

Nigel Keay

The Swallows

A setting of the poem by Dunstan Ward

Song: The Swallows

The swallows are back: they swerve and glide
and flicker and soar, engrave the sky
with lines of shrill excited cries,
grace-notes, trills, embellishing
this morning's song to greet the spring:

effortlessly inscribe on the bright
new April blue, desire, delight,
a rapturous appetite for life,
careless of what mark they make,
what springs remain to celebrate.

to Kayla Collingwood and Isabelle Dutel

The Swallows

Lyrics: Dunstan Ward

Nigel Key

Adagietto ♩ = 68

Voix

Piano

mf *p*

4

mp *f* *f*

The swal - lows. The swal - lows are

mf

Red. *

7

mf

back: they swerve and glide and flic - ker and soar, en - grave the

p

11

sky with lines of shrill ex - ci ted cries,

mf *f* *tr*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 11 through 14. The vocal line starts with a quarter rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The piano accompaniment features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include mezzo-forte (mf) and forte (f). A trill is marked in the right hand of measure 14.

15

— grace - notes, trills, em - bel - lish - ing this mor - ning's song to

mf *Red.* *

Detailed description: This system contains measures 15 through 17. The vocal line continues with a half note C5, a quarter note D5, and a half note E5. The piano accompaniment includes grace notes and trills in the right hand. Dynamics include mezzo-forte (mf). A 'Red.' (ritardando) marking is present in measure 17, along with an asterisk symbol.

18

greet the spring:

mp *mf* *Red.* *

Detailed description: This system contains measures 18 through 20. The vocal line begins with a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The piano accompaniment features triplets in the left hand. Dynamics include mezzo-piano (mp) and mezzo-forte (mf). A 'Red.' (ritardando) marking and an asterisk symbol are present in measure 20.

21

mf *mp* *mf*

24

mp *mf*

ef - fort - less - ly in - scribe on the bright new

Red. *Red.* *

27

f

A - pril blue, de - sire, de - light, a rap - tu - rous ap - pe - tite

30 *mf*

for life, care-less of what mark they make,___

tr *mp* *mf*

34 *mf* *mp* *mf*

what springs re-main to ce-le-brate.

mf *p* *mp* *mf*

38 *rallentando* *Lento* ♩ = 48 *Più lento*

mp *mf*

Red. *