

For ENGLAND'S HELICON (Gerald Place & Dorothy Linell)

EVENFALL

A Song for High Voice & Lute (or Piano)

A.E. Housman

Humphrey Clucas

Dolce ♩ = 48

Voice

Breathe, my lute, be - neath my fing - ers One re - gret - ful

Lute

5

breath, One la - ment for life that ling - ers Round the doors of

9

death. For the frost has killed the rose, And our sum - mer dies in

29

twi - light com - eth up; Song and sor - row all that are

33

Slum - ber at the ev - en - star. Song and sor - row

37

all that are Slum - ber at the ev - en - star. _____

slow spread

Breathe, my lute, beneath my fingers
 One regretful breath,
 One lament for life that lingers
 Round the doors of death.
 For the frost has killed the rose,
 And our summer dies in snows,
 And our morning once for all
 Gathers to the evenfall.

Hush, my lute, return to sleeping,
 Sing no songs again.
 For the reaper stays his reaping
 On the darkened plain;
 And the day has drained its cup,
 And the twilight cometh up;
 Song and sorrow all that are
 Slumber at the even-star.

For ENGLAND'S HELICON (Gerald Place & Dorothy Linell)

EVENFALL

A Song for Low Voice & Lute (or Piano)

A.E. Housman

Humphrey Clucas

Dolce $\text{♩} = 48$

Voice

Breathe, my_lute, be -neath my fing - ers One re - gret - ful

Lute

5

breath, One la - ment for life that ling - ers Round the doors of

9

death. For the frost has killed the rose, And our sum - mer dies in

29

twi - light com - eth up; Song and sor - row all that are

33

Slum - ber at the ev - en - star. Song and sor - row

37

all that are Slum - ber at the ev - en - star.

slow spread

When I was asked to write a song for high voice and lute, this poem immediately suggested itself. It was written by a teenage A.E. Housman for a home entertainment, and was to be sung by Lady Jane Grey while awaiting her execution. It seems not to have been set before.

The lute part, though proclaiming its origin, adapts quite comfortably for the piano. Other possibilities are harpsichord (electronic or otherwise) or guitar.

Humphrey Clucas
Surrey (2009)