



“Tears, idle tears.”

“TEARS, IDLE TEARS.”

Tears, idle tears—I know not what they mean—
Tears from the depth of some divine despair
Rise in the heart, and gather to the eyes,
In looking on the happy autumn fields,
And thinking of the days that are no more.

Fresh as the first beam glittering on a sail
That brings our friends up from the underworld,
Sad as the last which reddens over one
That sinks with all we love below the verge;
So sad, so fresh, the days that are no more.

Ah, sad and strange as in dark summer dawns
The earliest pipe of half-awaken'd birds
To dying ears, when unto dying eyes
The casement slowly grows a glimmering square;
So sad, so strange, the days that are no more.

Dear as remember'd kisses after death,
And sweet as those by hopeless fancy feign'd
On lips that are for others; deep as love,
Deep as first love, and wild with all regret;
O Death in Life, the days that are no more!

TEARS, IDLE TEARS.

(FIRST SETTING.)

JOACHIM RAFF.

Largo. ♩ = 69.

VOICE. *Largo.*

PIANO. *Largo.*

Tears, i - dle tears, ... I

know . . not what they mean, Tears from the depth of some di -

- - vine . . des - pair . . . Rise in the heart, . . and ga - ther to the eyes, . .

TEARS, IDLE TEARS.

In look - ing on the hap - py Au - tumn - fields, And thinking of the days . . .

. . . that are . . . no . . . more.

Fresh as the first beam glit - - t'ring on a sail, That

brings our friends up from the un - - der - world, . . Sad as the last which

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red-dens o-ver one . . . That sinks with all we love be-low the verge; So sad,

so fresh, the days . . . that are . . . no . . . more.

. Ah, sad and strange as in dark sum-mer

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

dawns The ear-liest pipe of half-a-wak-en'd birds To dy-ing ears, when un-to

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

TEARS, IDLE TEARS.

dy - - ing eyes The case - ment slow - ly grows a glim - mering square; So

dolce.

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

sad, . . so strange, the days . . . that are no . .

f *mf*

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

more. . .

p

Ped. *

Dear as re - mem - ber'd kiss - es af - - ter death, . . . And sweet as those by

p

TEARS, IDLE TEARS.

hope-less fan-cy feign'd On lips that are for o - thers; deep as love,

The first system of the musical score for 'Tears, Idle Tears'. It features a vocal line in G major (one flat) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a melodic phrase on the words 'hope-less fan-cy feign'd'. The piano accompaniment consists of a flowing eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more rhythmic bass line in the left hand. The system concludes with the words 'deep as love,'.

Deep as first . . . love, and wild with all re-gret;

The second system of the musical score. The vocal line continues with 'Deep as first' followed by a dotted line, then 'love, and wild with all re-gret;'. The piano accompaniment features a more active right hand with sixteenth-note patterns, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The left hand continues with a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

O Death in Life, . . . O Death in Life, . . . the

The third system of the musical score. The vocal line has two phrases: 'O Death in Life, . . . O Death in Life, . . . the'. The piano accompaniment is characterized by dense sixteenth-note chords in the right hand, marked with piano (*p*) and forte (*f*) dynamics. The left hand maintains a consistent eighth-note accompaniment.

days that are no more, . . . the

The fourth and final system of the musical score. The vocal line concludes with 'days that are no more, . . . the'. The piano accompaniment features a more melodic right hand with a *mf* dynamic, while the left hand continues with a flowing eighth-note accompaniment, also marked *mf*.

TEARS, IDLE TEARS.

days that are no more, . . . that are . . .

p *pp*

. . . no more.

p *pp*

Ped. *



TEARS, IDLE TEARS.

(SECOND SETTING.)

JOACHIM RAFF.

VOICE. *Larghetto.* ♩ = 92. *p*

PIANO. *Larghetto.*

p *mf* *p*

Tears, i - dle tears, I . .

know not what they mean, Tears from the depth of some di - vine des -

- pair Rise in the heart, and ga - ther to the eyes, In

s f *p*

Ped. * *Ped.* *

TEARS, IDLE TEARS.

look - ing on the hap - - py Au - - tumn-fields, And think-ing of the

The first system of the musical score for 'Tears, Idle Tears'. It features a vocal line in G major (one flat) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a half note 'look', followed by eighth notes 'ing on the', a half note 'hap', eighth notes 'py Au', eighth notes 'tumn-fields,', and a half note 'And think-ing of the'. The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand with chords and a left hand with a steady eighth-note bass line.

days that are no more. Fresh as the first beam *dolce.*

The second system of the musical score. The vocal line continues with a half note 'days', eighth notes 'that are', a half note 'no more.', a half note 'Fresh', eighth notes 'as the first', and a half note 'beam' followed by the word *dolce.* in italics. The piano accompaniment features a more active right hand with eighth-note patterns and a left hand with a steady bass line.

glit - t'ring on a sail, That brings our friends

The third system of the musical score. The vocal line has a half note 'glit - t'ring on a sail,', a half note 'That brings', eighth notes 'our friends', and four dotted lines. The piano accompaniment continues with a flowing eighth-note melody in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand.

up from the un - der - world, Sad as the last which red - - - dens

The fourth and final system of the musical score. The vocal line begins with a half note 'up from the un - der - world,', followed by four dotted lines, a half note 'Sad as the last which', eighth notes 'red - - -', and a half note 'dens'. The piano accompaniment concludes with a rising eighth-note melody in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand.

TEARS, IDLE TEARS.

dolce.

o - - - ver one That sinks . . . with all we love be .

dolcissimo.

- low . . . the verge; So sad, . . so fresh, the days . . that

p

are no more. Ah, sad and strange as in

mf *p*

dark sum - mer dawns The ear - liest pipe of half - a - wak - en'd . .

TEARS, IDLE TEARS.

birds To dy - ing ears, when un - to dy - ing eyes The

sf *p*

Ped. *

case-ment slow-ly grows . . a glim - - m'ring square; So sad, so strange, the

days that are . . . no more.

Dear as re - mem - - ber'd kiss - es af - ter death, And

p

TEARS, IDLE TEARS.

mf sweet . . . as those *p* by hope - less fan - cy feign'd . . . On

mf lips that are for o - - thers ; *f* deep as love,

Deep as first . . . love, and wild with all re - gret ;

wild with all re-gret ; *p* O Death in Life,

TEARS, IDLE TEARS.

O Death in Life, the days . . . that are no

f *f* *f*

more, the days . . . that are no more, . . . that

mf *mf* *p* *Ped.* * *Ped.* * *Ped.* *

are no more.

Ped. * *Ped.* *

