There Will Come Soft Rains

Music by

LAURA FARNELL Lyrics by

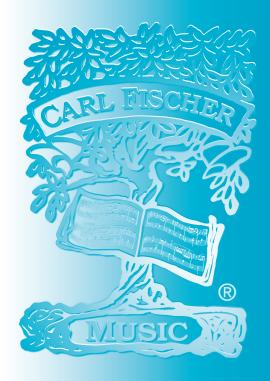
SARA TEASDALE

Two-Part Treble Voices with Keyboard

Ranges:







About the Lyricist

Sara Teasdale (1884–1933) was born in St. Louis, Missouri. She achieved recognition during her lifetime for her sensitive writing. Although the popularity of her work declined considerably in the second half of the twentieth century, it has received renewed interest in recent years. Love was the central theme in much of Teasdale's poetry. She wrote of her emotions and her emotional response to the world and people around her.

In 1918, Teasdale won the Columbia University Poetry Society prize (which later became the Pulitzer Prize for poetry) for *Love Songs*. "There Will Come Soft Rains" is a poem from her collection *Flame and Shadow* published in 1920, and this poem may have been written in response to Teasdale's disillusionment with the First World War. Other volumes of her poetry published during her lifetime include *Dark of the Moon* (1920) and *Stars Tonight* (1930). Her final collection, *Strange Victory*, was published posthumously, just a year after her death.

Performance Notes

Sara Teasdale's poetry is simple, but powerful, and I have loved this particular poem ever since I first read it in a high-school literature class. Coming to terms with the various facets of war is as difficult today as it was at the beginning of the twentieth century when this poem was written. However, to me, reading Teasdale's version of nature's perspective on war brings a certain comfort in its focus on the new beginning that comes at war's end. In this setting, the sixteenth note "rain motive" and repetitive vocal lines ("And it will rain") permeate the piece and attempt to depict a gentle spring rain shower, which is the impetus for new life described in the text.

About the Composer

Laura Farnell is currently the head choral director at Boles Junior High in Arlington, Texas, where she has taught since 2000. Under her direction the program has grown to more than 270 7th and 8th grade students in the choral program. In 2004 she received an Excellence in Education Award as the Arlington Independent School District's outstanding junior high teacher of the year.

After graduating summa cum laude from Baylor University with her Bachelor of Music Education in Choral Music (with a piano emphasis), Laura taught elementary music in Mansfield, Texas for two years. Laura is an active member of the Texas Music Educators Association and the Texas Choral Directors Association. Laura is active as an accompanist and clinician. She especially enjoys composing and arranging for middle school groups, and is represented by several publishers. She and her husband, Russell, are currently members of Broadway Baptist church in Fort Worth and reside in Arlington, Texas.

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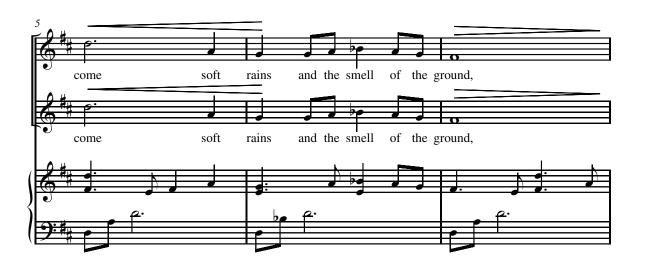
for Two-part Treble Voices with Keyboard

Sara Teasdale, alt.

LAURA FARNELL























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