



# THE MAKING OF VIOLA

Words By  
Francis Thompson

A Short Cantata for Treble Voices & Piano  
by  
Edgar L. Bainton

COVER IMAGE

"Our Lady the Spinner"

by

Feliks Cichocki

1897



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# ENGLISH HERITAGE

## MUSIC SERIES

*Unearthing from the Past - Preserving for the Future<sup>SM</sup>*

The “renaissance” in English music is generally agreed to have started in the late Victorian period, beginning roughly in 1880. 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 were engraved, printed and are regularly performed today, performance scores for a considerable number of compositions, both large-scale and more intimate works, are not available. These works were either never engraved or were engraved and printed 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, coupled with changing musical tastes, played a pivotal role in creating this void. As a result, music publishers lost the ability to generate revenue from the sale/rental of such music. In 1964, holograph and copyist scores from both Novello and from publishers it represented were offered to the British Library and the Royal College of Music Library (see The RCM Novello Library – The Musical Times, Feb. 1983 by Jeremy Dibble ).

These autograph full score manuscripts along with copies of engraved vocal scores, widely available through various online library sources, 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 non-engraved/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**

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### Source Information

*Full Score Manuscript*  
*Vocal Score*

n.a.

Joseph Williams, Ltd. J.W. 15437 © 1914

*Royal College of Music Library*  
*Manuscript Transcription & Score Preparation*

Ass’t. Librarian - library@rcm.ac.uk  
David Fielding - dhcfielding@charter.net

### Reference Material and Software

*Notation Software:* Dorico Pro 6.2.30.6245    *Audio Software:* NotePerformer 5    *Graphic Software:* Affinity  
*Document Software:* Affinity    *Music Notation Reference:* Behind Bars by Elaine Gould, Faber Music © 2011

"The Making of Viola" is a dialogue between the Father of Heaven and the Angels, the former being represented by the first trebles, the latter by the second, the whole forming an allegory of the birth of a child.

## THE MAKING OF VIOLA

Francis Thompson (1859—1907)

I.

THE FATHER OF HEAVEN.  
Spin, daughter Mary, spin,  
Twirl your wheel with silver din;  
Spin, daughter Mary, spin,  
Spin a tress for Viola.

ANGELS.  
Spin, Queen Mary, a  
Brown tress for Viola!

II.

THE FATHER OF HEAVEN.  
Weave, hands angelical,  
Weave a woof of flesh to pall -  
Weave, hands angelical -  
Flesh to pall our Viola.

ANGELS.  
Weave, singing brothers, a  
Velvet flesh for Viola!

III.

THE FATHER OF HEAVEN.  
Scoop, young Jesus, for her eyes,  
Wood-browed pools of Paradise -  
Young Jesus, for the eyes,  
For the eyes of Viola.

ANGELS.  
Tint, Prince Jesus, a  
Dusked eye for Viola!

IV.

THE FATHER OF HEAVEN.  
Cast a star therein to drown,  
Like a torch in cavern brown,  
Sink a burning star to drown  
Whelmed in eyes of Viola.

ANGELS.  
Lave, Prince Jesus, a  
Star in eyes of Viola!

V.

THE FATHER OF HEAVEN.  
Breathe, Lord Paraclete,  
To a bubbled crystal meet -  
Breathe, Lord Paraclete -  
Crystal soul for Viola.

ANGELS.  
Breathe, Regal Spirit, a  
Flashing soul for Viola!

VI.

THE FATHER OF HEAVEN.  
Child-angels, from your wings  
Fall the roseal hoverings,  
Child-angels, from your wings,  
On the cheeks of Viola.

ANGELS.  
Linger, rosy reflex, a  
Quenchless stain, on Viola!

All things being accomplished,  
saith the Father of Heaven.  
Bear her down, and bearing, sing,  
Bear her down on spyless wing,  
Bear her down, and bearing, sing,  
With a sound of viola.

ANGELS.  
Music as her name is, a  
Sweet sound of Viola!

VIII.

Wheeling angels, past espial,  
Danced her down with sound of  
viol;  
Wheeling angels, past espial,  
Descanting on 'Viola.'

ANGELS.  
Sing, in our footing, a  
Lovely lilt of 'Viola!'

IX.

