audio, reviews, etc.)

In preparing the English Heritage Music Series editions, every effort has been made to adhere strictly to the notation contained in the manuscripts. Because of the passage of time and its effect on the condition of the manuscript, the absence of clear information often times by the composer in notating divided instruments, and with emendations in the composer and other hands resulting from use of the manuscript in performance, there were numerous circumstances which required interpretation and decisions for notes, accidentals, dynamics, articulations and tempi. Should questions arise in the use of these editions, the composers' autograph manuscripts and the Novello vocal scores should be consulted for clarification.

### Matthew W. Mehaffey Editor

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#### **Source Information**

Autograph Manuscript: Vocal Score: Royal College of Music Library Oxford University, Bodleian Music Section, Weston Library Manuscript Transcription & Score Preparation

Royal College of Music, London MS 4767 Unpublished Michael Mullen, Ass't. Librarian - michael.mullen@rcm.ac.uk Martin Holmes, Curator of Music - martin.holmes@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

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#### Reference Material and Software

Notation Software: Finale v. 26 Audio Software: Garritan Personal Orchestra 5 Graphic Software: Adobe Photoshop CS5

Document Software: Adobe In Design CS5 Music Notation Reference: Behind Bars by Elaine Gould, Faber Music © 2011



Eton College, Berkshire, England

Oft, in the stilly night, Ere slumber's chain has bound me, Fond memory brings the light Of other days around me;

The smiles, the tears, Of boyhood's years, The words of love then spoken;

The eyes that shone, Now dimm'd and gone, The cheerful hearts now broken!

Thus, in the stilly night, Ere slumber's chain hath bound me, Sad memory brings the light Of other days around me. When I remember all The friends, so link'd together, I've seen around me fall, Like leaves in wintry weather;

I feel like one Who treads alone Some banquet-hall deserted;

Whose lights are fled, Whose garlands dead, And all but he departed!

Thus in the stilly night, Ere slumber's chain has bound me, Sad memory brings the light Of other days around me.



Thomas Moore (1779 – 1852) was an Irish poet, singer, songwriter, and entertainer.

In the early years of his career, Moore's work was largely generic and had he died at this point he would likely not have been considered an Irish poet. From 1806–1807 Moore dramatically changed his style of writing and focus. Following a request by a publisher he wrote lyrics to a series of Irish tunes, in collaboration with John Stevenson, which were published in several volumes. Moore became best known for these Irish Melodies which were enormously popular containing songs such as *The Minstrel Boy, The Last Rose of Summer, Believe Me If All Those Endearing Young Charms* and *Oft, in the Stilly Night*.

Moore is considered Ireland's National Bard and is to Ireland what Robert Burns is to Scotland.

# Oft, in the Stilly Night Part Song composed for the Eton Music Society

POEM BY MUSIC BY C. Hubert H. Parry Thomas Moore 1815 October 1866 Soprano 1 Oft, in the stil - ly night, Ere slum-ber's chain has bound me, Fond mem-'ry brings the Soprano 2 Oft, in the stil - ly night, Ere slum-ber's chain has bound me, Fond mem-'ry brings the Tenor Oft, in the stil - ly night, Ere slum-ber's chain\_ has bound me, Fond mem - 'ry brings the Bass in the stil - ly night, Ere slum-ber's chain has bound me, Fond mem-'ry brings the Rehearsal Only light oth - er days a - round me; The smiles, the tears, the light days The smiles, tears, the oth a - round me; the - er light of oth - er days a - round The smiles, the tears, the me; В the light of oth - er days a round me; The smiles, pp















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