

Autumn Leaves

for Soprano and Piano

Text by Julia Presho Hamilton

Music by Jaclyn Breeze

2022

Autumn Leaves

O, beautiful, beautiful Autumn leaves
Brought thoughts of you, my memory weaves,
Ye, who so lovely, so fair and gay,
Ye, o bright leaves are passing away.

Fair are your colors of crimson and gold.
Fairer than diamonds or rubies untold
Fairer than wild flowers of April or May
yet, O bright leaves, ye are passing away.

Summer is past with its scorching heat.
The shady wood was a cool retreat.
The leaves were so verdant and now are so gay
And which so surely are passing away.

Our summer is passing, the summer of life
With its toils and sorrows, cares and strife
Mid the thoughtless and careless, the idle and gay
We, too thoughtless mortals are passing away.

The leaf will soon fall from the parent tree
The birds cease to warble their sweet melody.
Stern winter will come, when the bright foliage gay
Has fallen and faded and all passed away.

Let us remember we fade as a leaf
With our toils and our sorrows, our cares and our grief
Let us earnestly each of us seek heaven today
And that glory immortal that fades not away.

Program Notes

Julia Presho Hamilton lived from January 20th, 1855 to April 8th, 1932.

She was my great great great grandmother.

My mom got this poem from her grandpa and sent it to me thinking it would be perfect for me to set.

It took me a few years to find a setting that would be good for it, but I am happy to have a piece that is tied together through my family.

Autumn Leaves

Jaclyn Breeze (BMI)

♩ = 60

p

Soprano

O beau-ti - ful, — beau-ti - ful, — Au - tumn leaves Bright

Piano

p

Detailed description: This system contains the first four measures of the piece. The Soprano part begins with a quarter rest, followed by eighth notes in 4/4, 5/4, and 4/4 time signatures, and a quarter note in 6/4. The Piano accompaniment starts with a quarter rest in 4/4, followed by eighth notes in 5/4 and 4/4, and a quarter note in 6/4. Dynamics include piano (*p*) and a crescendo leading to a half note chord in the final measure.

3

S

thoughts of you, — my mem-ory weaves, Ye, — who so love-ly, — so fair and gay,

Pno.

mp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 5 through 7. The Soprano part features a triplet of eighth notes in measure 5, followed by eighth notes in 4/4 and 6/4. The Piano accompaniment includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a half note in the left hand in measure 5, followed by eighth notes in 4/4 and 6/4. Dynamics include mezzo-piano (*mp*) and a crescendo.

6

S

o bright leaves are pass - ing a - way.

Pno.

accel.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 8 through 12. The Soprano part has a quarter rest in measure 8, followed by eighth notes in 2/4 and 4/4, and a quarter note in 6/4. The Piano accompaniment features a half note in the left hand and eighth notes in the right hand in measures 8 and 9, followed by eighth notes in 2/4 and 4/4, and a quarter note in 6/4. Dynamics include mezzo-piano (*mp*) and an acceleration (*accel.*) in the final measure.

10

♩. = 60

mf

S

Fair are your co - lours of crim - son and gold.

Pno.

mf

S

Fair - er than dia - monds or rub - ies un - told Fair - er than wild flowers of Ap - ril or May yet,

Pno.

S

O bright leaves are pass - ing a - way.

Pno.

mp

16

S 15 *mf*
Our sum - mer is pass - ing, the sum - mer of life, with

Pno. *mf*

S 17
to - ils and sor - rows and cares and strife Mid the thought - less and care - less, the id - le and gay

Pno.

S 19 *mp*
We, too thought - less mort - als are pass - ing a - way.

Pno. *mp*

21 *mp*

S

The

Pno.

mf *mp*

24

S

leaf will soon fall from the par - ent tree The

Pno.

26

S

birds will cease their mel - od - y Stern win - ter will come when bright

Pno.