

15 The Housatonic at Stockbridge

31

(1921)

Robert Underwood Johnson
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pppp *slowly and quietly* *mp*

mp

Con-tented ri-ver in thy

dream-y realm The cloud-y wil-low and the

mp *ppp* *mp*

* NOTE:— The small notes in the right hand may be omitted, but if played should be scarcely audible. This song was originally written as a movement in a set of pieces for orchestra, in which it was intended that the upper strings, muted, be listened to separately or sub-consciously—as a kind of distant background of mists seen through the trees or over a river Valley, their parts bearing little or no relation to the tonality, etc., of the tune. It is difficult to reproduce this effect with piano.

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plu - my elm: Thou

mp

ppp *mf* *f* *pp* *rit.*

r.h. *l.h.*

beau - ti - ful! From ev - 'ry dream - y hill — what

mp

pp a tempo *ppp*

eye but wan - ders with thee — at thy will,

mp Con - ten - ted ri - ver! —

pppp
mp
ppp
p

This system contains the first line of music. The vocal line begins with a whole rest followed by a half note G4, then a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The piano accompaniment consists of a continuous sixteenth-note arpeggiated figure in the right hand and a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand. Dynamic markings include *mp* for the vocal line, *pppp* for the piano right hand, and *mp*, *ppp*, and *p* for the piano left hand.

And yet o - ver-shy To mask thy beau - ty from the ea - ger eye;

This system contains the second line of music. The vocal line continues with a quarter note C5, a half note D5, and a quarter note E5. The piano accompaniment maintains the same arpeggiated texture. The dynamic marking *mp* is present for the piano right hand.

Hast thou a thought to hide — from field and — town? In some deep —

pp

This system contains the third line of music. The vocal line features a triplet of eighth notes (F#4, G4, A4) followed by a quarter note B4. The piano accompaniment continues with the arpeggiated figure. Dynamic markings include *pp* for the piano right hand and *pp* for the piano left hand. The system concludes with a triplet of eighth notes in the piano right hand.

cur - rent of the sun - lit brown

pp
mf

a little faster

.....Ah! there's a res - tive rip - ple, and the swift red leaves Septem - ber's

in a gradually animated way

mf
mf

firstlings faster drift;.....Wouldst thou a-way, dear stream? Come, whisper near! I al - so of much

f
cresc.

rest - ing have a fear: Let me to -

ff

mor - row thy com - pan - ion be, By

fall and shal - low to the adventurous sea! —

fff non decresc.

ppp *very slowly* *piu ten.*

forte *Piano*