Baby smiled, mother wailed,  
Earthward while the sweetling  
sailed;  
Mother smiled, baby wailed,  
When to earth came Viola.

AND HER ELDERS SHALL SAY:-  
So soon have we taught you a  
Way to weep, poor Viola!

X.

Smile, sweet baby, smile,  
For you will have weeping-while;  
Native in your Heaven is smile, -  
But your weeping, Viola?

Whence your smiles we know, but  
ah?  
Whence your weeping, Viola? -  
Our first gift to you is a  
Gift of tears, my Viola!

# The Making of Viola

Francis Thompson

Edgar L. Bainton

## I.

Andante tranquillo. ♩ = 58

Piano

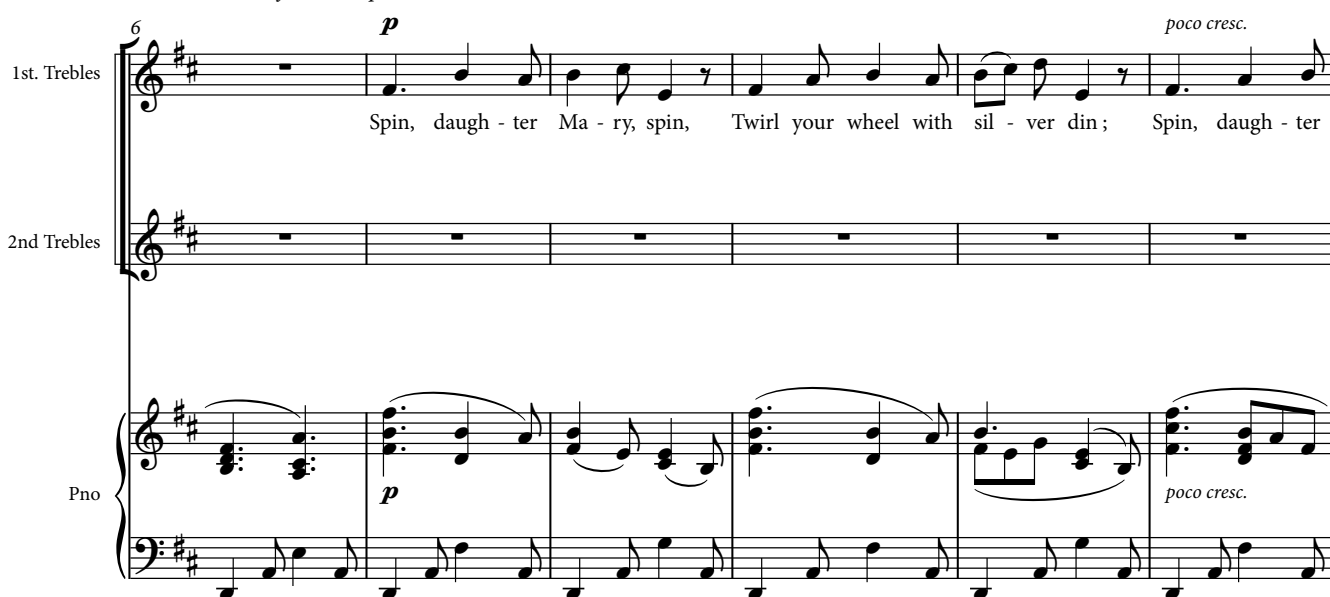


(The Father of Heaven speaks)

