

The Better Land

Poem by Felicia Hemans (1793-1835)

Music by Julian Besset

Nobly ♩ = c. 50

mp I hear thee speak of the bet-ter land, Thou call'st its chil-dren a hap-py band;

mp *legatissimo*

The first system of the musical score for 'The Better Land'. It features a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is marked 'Nobly' with a quarter note equal to approximately 50 beats per minute. The music begins in 4/4 time and changes to 3/4 time in the fourth measure. The lyrics are: 'I hear thee speak of the bet-ter land, Thou call'st its chil-dren a hap-py band;'. The piano part is marked 'mp' and 'legatissimo'.

5 Mo-ther! oh, where is that ra - diant shore? Shall we not seek it, and weep

The second system of the musical score. It continues from the first system, starting at measure 5. The vocal line and piano accompaniment continue with the lyrics: 'Mo-ther! oh, where is that ra - diant shore? Shall we not seek it, and weep'. The piano part features a prominent bass line with a long note in measure 7.

8 no more? Is it where the flow - er of the o -

The third system of the musical score, starting at measure 8. The vocal line and piano accompaniment continue with the lyrics: 'no more? Is it where the flow - er of the o -'. The piano part features a prominent bass line with a long note in measure 9.

11

range blows, And the fire-flies glance through the myr - tle boughs? _____

14

'Not there, not there, my child! _____

18

mf Is it where the fea - the -

21

ry palm-trees rise, And the date grows ripe un-der sun-ny skies? _____

25

Or 'midst the green is-lands of glit-ter-ing seas, Where

28

fra-grant fo-rests per-fume the breeze, And strangbright birds on their star-ry

31

wings, *mf* Bear the rich hues of all glo-rious things?

34

mp 'Not there, not there, my child!'

40

is it far a -

mf

44

way, in some re-gion old, Where the ri-vers wan-der o'er sands of gold?—

47

Where the bur-ning rays of the ru-by shine,

50

And the pearl gleams forth

52

from the co - ral

54

strand?—

Is it there, — sweet

a tempo

58

mo - ther, that bet - ter land?

'Not — there, — not —

60

there, — my — child!

Spirited ♩ = c. 80

64

65

66

67

8vb

[illegible]

70

senza tempo

'Eye hath not seen it, my gen - tle boy!

72

Ear hath not heard _____ its deep songs of joy; _____

74

Dreams — can - not pic - ture

76

rit.

78

Tempo primo

mf a world so fair-

81

p Sor-row and death may not en-ter there;

85

mp Time doth not breathe on its fade-less bloom, For be-yond the clouds,

88

and be-yond the tomb, It is there, it _____ is there, my child!

91

allarg.

The musical score is written for a vocal soloist and piano accompaniment. The key signature is G major (two sharps: F# and C#). The time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into three systems, each starting with a measure number (85, 88, and 91). The vocal line is written in a single staff, and the piano accompaniment is written in two staves (treble and bass clef). The tempo marking 'allarg.' (allargando) is placed below the piano accompaniment at measure 91. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.