

Owls

(An Epitaph)

Words by Edward Elgar

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)
Op. 53, No. 4

Moderato **a tempo**

SOPRANO *poco cresc.*
No - thing; The leaves must fall and fall-ing, rust-le;

ALTO *poco cresc.*
No - thing; The leaves must fall, and fall-ing, rust-le;

TENOR *pp* *poco cresc.*
What is that? The leaves must fall and fall-ing, rust-le;

BASS *pp* *poco cresc.*
What is that? The leaves must fall, and fall-ing, rust-le;—

4 *pp* *rit.* *a tempo*
p solenne

That is all: They are dead As they fall, Dead at the foot of the tree;

pp *p solenne*
That is all: They are dead As they fall, Dead at the foot of the tree;

pp *p solenne*
That is all: They are dead As they fall, Dead, they are dead at the foot of the tree;

dim. molto *p solenne*
That is all; They are dead at the foot of the tree;

2 8

ppp All that can be is said. *pp* No - thing. *fp* No - thing; *pp* A *p*

ppp All that can be is said. *pp* No - thing. *fp* No - thing; *pp* A *p*

ppp All that can be is said. *p* What is it? *mf* What is that? *p* A *p*

ppp All that can be is said. *p* What is ist? *mf* What is that? *p* A *p*

14

wild thing hurt but mourns in the night, *rit.* And it cries In its dread, *dim.* Till it lies

wild thing hurt but mourns in the night, *dim.* And it cries In its dread, *dim.* Till it lies

wild thing hurt but mourns in the night, *dim.* And it cries In its dread, *dim.* Till it lies dead, it lies

wild thing hurt but mourns in the night, *dim.* It lies dead, lies

a tempo

17

p solenne Dead at the foot of the tree; *pp* All that can be is said. *p* No - thing. *pp* **a tempo**

p solenne Dead at the feet of the tree; *pp* All that can be is said. *p* No - thing. *pp*

p solenne Dead at the foot of the tree; *pp* All that can be is said. *p* What is it? *p* What is

p solenne Dead at the foot of the tree; *pp* All that can be is said. *p* What is it? *p* What is

23 **rit.** *pp* *molto espress.* **a tempo** **pp** **rit.** 3

Ah! A march-ing slow of un-seen feet, That is all; But a

Ah! A march-ing slow of un-seen feet, That is all: But a

that? A march-ing slow of un-seen feet, That is all: But a

that? A march - - ing slow

28 **dim.** **rit.** **a tempo** *p* *solenne dim.* **pp**

bier, spread With a pall, Is now at the foot of the tree;

bier, spread With a pall, Is now at the foot of the tree;

bier, spread With a pall, And a bier is now at the foot of the tree;

And a bier Is now at the foot of the tree;

32 **p** *mesto* **pp** **rit.** **pppp** *mesto*

All that could be is said; No - thing.

All that could be is said; No - thing.

All that could be is said; is it - what?

All that could be is said; Is it - what?