

# Long Barren



Christina Rossetti

**John Schimminger**

## Long Barren

By Christina Rossetti

Thou who didst hang upon a barren tree,  
My God, for me;  
Though I till now be barren, now at length  
Lord, give me strength  
To bring forth fruit to Thee.

Thou who didst bear for me the crown of thorn,  
Spitting and scorn;  
Though I till now have put forth thorns, yet now  
Strengthen me Thou  
That better fruit be borne.

Thou Rose of Sharon, Cedar of broad roots,  
Vine of sweet fruits,  
Thou Lily of the vale with fadeless leaf,  
Of thousands Chief,  
Feed Thou my feeble shoots.

# Long Barren

for SATB Choir

Christina Rossetti (1830 – 1894)

John Schimminger (b. 1950)

Adagio ♩ = c. 40

Piano introduction in B-flat major, 3/4 time. The music is marked *p* (piano). It consists of two staves: a treble staff and a bass staff. The melody in the treble staff begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and a quarter note Bb4. The bass staff provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The piece concludes with a final chord in the treble staff.

S

5 *mp a tempo*

Thou who didst hang up - on a bar-ren

5 *rit.* *a tempo* *simile mp*

First system of the vocal and piano accompaniment. The vocal line (Soprano) begins at measure 5 with a whole rest, then enters with the lyrics "Thou who didst hang up - on a bar-ren". The piano accompaniment features a *rit.* (ritardando) in the first measure, followed by *a tempo* and *simile mp* (simile mezzo-piano). The music is in B-flat major and 4/4 time, with a key signature of two flats.

S

9 tree, my God for me; ——— though I till now be bar - ren,

Second system of the vocal and piano accompaniment. The vocal line (Soprano) begins at measure 9 with the lyrics "tree, my God for me; ——— though I till now be bar - ren,". The piano accompaniment continues with a melodic line in the treble staff and a bass line in the bass staff. The music remains in B-flat major and 4/4 time.

13

S  
now at length Lord, give me strength to

A  
*mp* now at length Lord, give me strength, give me strength to

13

16

S  
*rit.* bring forth fruit to thee. *a tempo*

A  
bring forth fruit to thee.

T  
*mp* Thou who didst bear for me the crown of

B  
*mp* Thou who didst bear for me the crown of

16

*rit.* *a tempo*

20

T  
8

thorn, spit - ting and scorn; \_\_\_\_\_ though

B

thorn, the crown of thorn, spit - ting and scorn; and\_ scorn, though

20

23

T  
8

I till now have put forth thorns, yet now strength-en me\_

B

I till now have put \_\_\_\_\_ forth thorns, yet now strength-en me,

23

4  
26

*rit.* *mf* *a tempo*

S  
A  
T  
B

Thou Rose of Shar-on, —  
Thou Rose of Shar-on, —  
Thou Rose of Shar-on, —  
Thou Rose of Shar-on, —

thou that bet-ter fruit be borne. strength-en me thou that bet-ter fruit be borne. Thou Rose of Shar-on, —

26

*rit.* *mf* *a tempo*

30

S  
A  
T  
B

Ce-dar of broad roots, Vine of sweet fruits, — thou Li-ly of the vale with fade-less  
Ce-dar of broad roots, sweet fruits, Li-ly of the vale with fade-less  
Ce-dar of broad roots, Vine of sweet fruits, —  
Ce-dar of broad roots, Vine of sweet fruits, —

30

*rit.*

33 *mp*

S leaf, \_\_\_\_\_ feed \_\_\_\_\_ thou my fee-ble shoots.

A leaf, \_\_\_\_\_ *mp* feed \_\_\_\_\_ thou my fee-ble shoots.

T *mp* of thou-sands Chief, \_\_\_\_\_ feed \_\_\_\_\_ thou my fee-ble shoots.

B *mp* of thou-sands Chief, \_\_\_\_\_ feed \_\_\_\_\_ thou my fee-ble shoots.



