

Nigel Keay

The Swallows

A setting of the poem by Dunstan Ward

Song: The Swallows

The swallows are back: they swerve and glide
and flicker and soar, engrave the sky
with lines of shrill excited cries,
grace-notes, trills, embellishing
this morning's song to greet the spring:

effortlessly inscribe on the bright
new April blue, desire, delight,
a rapturous appetite for life,
careless of what mark they make,
what springs remain to celebrate.

to Kayla Collingwood and Isabelle Dutel

The Swallows

Lyrics: Dunstan Ward

Nigel Key

Adagietto ♩ = 64

Voix

Piano

mf *p*

4

mp *f* *f*

The swal - lows. The swal - lows are

mf

Red. *

7

mf *p*

back: they swerve and glide and flic - ker and soar, en - grave the

Red.

11

sky with lines of shrill ex - ci ted cries,

mf *f* *tr*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 11 through 14. The vocal line begins with a quarter rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The piano accompaniment starts with a half note G2, a half note B1, and a half note D2. Dynamics include *mf* and *f*. A trill is marked in measure 14.

15

— grace - notes, trills, em - bel - lish - ing this mor - ning's song to

mf *Red.* *

Detailed description: This system contains measures 15 through 17. The vocal line features grace notes and trills. The piano accompaniment includes a *mf* dynamic and a *Red.* (ritardando) marking in measure 17.

18

greet the spring:

mp *mf* *Red.* *

Detailed description: This system contains measures 18 through 20. The vocal line has a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The piano accompaniment features triplets and a *Red.* (ritardando) marking in measure 20.

21

mf *mp* *mf*

24

mf *mf*

ef - fort - less - ly in - scribe on the bright new

Red. *Red.* *

27

f

A - pril blue, de - sire, de - light, a rap - tu - rous ap - pe - tite

30

mf

for life, care-less of what mark they make,___

tr *mp* *mf*

34

mf

mp

mf

what springs re-main to ce-le-brate.

mf *mp* *p* *mp* *mf*

38

rallentando

Lento ♩ = 48

Più lento

mp *mf*

Red. *