

THE GREEN

VOICE AND PIANO

NG KA CHUN

"The Echoing Green" by William Blake (1757-1827) from Songs of Innocence and Experience, in Songs of Innocence, no. 3, published 1789

THE SUN DOES ARISE,
AND MAKE HAPPY THE SKIES;
THE MERRY BELLS RING
TO WELCOME THE SPRING;
THE SKYLARK AND THRUSH,
THE BIRDS OF THE BUSH,
SING LOUDER AROUND
TO THE BELLS' CHEERFUL SOUND;
WHILE OUR SPORTS SHALL BE SEEN
ON THE ECHOING GREEN.

OLD JOHN, WITH WHITE HAIR,
DOES LAUGH AWAY CARE,
SITTING UNDER THE OAK,
AMONG THE OLD FOLK.
THEY LAUGH AT OUR PLAY,
AND SOON THEY ALL SAY,
"SUCH, SUCH WERE THE JOYS
WHEN WE ALL--GIRLS AND BOYS -
IN OUR YOUTH-TIME WERE SEEN
ON THE ECHOING GREEN."

TILL THE LITTLE ONES, WEARY,
NO MORE CAN BE MERRY:
THE SUN DOES DESCEND,
AND OUR SPORTS HAVE AN END.
ROUND THE LAPS OF THEIR MOTHERS
MANY SISTERS AND BROTHERS,
LIKE BIRDS IN THEIR NEST,
ARE READY FOR REST,
AND SPORT NO MORE SEEN
ON THE DARKENING GREEN.

COMMENTARY

This English song is based on a pastoral poem "The Echoing Green", from Songs of Innocence and Experience by an English poet William Blake (1757 - 1827). This music demonstrates classical art song writing techniques through the use of contemporary music language. "The Green" gives the impression of a person observing the activities on a lawn. The extended AAB form is marked by three transitory solo piano passages to enhance the moods, establish harmonies and materials. The often change of meter is based on the 6/8 pastoral rhythm. Phrases are stretched and compressed according to the context of the poem. The first two verses display similar colors due to the similar sonorous pitch sets while dissonant pitch set gives the last verse a contrastingly dark mood. Decorated with frequent word paintings, the dramatic piano and vocal line present an old poem with a refreshing interpretation.

THE GREEN

**TEXT: WILLIAM BLAKE (1757-1827)
FROM "SONGS OF INNOCENCE AND EXPERIENCE"**

NG KA CHUN

EXPRESSIVO E RUBATO ♩ = 180

1 Tenor

Piano

2 Pno.

3 Pno.

4 Pno.

24

T To wel - come the spring; ——————

Pno. *f* *mf*

Rao. * *Rao.* * *Rao.* *

27

T The sky - lark and thrush, ——————

Pno.

Rao. * *Rao.* * *Rao.* *

29

T The birds of the bush, —————— Sing

Pno. *f*

Rao. * *Rao.* * *Rao.* * *Rao.* *

ff

T 32 Lou - der a - round _____ To the bell's cheer - ful

Pno. 32 *ff* * *ff* * *ff*

Reo. * *Reo.*

T 35 sound; While our sports shall be seen On 2 the

Pno. 35 *mf* * *mf* * *mf* * *mf* *

Reo. * *Reo.* * *Reo.* * *Reo.*

T 38 e - - - - cho - ing green. //

Pno. 38 *rit.* *pp* *rit.* *ppp* //

* *Reo.* * *Reo.* *

a tempo

41

T

Pno.

41

mf > *p*

flowingly

f

T

Pno.

Reo. * Reo. * Reo. * Reo. * Reo. * Reo.

44

T

Pno.

44

sempre mp

Old. John, with white hair, Does

Pno.

Reo. * Reo. * Reo. * Reo. * Reo.

47

T

Pno.

47

lau - - - gh a - way care, Sit - ting

47

T

Pno.

T 50 *p*

un - der the oak, A - mong the old folk.

Pno.

Rit.

T 53 *sprechstimme*

They lau - ha - ha - ha - ha - ha - ha - laugh -

Pno.

f

clean pedal throughout

T 56 *rit.....*

at our play and soon they all say,

Pno.

rit.....

Rit.

Freely - quasi recitative

59

T "Such, such were the joys When we all _____

Pno. *colla voce*

63

T girls and boys In our youth - time were seen

Pno. *a tempo*

63

Pno. *p* * *Reo.* * *Reo.* * *Reo.* * *Reo.* *

67

T *rit.* On 2 the e cho - ing green. —

Pno. *rit.* * *Reo.*

T 70

Pno.

poco a poco accel.....

pp

70 71 72 73 74 75 76

Reo. * Reo. *

EXPRESSIVO E RUBATO

Pno.

73 74 75 76

quasi guitar
agitated *f*

Reo. * Reo. *

Pno.

75 76 77 78

sf

Reo. * Reo. * Reo. *

Pno.

77 78 79 80

sf

Reo. * Reo. *

Pno.

79

fp

rit.

80

fp

Pno.

81

f

fp

rit.

82

fp

fp

Pno.

83

meno mosso

mp dolce

rit.

84

Pno.

86

p

rit.

87

CALMATO E TRANQUILO

89 *p*

T Till the li - ttle ones, _____ wear - ry, _____

Pno.

89 *delicato*

* *Rit.* * *Rit.*

92

T No more can be me - rry: _____ The

Pno.

92

* *Rit.* *

92

Pno.

95

pp

T sun does de - secnd _____

Pno.

95

pp *fp*

* *Rit.* * *Rit.*

95

pp *fp*

T sun does de - secnd _____

Pno.

95

pp *fp*

* *Rit.* * *Rit.*

sempre p

T 98
 And our sports have an end

Pno. 98
 * *p* *Rit.* *

T 101
 Round the laps of their mo - thers

Pno. *Rit.* * *Rit.* *

T 104
 Ma ny si - sters and bro - thers, Like birds in their

Pno. *pp colla voce*
Rit. * *Rit.*

T 108
nest, Are rea - dy for rest, *p* And

Pno.

T 108
* *Reo.*

Pno. * *Reo.* * *Reo.*

T 113
sport no more seen *rit.* on the dar -

Pno. * *Reo.* * *Reo.*

T 116
ken - ing green. *ppp*

Pno. * *Reo.* *ppp*

EXPRESSIVO E RUBATO $\text{♩} = 168$
120

Pno.

124

Pno.

128

Pno.

132

Pno.