



The prying bee

Alfred Ben Allen

(1850—1926?)

Alfred Benjamin Allen (1850–1926?) was born at Kingsland, Middlesex, England. He studied at the London Academy of Music and became known as a concert pianist and concert accompanist. His compositions include orchestral music, a secular cantata, organ music, songs, and part-songs. His humorous part-songs were particularly well received and he often wrote his own texts under the pseudonym “Neb Nella,” his name backwards.

The Praying Bee

Alfred Ben Allen

Andante sostenuto

S *p* A rose lay bask - ing in the sun One sul - try day in June, _____ With

A _____ *p* One sul - try day in June, _____

T _____ *p* One sul - try day in June, _____

B _____ *p* One sul - try day in June, _____

S ⁵ <> scarce a breath of wel - come wind To cool the af - ter - noon; A

A _____ To cool the af - ter - noon; _____ A

T _____ To cool the af - ter - noon; _____ A

B _____ To cool the af - ter - noon; A

The Prying Bee

9

S *dim.* but - ter - fly on wear - y wing *cresc.* Did ut - ter round the rose, And

A *dim.* but - ter - fly on wear - y wing *cresc.* Did ut - ter round the rose, And

T *dim.* but - ter - fly on wear - y wing *cresc.* Did ut - ter round the rose, And

B *dim.* but - ter - fly on wear - y wing *cresc.* Did ut - ter round the rose, And

13

S *dim.* fain would on its per - fumed leaves En - joy some sweet re - pose. _____

A *dim.* fain would on its per - fumed leaves En - joy some sweet re - pose. _____

T *dim.* fain would on its per - fumed leaves En - joy some sweet re - pose. _____

B *dim.* fain would on its per - fumed leaves En - joy some sweet re - pose. _____

Maestoso

S *f* But a pry - ing bee just then came by, And did all et - i - quette de - fy. $\frac{2}{4}$

A *f* But a pry - ing bee just then came by, And did all et - i - quette de - fy. $\frac{2}{4}$

T *f* But a pry - ing bee just then came by, And did all et - i - quette de - fy. $\frac{2}{4}$

B *f* But a pry - ing bee just then came by, And did all et - i - quette de - fy. $\frac{2}{4}$

The Drying Bee

Allegro vivace

21

S "O go a - way, you

A "O go a - way, you

T The know - ing B Did

B *pp* With a buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz

25

S pry - ing bee," The rose did loud - ly cry, "You

A pry - ing bee," The rose did loud - ly cry, "You

T clear - ly C With half an I The rea - son Y His

B buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz

28

S need not come a - woo - ing me, So, neigh - bour lil - y

A need not come a - woo - ing me, So, neigh - bour lil - y

T com - pa - ny Was want - ed not. (To meet re - buff It

B buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz

The Dying Bee

31

S try; She is not so par - tic - u - lar As

A try; She is not so par - tic - u - lar As

T was his lot.) Then start - ed 'E (Just af - ter T) To

B buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz

34

S I am known to be, So thrust your com - pa -

A I am known to be, So thrust your com - pa -

T hum in G (The ma - jor key), The know - ing B Did

B buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz The know - ing B Did

37

S ny on her, It's wel - come not on me."

A ny on her, It's wel - come not on me." The know - ing

T clear - ly C, did clear - ly, clear - ly C.

B clear - ly C, did clear - ly, clear - ly C,

The Dying Bee

40

S

A

T

B

Did clear - ly C.

Tempo I

S

A

T

B

A snow - white lil - y droop'd her head, And breath'd a gen - tle sigh, _____ But

And breath'd a gen - tle sigh, _____

And breath'd a gen - tle sigh, _____

And breath'd a gen - tle sigh, _____

48

S

A

T

B

soon she rais'd her head, and smil'd, Now, note the rea - son why; Came

Now, note the rea - son why; _____ Came

Now, note the rea - son why; _____ Came

Now, note the rea - son why; _____ Came

The Dying Bee

52

S then a state - ly but - ter - fly In plu - mage O so gay, "I

A then a state - ly but - ter - fly In plu - mage O so gay, "I

T then a state - ly but - ter - fly In plu - mage O so gay, "I

B then a state - ly but - ter - fly In plu - mage O so gay, "I

cresc. *dim.*

56

S C U R at home," he said, "I'll woo thee while I may." _____

A C U R at home," he said, "I'll woo thee while I may." _____

T C U R at home," he said, "I'll woo thee while I may." _____

B C U R at home," he said, "I'll woo thee while I may." _____

Maestoso

S *f* But the same old bee just then came by, And still did et - i - quette de - fy.