1st. Trebles

2nd Trebles

Pno

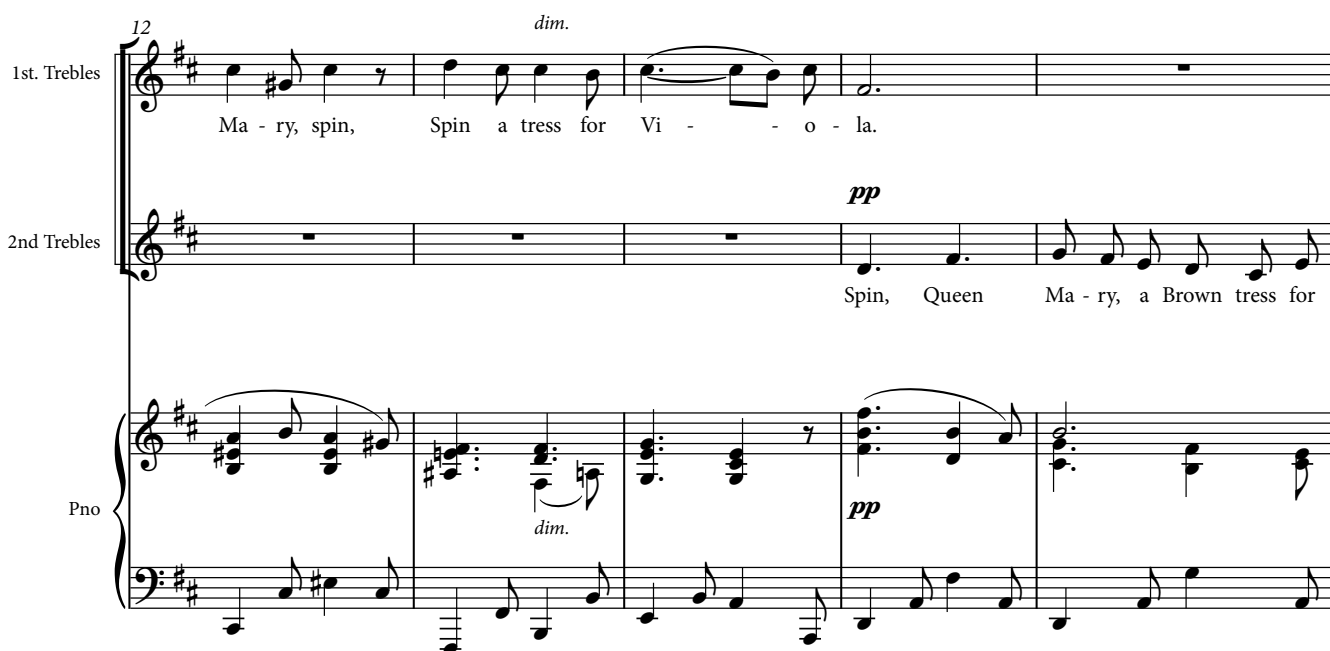


12

1st. Trebles

2nd Trebles

Pno



poco rit. a tempo  
*mp*

17

1st. Trebles

Weave, hands an - gel - i - cal,

2nd Trebles

Vi - o - la.

Pno

*dolce*

21

1st. Trebles

Weave a woof of flesh\_ to pall; Weave, hands an - gel - i - cal,

2nd Trebles

Pno

25

1st. Trebles

Flesh to pall our Vi - - o - la.

2nd Trebles

*pp*

Weave, sing - ing bro - thers, a Vel - vet

Pno

*dim.* *pp*

29 *poco rit.* *a tempo*

1st. Trebles

2nd Trebles

flesh for Vi - - o - la.

Pno

*poco rit.* *a tempo*

34 *rit.* *meno mosso*  
*p*

1st. Trebles

2nd Trebles

Scoop, young Je - sus, for her eyes, Wood - browned pools of

Pno

*rit.* *meno mosso*  
*pp*

40 *poco cresc.*

1st. Trebles

2nd Trebles

Par - a - dise, Young Je - sus, for the eyes, For the eyes\_\_ of Vi - o - la.

Tint, Prince Je - sus, a

Pno

*poco cresc.* *pp*

Tempo I

*mf*

46

1st. Trebles

2nd Trebles

Pno

Cast a star there - in to drown,

Dusk-ed eye\_ for Vi - o - la.

*mp*

Tempo I

51

1st. Trebles

2nd Trebles

Pno

Like a torch in cav - ern brown, Sink a burn - ing star to drown\_\_

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

55

1st. Trebles

2nd Trebles

Pno

Whelmed in eyes of Vi - - - o - la.

*p*

Lave, Prince.

*pp*

58 rit. a tempo

1st. Trebles

2nd Trebles

Je - sus, a Star in eyes of Vi - - o - la.

Pno

62

1st. Trebles

2nd Trebles

Pno

*calando*

*ppp*

## II.

Allegretto grazioso.

1st Trebles

2nd Trebles

Piano

*p*

Allegretto grazioso.

3

3

3

7

1st. Trebles

2nd Trebles

Pno

6

rit.

a tempo

*p*

Breathe, Lord Par - a -

dim.

*pp*

rit.

3

a tempo

3

*p*

1st. Trebles

2nd Trebles

Pno

10

cresc.

