

# Life's Sweet Refrain

Dedicated to Ila Stoltzfus  
on her retirement as Music Director  
of the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge  
May 2015

Poem by Jan Elicker

Tune: Old English/Irish  
Arranged by Clif Hardin  
Added melody by Clif Hardin

♩ = 152, but feeling "in one"

The first system of the piano accompaniment is written in treble and bass clefs. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The music begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and a *cantabile* marking. The right hand features a series of chords and moving lines, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

The second system continues the piano accompaniment. It maintains the same key signature and time signature. The right hand continues with chords and melodic fragments, and the left hand provides a consistent eighth-note accompaniment.

This system includes the vocal entry and the beginning of the piano accompaniment for the vocal part. It starts at measure 13. The vocal line is written in treble clef with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The lyrics "Twas in the" are written under the notes. The piano accompaniment is written in bass clef and provides a steady accompaniment for the vocal line.

The final system of the piano accompaniment concludes the piece. It features a series of chords and moving lines in the right hand and a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand, ending with a final chord.

18

gold - en dawn of spring when the hills were bon - ny and green,

gold - en dawn of spring when the hills were bon - ny and green,

24

*mf*

When I heard a tune so love - ly and clear, and my young heart

*mf*

When I heard a tune so love - ly and clear, and my young heart

30

Through days of pro - mise and de -  
 Through days of pro - mise and de -  
 sound - ed its truth Through days of pro - mise and de -  
 sound - ed its truth Through days of pro - mise and de -

36

light, that spright - ly me - lod-y danced, The song, at once both  
 light, that spright - ly me - lod-y danced, The song, at once both  
 light, that spright - ly me - lod-y danced, The song, at once both  
 light, that spright - ly me - lod-y danced, The song, at once both

43

an - cient and new, was my guide, - the sage of my youth. \_\_\_\_\_ Too-ra

an - cient and new, was my guide, - the sage of my youth. \_\_\_\_\_ Too-ra

an - cient and new, was my guide, - the sage of my youth. \_\_\_\_\_ Too-ra

an - cient and new, was my guide, - the sage of my youth. \_\_\_\_\_ Too-ra

49

Too-ra loo, \_\_\_\_\_ too-ra loo, \_\_\_\_\_ too-ra loo - ra -

Too-ra loo, \_\_\_\_\_ too-ra loo, \_\_\_\_\_ too-ra loo - ra -

loo, \_\_\_\_\_ too-ra loo, \_\_\_\_\_ too-ra loo - ra loo - ra -

loo, \_\_\_\_\_ too-ra loo, \_\_\_\_\_ too-ra loo - ra loo - ra -

55

lay. \_\_\_\_\_ Too-ra loo, \_\_\_\_\_ too-ra loo, Oh,  
lay. \_\_\_\_\_ Too-ra loo, \_\_\_\_\_ too-ra loo, Oh,  
lay. \_\_\_\_\_ Too-ra loo, \_\_\_\_\_ too-ra loo, \_\_\_\_\_ Oh,  
lay. \_\_\_\_\_ Too-ra loo, \_\_\_\_\_ too-ra loo, \_\_\_\_\_ Oh,  
lay. \_\_\_\_\_ Too-ra loo, \_\_\_\_\_ too-ra loo, \_\_\_\_\_ Oh,  
lay. \_\_\_\_\_ Too-ra loo, \_\_\_\_\_ too-ra loo, \_\_\_\_\_ Oh,

61

too - ra loo - ra - lay. \_\_\_\_\_ *f* And as sum - mer days grew fine\_\_ and  
too - ra loo - ra - lay. \_\_\_\_\_ *f* And as sum - mer days grew fine\_\_ and  
too - ra loo - ra - lay. \_\_\_\_\_ *f* And as sum - mer days grew fine and  
too - ra loo - ra - lay. \_\_\_\_\_ *f* And as sum - mer days grew fine and

