

The Leaf Burners

Under two oak trees
 on top of the fell,
With an old hawthorn hedge
 to hold off the wind,
I saw the leaf burners
 brushing the leaves
With their long brooms
 into the blaze.
Above them, the sky
 scurried along
 Pale as a plate,
and peered thro' the oaks,
While the hurrying wind
 harried the hedge.
But fast as they swept
 feeding the leaves
 Into the flame
 that flickered, and fumed,
The wind, the tree-shaker,
 shaking the boughs,
Whirled others down
 withered and wan —
Summer's small folk,
 faded, and fain
To give up their life;
 earth unto earth,
Ashes to ashes,
 life unto death.

(...)

Ernest Rhys 1918

The Leaf Burners



Words by
Ernest Rhys

Music by
Julian Basset

Broodingly ♩ = 40 ca.

Voice

Un-der two oak trees on top of the fell, With an old hawthorn

Piano

mf

mp

4

hedge to hold off the wind,

p

pp

7

I saw the leaf bur-ners

mp

11

bru-shing the leaves

p *mf*

14

With their long brooms

Brush up ♩ = 55 ca.

mp 7

17

8va in - to the blaze.

mf 3 3 3

20

A - bove them, the sky scur-ried a - long

mp *poco accel.* *rit.*

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Tempo P^o

Musical score for measures 23-24. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a 9/16 time signature and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are "Pale as a plate, _____ and peered thro' the oaks, _____". The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a 9/16 time signature and a key signature of one flat. The piano part includes a dynamic marking of *p* and a fermata over the first measure.

Musical score for measures 25-27. The vocal line (treble clef) has a 3/4 time signature and a key signature of three flats. The lyrics are "While the hur-ry-ing". The piano accompaniment (grand staff) has a 3/4 time signature and a key signature of three flats. The piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern with many beamed notes.

Musical score for measures 28-31. The vocal line (treble clef) has a 3/4 time signature and a key signature of three sharps. The lyrics are "wind _____ har - ried the hedge. _____". A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it in the first measure. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) has a 3/4 time signature and a key signature of three sharps. The piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern with many beamed notes.

Musical score for measures 32-35. The vocal line (treble clef) has a 3/4 time signature and a key signature of three sharps. The lyrics are "But fast as they swept _____". The piano accompaniment (grand staff) has a 3/4 time signature and a key signature of three sharps. The piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern with many beamed notes.

36

fee - ding the leaves —

36

8va

38

In - to the flame —

38

3

40

that flickered, and fumed, The wind, —

40

8va

42

the treesha - ker, sha-king the boughs, Whirled o - thers down

42

mf

p

Et

The Leaf Burners

6

46

wi-thered and wan, Sum-mer's small folk,

Musical score for measures 46-48. The vocal line starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. The lyrics are "wi-thered and wan, Sum-mer's small folk,". The piano accompaniment features a complex texture with multiple voices in both hands, including a prominent triplet in the right hand.

49

fa-ded, and fain

Musical score for measures 49-51. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "fa-ded, and fain". The piano accompaniment includes a triplet in the right hand and a wavy line in the bass line.

52

To give up their life;

Musical score for measures 52-54. The vocal line has the lyrics "To give up their life;". The piano accompaniment features a complex texture with multiple voices in both hands, including a triplet in the right hand.

55

earth un - to earth, A - shes to a - shes, life un - to death. *pp*

suspend

Musical score for measures 55-57. The vocal line has the lyrics "earth un - to earth, A - shes to a - shes, life un - to death." followed by a *pp* dynamic marking. The piano accompaniment includes a wavy line in the bass line and a *suspend* instruction. The score ends with a double bar line and a *8vb-1* marking.

Opening measures from the original, incomplete, undated, version

58 $\text{♩} = 40 \text{ ca.}$

Un - der two oak trees on top of the fell, ___

60

With an old haw - thorn hedge to hold off the wind, I saw ___

63

the leaf bur - ners bru-shing the leaves

sub

67

bru - shing the leaves

2