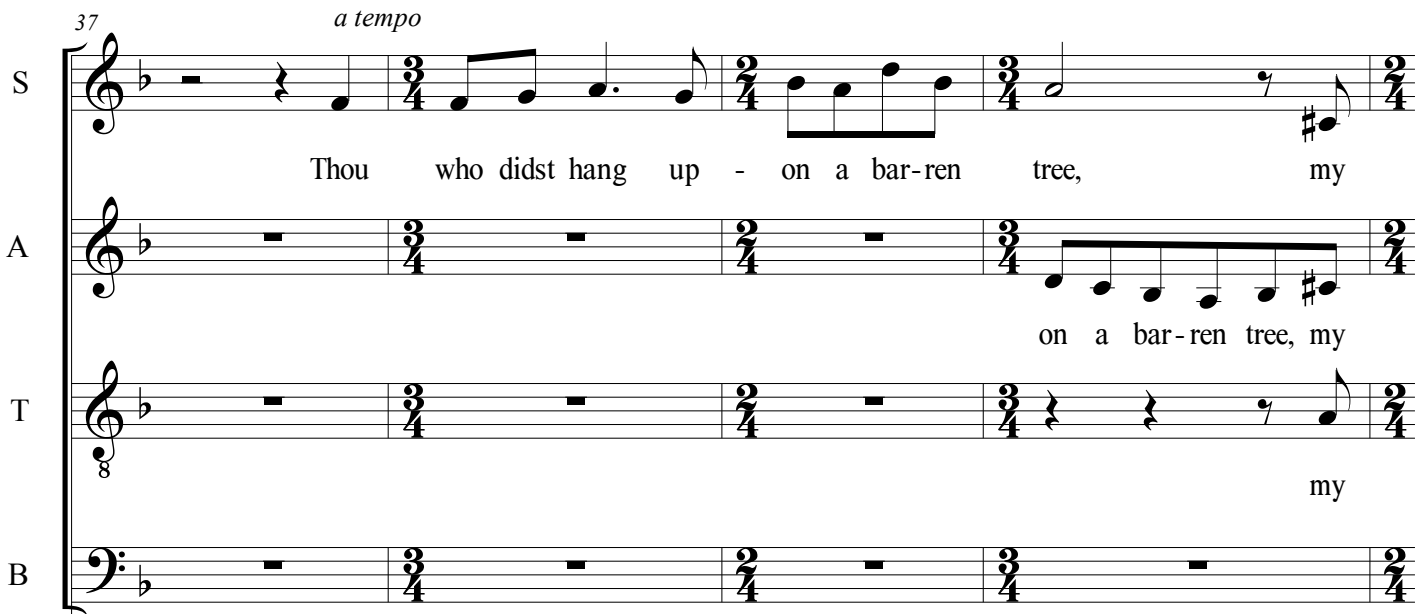
37 *a tempo*

S Thou who didst hang up - on a bar-ren tree, my

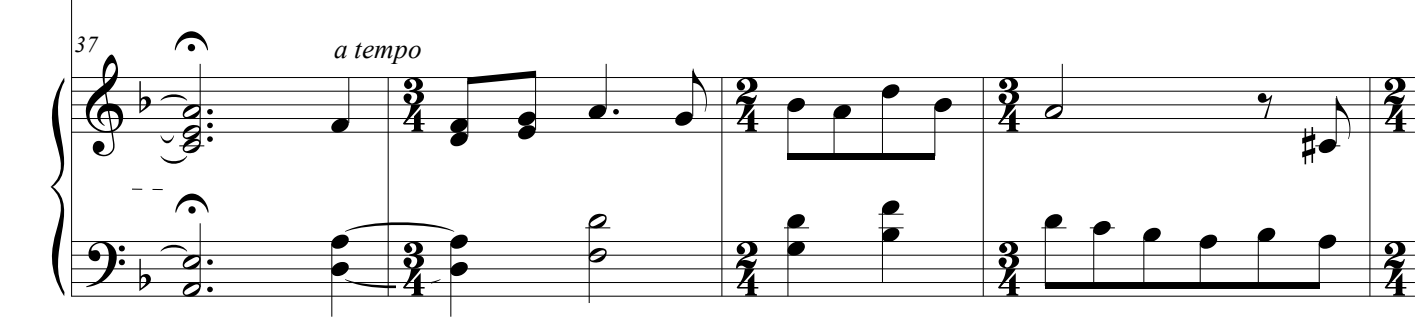
A on a bar-ren tree, my

T my

B



37 *a tempo*



S  
God, for me; \_\_\_\_\_ though I till now be bar - ren, —

A  
God, for me, my God, for me; though I till now be bar - ren, — now at

T  
God, for me; \_\_\_\_\_ though I till now be bar - ren, now at

B  
\_\_\_\_\_

though I till now be bar - ren, now at length,

S  
give me strength \_\_\_\_\_ to bring forth fruit to thee.

A  
length Lord, give me strength, give me strength to bring forth fruit to thee.

T  
length Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ bring forth fruit to thee.

B  
\_\_\_\_\_ bring forth fruit to thee.

bring forth fruit to thee.