68

long, and dear ones gathered a - round \_\_\_\_\_ We came in - to the

long, and dear ones gathered a - round \_\_\_\_\_ We came in - to the

long, and dear ones gathered a - round, a - round We came in - to the

long, and dear ones gathered a - round, a - round We came in - to the

75

full-ness of life, and we heard it clear and strong, \_\_\_\_\_ With lives en -

full-ness of life, and we heard it clear and strong, \_\_\_\_\_ With lives en -

full-ness of life, and we heard it clear and strong, \_\_\_\_\_ With lives en -

full-ness of life, and we heard it clear and strong, \_\_\_\_\_ With lives en -

82

twined and rich with love, we shared the sweet re - frain, Our

twined and rich with love, we shared the sweet re - frain, Our

twined and rich with love, we shared the sweet re - frain, Our

twined and rich with love, we shared the sweet re - frain, Our

R.H.

89

com - fort at the long day's end, the sound of our life's song.

com - fort at the long day's end, the sound of our life's song.

com - fort at the long day's end, the sound of our life's song.

com - fort at the long day's end, the sound of our life's song.

Musical score for measures 96-101. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Too-ra loo, too-ra loo, too-ra loo - ra". The piano part includes a dynamic marking of *mf* at the beginning.

Musical score for measures 102-107. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "loo - ra - lay. Too-ra loo, too-ra loo, loo - ra lay. Too-ra loo, too-ra". The piano part includes a dynamic marking of *mf* at the beginning.



108

Oh, too - ra loo - ra - lay. And when the au - tumn

Oh, too - ra loo - ra - lay. And when the au - tumn

loo, Oh, too - ra loo - ra - lay. And when the au - tumn

loo, Oh, too - ra loo - ra - lay. And when the au - tumn

115

winds grow chill, we'll hear it soft - er and sweet As we

winds grow chill, we'll hear it soft - er and sweet, so sweet As we

winds grow chill, we'll hear it soft - er and sweet, so sweet As we

winds grow chill, we'll hear it soft - er and sweet, so sweet As we

121

gath - er 'round the cheer - ful hearth, to - ge - ther we will sing, \_\_\_

gath - er 'round the cheer - ful hearth, to - ge - ther we will sing, \_\_\_

gath - er 'round the cheer - ful hearth, to - ge - ther we will sing, \_\_\_

gath - er 'round the cheer - ful hearth, to - ge - ther we will sing, \_\_\_

128

*mp* And though some day the win - ter winds will take me far a - way, \_\_\_

*mp* And though some day the win - ter winds will take me far a - way, \_\_\_

*mp*

136 *mf*

— This song I pass a - long — to you, \_\_\_\_\_ will live — for -

*mf*

This song I pass a - long — to you, \_\_\_\_\_ will live for -

*mf*

8 This song I pass a - long to you, \_\_\_\_\_ will live for -

*mf*

This song I pass a - long to you, \_\_\_\_\_ will live for -

*mf*

143 *f*

ev - er in spring \_\_\_\_\_ Too-ra loo, \_\_\_\_\_ too-ra loo, \_\_\_\_\_

*f*

ev - er in spring \_\_\_\_\_ Too-ra loo, \_\_\_\_\_ too-ra loo, \_\_\_\_\_

*f*

8 ev - er in spring \_\_\_\_\_ Too-ra loo, \_\_\_\_\_ too-ra

*f*

ev - er in spring \_\_\_\_\_ Too-ra loo, \_\_\_\_\_ too-ra



162 *poco rall.* ----- *p*

too - ra loo - ra - lay. Ah, *p*

too - ra loo - ra - lay. Ah, *p*

8 too - ra loo - ra - lay. Ah, *p*

too - ra loo - ra - lay. Ah,

*poco rall.* -----

169 *poco meno mosso rall.* -----

too-ra loo.

too-ra loo.

8 too-ra loo.

too-ra loo.

*p* *mf* *poco meno mosso* *rall.* -----

*8va*