
David Leisner

**“O Love is the
Crooked Thing”**

for Medium Voice and Piano

Poems by
William Butler Yeats

1. Down by the Salley Gardens
2. The Two Trees
3. A Drinking Song
4. The Wild Swans at Coole
5. Brown Penny



THEODORE
PRESSER
COMPANY

Duration: c. 15'

"O Love is the Crooked Thing"

for medium voice and piano

1. Down by the Salley Gardens

WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

DAVID LEISNER

Easy, in one $\text{♩} = 48$

p

Down by the salley gardens my love and

p

Ped. sim.

8

I did meet; She passed the salley gardens with

sim.

15

lit - tle snow white feet. She bid me take love ea - sy,

come prima

mp

2. The Two Trees

WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

DAVID LEISNER

Largo funebre $\text{♩} = 48$
p with luminous tenderness

Be-lo-ved, gaze in thine own heart, The ho-ly tree is grow-ing

Largo funebre $\text{♩} = 48$
p sim.

4 there; From joy the ho-ly bran-ches start, And all the trem-bling flow-ers they—

7 bear. *p* **cresc.** The chang-ing col ours of its fruit have

10 *cresc.* *f*
dow-ered the stars with mer-ry light;— The sur-e-ty of its hid-den root— Has—

3. A Drinking Song

WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

DAVID LEISNER

Andante energico ♩ = 88 **f**

Wine comes in at the mouth And

3

love comes in at the eye; That's all we shall know for truth

5

Be-fore we grow old and die.

4. The Wild Swans at Coole

WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

DAVID LEISNER

Flowing, yet passionate ♩ = 72

p

The trees are in their

p

legatissimo, con pedale

4

au-tumn beau - ty, The wood-land paths are dry;

7

Un - der the Oc - to - ber twi - light the wa - ter mir - rors a still

10

sky. Up - on the brim - ming wa - ter

5. Brown Penny

WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

DAVID LEISNER

Light and quite fast $\text{♩} = 120$

The first system of the musical score is in 6/8 time. The vocal line begins with a rest for four measures, followed by the lyrics "I whis-pered, 'I am too". The piano accompaniment starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic, featuring a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and dotted eighth notes in the left hand. The tempo is marked "Light and quite fast" with a quarter note equal to 120 beats per minute.

The second system continues the piece. The vocal line starts at measure 7 with the lyrics "young." followed by "And then, 'I am old e nough"; Where - fore I threw_ a pen ny To". The piano accompaniment features a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic, with a more active right hand and a steady bass line. The dynamic shifts to forte (*f*) in the final measure of the system.

The third system begins at measure 12. The vocal line continues with "find out if I might love, Where - fore I threw_ a pen ny To find out if I might". The piano accompaniment maintains a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic, with a consistent rhythmic accompaniment for the vocal melody.

The fourth system starts at measure 17. The vocal line concludes with "love. 'Go and love, go and love, young man, — young man, If the". The piano accompaniment remains at a piano (*p*) dynamic, providing a soft accompaniment for the final lines of the song.

"Brown Penny" by William Butler Yeats is here set to music by permission of Michael and Anne Yeats