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“Ah, 'Tis A Dream”

Eduard Lassen

Adapted and Edited with Instructions as to Interpretation
and Method of Study by

Leopold Godowsky

Biographical Sketch, General Information and Glossary by
Emerson Whithorne

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“AH! 'TIS A DREAM” (BELGIUM)

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH—EDUARD LASSEN.

*Born at Copenhagen, Denmark, April 13, 1830.
Died at Weimar, Germany, January 15, 1904.*



ALTHOUGH Lassen was born in Denmark, he must be considered a Belgian composer owing to the fact that he was taken to Brussels when he was only two years of age, and remained there until his twenty-first year, having received his musical education at the Brussels Conservatory. It is true that he spent little time in Belgium after 1851; having won the *Prix de Rome* in that year, which enabled him to travel extensively in Italy and Germany. He finally made his home in Weimar in 1858, when through the influence of the famous Hungarian pianist, Franz Liszt, he was made Court Music Director there. Indeed, when Liszt retired two years later, Lassen was chosen to succeed him as conductor of the Weimar Court Opera.

He was the first to stage Wagner's opera, *Tristan and Isolde*, after its first production in Munich. One must remember that in 1874 it required a great deal of courage to bring out a music drama by Richard Wagner—so bitter were his enemies, so cruel were his critics.

Among other works Lassen wrote three operas, two symphonies, and many popular songs. He was one of the less important composers of the Romantic school.

POETIC IDEA: The lonely wanderer imagines that he sees the oaks—the violets of his native land; he pictures his youth and one who was dear to him, only to find that it is all merely a dream. Yet wherever he roams his fancy will bring to him memories of the home-land.

LESSON: This song has little variety of treatment in its three verses, and yet the change from nine-eight to three-four measure at the end of each verse makes a beautiful change of mood. The composer has set the words, “Ah! 'tis a dream,” in an entrancing manner, suggesting the ethereal quality of dream fabrics. The general mood is one of peace and repose. The eighth-notes of the left-hand part must be played evenly and smoothly and be blended into the right-hand harmonies in the second division of the nine-eight measure. There should be a slight hesitation before taking the last note (or chord) in the left hand (in the third division of these nine-eight measures), yet this note (or chord) must be fully sustained and receive a slight emphasis. (See measures 1, 2, 3, 4, etc.)

The quarter-note of the three-four measures occupies the same space of time as the dotted quarter-note of the nine-eight measures. In these three-four measures (measures 9, 17, and 25) the upper part of the left hand must predominate, for this is the melody sung by the voice in the original song. Notice how this vocal phrase is finished by the thumb of the right hand in measures 10, 18 and 26. Measures 9, 17, 25 require a pronounced *rallentando*, while in m. 17 will be found a hold (\curvearrowright).

As the musical phrase is repeated at the beginning of each new verse with no change in the actual notes, the student must attempt to introduce variety by novel ideas of interpretation. The last four measures form a kind of postlude or little after-phrase, which possesses the same contemplative character as the song proper.

NOTE TO THE TEACHER.—*The aim of the editors is to have every department of their work as perfect and complete as possible, and they have been governed by this principle in making the annotations to the Educational Adaptations. Although nothing superfluous has been included, the teacher must use discretion as to the amount of text material that the student is capable of assimilating at the time.*

A. 337-2

EDUCATIONAL ADAPTATIONS

Song Series

“Ah! 'Tis a Dream”

BELGIUM

Adapted and edited by Leopold Godowsky.

EDUARD LASSEN.

Lento. ♩ = 60-72

My na - tive land a - gain once

1 *p* *es* 1 2/3 2 *pp* *molto espressivo.* 3

una corda

meets my eye, The old oaks raise their boughs on

4 5

high, The vio - - - lets greet_ings seem:

6 7 8

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9 *rall.* Ah! 'tis a *a tempo* I feel the kiss that was in
 10 dream.

youth so dear, The words "I love" fall on my
 12 13

ear; I see the eyes soft beam:
 14 15 16

And now, when far in dis.tant
 17 *rall.* Ah! 'tis a *a tempo* dream.
 18 19

lands I roam, My heart will wan - der to my

20 21

rda.

home; But while these fan - cies teem,

22 23 24

rda.

a tempo

rall.

dream.

25 26 27

pp

Ah! 'tis a

rda.

28 29 30

rall.

rda.

Ah! 'Tis a Dream, 3.