

Au bord de l'eau

1875

poem by Sully-Prudhomme

Op. 8, no. 1. Dedicated to Madame Claudie Chamerot. Published by Choudens, 1877; Hamelle, 1887; first collection, no.18, then no.17. First performance Société nationale de musique, January 19, 1878, Mademoiselle Miramont-Tréogate. Fauré softened dental sounds in song texts and "Au bord de l'eau" contains an example:

Sully-Prudhomme—S'asseoir tous deux au bord d'un flot qui passe
Fauré— S'asseoir tous deux au bord du flot qui passe

Au bord de l'eau

At the water's edge

S'asseoir tous deux au bord du flot qui passe,
Le voir passer;
Tous deux, s'il glisse un nuage en l'espace,
Le voir glisser;
A l'horizon s'il fume un toit de chaume,
Le voir fumer;
Aux alentours, si quelque fleur embaume,
S'en embaumer;
Entendre au pied du saule où l'eau murmure,
L'eau murmurer;
Ne pas sentir tant que ce rêve dure,
Le temps durer;
Mais n'apportant de passion profonde,
Qu'à s'adorer,
Sans nul souci des querelles du monde,
Les ignorer;
Et seuls tous deux devant tout ce qui lasse,
Sans se lasser;
Sentir l'amour devant tout ce qui passe,
Ne point passer!

To sit together at the edge of the passing wave,
To see it pass;
Together, if a cloud glides by in space,
To see it glide;
If a thatched roof sends smoke on the horizon,
To see it smoke;
If in the vicinity some flower gives off a scent,
To take in that scent;
To hear, at the foot of the willow where water murmurs,
The water murmur;
Not to feel, so long as this dream lasts,
Time last;
But bringing no deep passion
Except to adore each other,
With no concern for the quarrels of the world,
To know nothing of them;
And alone together, in the face of all that causes weariness,
Without becoming weary,
To feel love, in the face of all that passes away,
Not pass away!

Andante quasi allegretto

p dolce

S'as - seoir — tous deux au bord du flot qui

p

The musical score consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 6/8 time signature. The piano accompaniment is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The tempo is marked 'Andante quasi allegretto' and the dynamics are 'p dolce'.

pas - se, — Le voir — pas - ser; Tous deux, — s'il

7

glisse un nu - age en l'es pa - ce, — Le voir — glis -

10

ser; A l'ho - ri - zon s'il fume un toit de chau - me, —

13

Le voir — fu - mer; Aux a - len - tours, si quel - que fleur em -

mf

16 *p* *dolce*

bau - me. — S'en em - bau - mer; En - tendre au

sempre p

19

ped du saule où l'eau mur - mu - re, — L'eau mur - mu -

22

rer; Ne pas sen - tir tant que ce rê - ve du - re, —

25 *cresc.*

— Le temps du - rer; Mais n'ap - por - tant de pas - si - on pro -

60

28

fon - de, — Qu'à s'a - do - rer, Sans nul sou -

f

This system contains measures 28, 29, and 30. The vocal line begins with a melodic phrase in measure 28, followed by a rest in measure 29, and then continues in measure 30. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is placed above the vocal line in measure 30.

31

ci des que - rel - les du mon - de, — Les i - gno -

This system contains measures 31, 32, and 33. The vocal line continues from the previous system, with a rest in measure 32. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support. A dynamic marking of *f* is also present in measure 33.

34

rer, Et seuls tous deux de - vant tout ce qui las - se, —

p

pp

This system contains measures 34, 35, and 36. The vocal line starts with a rest in measure 34, then continues. The piano accompaniment features a dynamic marking of *pp* (pianissimo) in measure 35. A dynamic marking of *p* (piano) is placed above the vocal line in measure 34.

37

Sans se las - ser; Sen - tir l'a - mour de - vant tout ce qui

This system contains measures 37, 38, 39, and 40. The vocal line continues with a rest in measure 37. The piano accompaniment concludes the phrase with sustained chords in the final measures.

40

pas - se, Ne point pas - ser, _____

p

p *sempre*

43

sempre p

Sen - tir l'a - mour de - vant tout ce qui

46

pas - se, Ne point pas - ser! _

pp

pp

49

8va