

When I Asked the Cherry Tree

Inspired by "Cherry Blossoms"
by Matsuo Basho, 1644-1694

Jack Miffleton
Keyboard accompaniment by Janet Vogt

INTRO *Gently* (♩ = ca. 132)

Keyboard

The score is written in D major and 3/4 time. It includes an instrumental introduction, a vocal melody with lyrics, and a keyboard accompaniment. The lyrics are: "When I asked the cherry tree to speak of God to me, when I asked the cherry tree".

Key signature: D major (F# C# G#). Time signature: 3/4.

Tempo: *Gently* (♩ = ca. 132).

Chords: D, Bm7, Em7, D, Em, D, G, A, D, D, Bm, Gmaj7, Em, G6, A, Em, C#°, A7.

Lyrics: When I asked the cher - ry tree to speak of God to me, when I asked the cher - ry tree

WHEN I ASKED THE CHERRY TREE, cont. (2)

D Em7 Am7 D

to speak of God to me,

to speak of God to me,

This system contains the first two systems of music. The first system has two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The second system also has two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are 'to speak of God to me,'.

G D Em

sud - den - ly the cher - ry tree blos - somed for

sud - den - ly the cher - ry tree blos - somed for

This system contains the third and fourth systems of music. The third system has two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The fourth system also has two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are 'sud - den - ly the cher - ry tree blos - somed for'.

A6 Bm D

1, 3 2, Final 1st time: D.S. Fine

all to see. see.

all to see. see.

This system contains the fifth and sixth systems of music. The fifth system has two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The sixth system also has two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are 'all to see. see.'.

1, 3 2, Final 1st time: D.S. Fine

This system contains the seventh and eighth systems of music. The seventh system has a piano accompaniment. The eighth system also has a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are 'all to see. see.'.

Composer Notes

When I Asked the Cherry Tree

The earth speaks to us of God's presence and continuing creation. This brief song has a punch line that shows a child how God is alive in the world and communicates in many wonderful and surprising ways. This song inspired some of my upper level students to write short poems with a similar message. Here is one of my favorites, using a Haiku style (5-7-5):

"Snow, God's frozen tears
Children play, happy laughter
Sunshine, God laughs too!"

—*Andre Prine, age 12*

Preview

Assembly Edition

WHEN I ASKED THE CHERRY TREE

Jack Miffleton

When I asked the cher-ry tree to speak of God to
me, when I asked the cher - ry tree to
speak of God to me, sud - den - ly the
cher - ry tree blos-somed for all to see.

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. The melody is simple and consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

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