

# Four Last Songs

## 1. PROCRIIS

(1958)



Poems by  
URSULA VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

Music by  
R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

**Andante sostenuto**

Voice

Piano

Pro-cris is ly - ing \_\_\_\_\_ at the wat - er - side,

the yel - low flowers show spring, the grass is green, \_\_\_\_\_

These four songs are fragments of two projected song cycles and were written between 1954 and 1958. They are all suitable for mezzo-soprano voice, and three of them for baritone (*Hands, Eyes, and Heart* should be sung by a woman). Dynamics in parentheses do not appear in the original manuscript, and have been suggested by Roy Douglas.

be - fore a gen - - tle

The first system of the musical score features a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are "be - fore a gen - - tle". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, with a key signature of one sharp. The piano part includes several measures with doublets (marked with a '2' and a bracket) and long melodic lines spanning across the system.

wind the thin trees lean towards the rush - es, the

The second system continues the musical score. The vocal line has the lyrics "wind the thin trees lean towards the rush - es, the". The piano accompaniment continues with similar melodic and harmonic patterns, including doublets and long phrases.

rush - es to the tide. She

rush - es to the tide. She

The third system contains the lyrics "rush - es to the tide. She". The piano accompaniment features a *pp* (pianissimo) dynamic marking in the final measure of the system. The piano part includes doublets and complex chordal textures.

will not see the green spring turn to sum - mer,

The fourth system concludes the page with the lyrics "will not see the green spring turn to sum - mer,". The piano accompaniment continues with its characteristic melodic and harmonic style, ending with a final chord.



sum-mer go in a long gold - en dusk towards the

snow, with eyes so lit by love\_ that ev - ery-thing

burned, flowed,\_ grew, blos - somed, moved on

foot or wing\_ with the guessed rhythm\_ of e - ter - ni - ty.

(p)

All her hope and will flowed from her un - a -

-vail - - ing and she knew dark - ness, as her eyes know now

(pp)

shut to the day-light, and des - pair pre - vail - ing she saw no

way - - to go.