

No 3. The Memory of the Sun¹

Prokofiev Five Anna Akhmatova Songs

Text A. Akhmatova, from “The Evening”, Jan 1911

Russian

Transliteration

Word-to-word translation

Память о солнце в сердце слабеет,

[pá-mjat' a-són-tse fsér-tse sla-bé-jet]

The memory of the sun in (my) heart weakens,

Желтей трава.

[zhel-téj tra-vá]

More yellow is the grass.

Ветер снежинками ранними веет

[vé-ter sni-zhín-ka-mi rán-ni-mi vé-jet]

The wind the snowflakes early brings

Едва-едва.

[jed-vá jed-vá]

Gently, gently.

Ива на небе пустом распластала

[eé-va na né-be pus-tóm ras-plas-tá-la]

The willow in the sky empty spread-eagled

Веер сквозной.

[vé-ter skvaz-nój]

The wind through.

Может быть, лучше, что я не стала

[mó-zhet byt' lúch-she shto ja ni-stá-la]

Maybe it is for the better that I had not become

¹ Also translated as “Thoughts of the sunlight”.

Вашей женой.

[vá-shej zhe-nój]

Your wife.

Память о солнце в сердце слабеет,

[pá-mjat' a-són-tse fsér-tse sla-bé-jet]

The memory of the sun in (my) heart weakens,

Что это? — тьма?

[shto é-ta? T'ma?]

What is it? Darkness?

Может быть!.. За ночь прийти успеет

[mó-zhet byt'! zá-nach' prij-tí us-pé-jet]

Maybe. This night should bring

Зима.

[zi-má]

The winter.