A *f* But the same old bee just then came by, And still did et - i - quette de - fy.

T *f* But the same old bee just then came by, And still did et - i - quette de - fy.

B *f* But the same old bee just then came by, And still did et - i - quette de - fy.

The Dying Bee

Allegro vivace

S
A
T
B

“O go a - way, you
“O go a - way, you
The know - ing B Did
With a buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz

Detailed description: This is the first system of the musical score. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment staff. The music is in 2/4 time and begins with a piano (*pp*) dynamic. The vocal parts enter with the lyrics "O go a - way, you". The piano accompaniment consists of a series of eighth notes, with the instruction "With a buzz" written below the staff.

67
S
A
T
B

pry - ing bee," The lil - y thus did cry, "We
pry - ing bee," The lil - y thus did cry, "We
clear - ly C With half an I The rea - son Y His
buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz

Detailed description: This is the second system of the musical score, starting at measure 67. The vocal parts continue with their respective lyrics. The piano accompaniment continues with the "buzz" pattern. The lyrics for the Soprano, Alto, and Tenor parts are: "pry - ing bee," "The lil - y thus did cry," and "clear - ly C With half an I The rea - son Y His".

70
S
A
T
B

do not want your pres - ence here, Some oth - er flow - er
do not want your pres - ence here, Some oth - er flow - er
com - pa - ny Was want - ed not. (To meet re - buff It
buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz

Detailed description: This is the third system of the musical score, starting at measure 70. The vocal parts continue with their respective lyrics. The piano accompaniment continues with the "buzz" pattern. The lyrics for the Soprano, Alto, and Tenor parts are: "do not want your pres - ence here, Some oth - er flow - er", "do not want your pres - ence here, Some oth - er flow - er", and "com - pa - ny Was want - ed not. (To meet re - buff It".

The Dying Bee

73

S try; You know that two is com - pa - ny, And,

A try; You know that two is com - pa - ny, And,

T was his lot.) Then start - ed 'E (Just af - ter T) To

B buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz

76

S there - fore, three is none, So, fly a - way, in -

A there - fore, three is none, So, fly a - way, in -

T hum in G (The ma - jor key), The know - ing B Did

B buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz The know - ing B Did

79

S trud - ing bee, Un - til our court - ing's done,"

A trud - ing bee, Un - til our court - ing's done,"

T clear - ly C, did clear - ly, clear - ly C, The know - ing

B clear - ly C, did clear - ly, clear - ly C,

82

S
Did clear - ly C.

A
Did clear - ly C.

T
B _____ Did clear - ly C.

B
Did clear - ly C.

Novello and Company
(1913)

A rose lay basking in the sun
One sultry day in June,
With scarce a breath of welcome wind
To cool the afternoon;
A butterfly on weary wing
Did utter round the rose,
And fain would on its perfumed leaves
Enjoy some sweet repose.
But a prying bee just then came by,
And did all etiquette defy.

“O go away, you prying bee,”
The rose did loudly cry,
“You need not come a-wooing me,
So, neighbour lily try;
She is not so particular
As I am known to be,
So thrust your company on her,
It’s welcome not on me.”
The knowing B
Did clearly C
With half an I
The reason Y
His company
Was wanted not.
(To meet rebuff
It was his lot.)
Then started ’E
(Just after T)
To hum in G
(The major key),
The knowing B
Did clearly C,
did clearly, clearly C.

A snow-white lily drooped her head,
And breathed a gentle sigh,
But soon she raised her head, and smiled,
Now, note the reason why;
Came then a stately butterfly
In plumage O so gay,
“I C U R at home,” he said,
“I’ll woo thee while I may.”
But the same old bee just then came by,
And still did etiquette defy.

“O go away, you prying bee,”
The lily thus did cry,
“We do not want your presence here,
Some other flower try;
You know that two is company,
And, therefore, three is none,
So, fly away, intruding bee,
Until our courting’s done,”
The knowing B
Did clearly C
With half an I
The reason Y
His company
Was wanted not.
(To meet rebuff
It was his lot.)
Then started ’E
(Just after T)
To hum in G
(The major key),
The knowing B
Did clearly C,
did clearly, clearly C

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