- clete, To a bub - bled crys - tal meet Breathe, Lord Par - a -

*p*

Breathe, Lord Par - a - clete, To a bub - bled crys - tal meet

cresc.

3

3

3

3

3

14 *mf*

1st. Trebles - clete, Crys - tal soul for Vi - o - la.

*cresc.* *mf* *p*

2nd Trebles Breathe, Lord Par - a - clete, Crys - tal soul for Vi - o - la. Breathe, Re - gal

Pno *mf* *dim.* *p* *pp*

18 *poco rit.* *a tempo*

1st. Trebles

2nd Trebles Spir - it, A Flash - ing soul for Vi - o - la.

Pno *poco rit.* *a tempo* *p*

23 *rit* *a tempo* *p*

1st. Trebles Child - an - gels, from your wings

2nd Trebles Child - an - gels, from your wings

Pno *pp* *p*

27

1st. Trebles

Fall the ro - seal hov - er - ings, Child - an - gels, from your wings, On the

2nd Trebles

Fall the ro - seal hov - er - ings, Child - an - gels, from your wings, On the

Pno

31

1st. Trebles

cheeks of Vi - o - la.

2nd Trebles

cheeks of Vi - o - la. Lin - ger, ro - sy re - flex, a quench - less stain, on

Pno

*pp*

*dim.*

*pp*

36

1st. Trebles

Vi - o - la.

2nd Trebles

Vi - o - la.

Pno

*rit.*

*a tempo*

*rit.*

*a tempo*

*dolcissimo*

41 rit..... Molto meno mosso.  
*p*

1st. Trebles

Bear her down, and bear - ing, sing, Bear her down on spy - less wing,

2nd Trebles

Pno

*pp* *p*

47

1st. Trebles

Bear her down, and bear - ing, sing, With a sound of Vi - o - la.

2nd Trebles

*pp*

Mu - sic as her name is, A

Pno

*pp*

53 poco rit. a tempo  
*p*

1st. Trebles

Wheel - ing an - gels, past es - pial, Danced her down with sound of viol:

2nd Trebles

Sweet sound of Vi - o - la.

Pno

poco rit. a tempo  
*p*

59 *cresc.* *dim.*

1st. Trebles

2nd Trebles

Pno

*pp*

Wheel - ing an - gels, past es - pial, Des - cant - ing on "Vi - o - la."

Sing, in our

64 *rit.* *a tempo*

1st. Trebles

2nd Trebles

Pno

*rit.* *a tempo*

*sempre pp*

foot - ing, a love - ly lilt of "Vi - o - la."

69 *poco rit.*

Pno

73 *a tempo*

Pno

*pp*

## III.

Poco allegretto, molto grazioso.

1st Trebles

2nd Trebles

Piano

*p*

(Viola is now on the earth,  
and her elders say:) *p*

1st. Trebles

2nd Trebles

Pno

*dim.* *p*

Smile, sweet ba - by, smile, For you shall have weep - ing - while ; Na - tive in\_\_your

Smile, sweet ba - by, smile, For you shall have weep - ing - while ; Na - tive in\_\_your

12

1st. Trebles

2nd Trebles

Pno

Heaven is smile, But your weep - ing, Vi - o - la ?

Heaven is smile, But your weep - ing, Vi - o - la ?

*dolce*

17 *mp*

1st. Trebles

2nd Trebles

Pno

Whence your smiles, we know, but Ah !

21 *cresc.*

1st. Trebles

2nd Trebles

Pno

Whence your weep - ing, Vi - o - la ? Our first gift to you is a

25 *dim.*

1st. Trebles

2nd Trebles

Pno

Gift of tears, my Vi - o - la.

*p*

Our first gift to you is a Gift\_ of

*dim.* *pp*

32 *dim.*

1st. Trebles

smile. \_\_\_\_\_ Smile, sweet ba - by smile, \_\_\_\_\_ smile, \_\_\_\_\_ sweet

*dim.*

2nd Trebles

Smile, sweet ba - by smile, \_\_\_\_\_ smile, \_\_\_\_\_ sweet

Pno

*dim.*

1st. Trebles

2nd Trebles

Pno

37

rit.

ba - - - by, smile.

pp

pp

8va



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MUSIC SERIES

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