

from *Three Browning Songs*, Op. 44

Amy Marcy Cheney Beach
(1867-1944)

Amy Cheney Beach (Mrs. H.H.A. Beach) might be called the dean of American women composers. She was the first woman composer in the United States to realize a successful career writing art music. At the time of her death, she had composed more than 300 musical works, including a piano concerto, a symphony, a one-act opera, numerous piano pieces, choral works, chamber music, and well over 100 songs. With few exceptions, all of her compositions were published, a situation almost unheard of at the time for a woman composer of any nationality. She was the first American female composer to have written a symphony but she is perhaps best remembered for her songs. As a composer she was virtually self-taught, having studied formally for only one year. She taught herself harmony, counterpoint, and languages. After her marriage at 18 to Dr. Henry Harris Aubrey Beach, a distinguished Boston physician 25 years her senior, she insisted on being known as Mrs. H.H.A. Beach. Her social status brought her into contact with the leading figures in musical, literary, and political circles. She resumed an active concert career after her husband's death, establishing a reputation as a pianist and composer, and promoting her music. She served as the head of several national organizations, including the Musical Educators National Conference and the Music Teachers National Association. "The year's at the spring" is the first song from the set *Three Browning Songs*, Op. 44, composed in 1900. The set is dedicated to the Browning Society of Boston.

The year's _____ at the spring, _____ And day's _____ at the

mf

p

Ped.

* *Ped.* *

4

morn; _____ Morn - ing's at sev - en; The

cresc.

f

cresc.

Ped.

*

7 *poco rall.* *p a tempo* *rit.*

hill - side's dew - pearled; _____

f poco rall. *p a tempo* *rit.*

Ped. *

10 *a tempo* *p* *poco cresc.*

The year's _____ at the spring, _____ And day's _____ at the

dolce marcato *pp a tempo*

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

13 *sempre cresc.*

morn; _____ The lark's _____ on the wing; _____ The

sempre cresc.

Ped. * Ped. *

16 *f*

snail's on the thorn; _____ God's in His

f

Ped. *

19

heaven, _____ God's _____ in His heaven, All's _____

ff

Ped.

22

right, _____ All's

marcato

Ped. * *Ped.* *

25

right with the world! _____

rit. *a tempo*

rit. *a tempo*

Ped. * *Ped.* * *Ped.* * *

27

3