



DESIRE IN SPRING

The words by FRANCIS LEDWIDGE
set to music by IVOR GURNEY

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Desire in Spring

I LOVE the cradle songs the mothers sing
In lonely places when the twilight drops,
The slow, endearing melodies that bring
Sleep to the weeping lids ; and, when she stops,
I love the roadside birds upon the tops
Of dusty hedges in a world of Spring.

And when the sunny rain drips from the edge
Of mid-day wind, and meadows lean one way,
And a long whisper passes thro' the sedge,
Beside the broken water let me stay,
While these old airs upon my memory play,
And silent changes colour up the hedge.

FRANCIS LEDWIDGE

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DESIRE IN SPRING

FRANCIS LEDWIDGE



IVOR GURNEY

Andante

Voice

Piano

I love the cra - dle songs the mo - thers

sing In lone-ly pla-ces when the twi-light drops, The slow en -

- dear - - ing mel - o-dies that bring Sleep to the weep-ing

lids; and, when she stops, I love the road-side birds up - on the

tops Of dust - - y hedg - es in a world of Spring.

And when the

sun - ny rain drips from the_ edge Of mid - day

wind, and_ mead-ows lean_ one_ way, And a

long_ whis - per pass - es thro' the sedge,

cresc. mf

Be - side the bro-ken wa-ter let_ me_ stay,

mp

p

While these old ——— airs up-on my

mp

mem-o-ry play, And si - - lent chan -

poco rit. a tempo

ges col - our up the hedge. ———

dim. *colla voce* *pp*

poco rit. a tempo

pp