

Le colibri [lə kɔ.li.bri] (The hummingbird)

Text by *Charles-Marie-René Leconte de Lisle* (1818-1894)

Set by *Ernest Amédée Chausson* (1855-1899), op. 2, #7; *César Antonovitch Cui* (1835-1918), op. 54, #2;
Charles Koechlin (1867-1950)

Le vert colibri, le roi des collines,
[lə vɛr kɔ.li.bri lə rwa də kɔ.li.nɛ]
The green hummingbird, the king of-the hills,

Voyant la rosée et le soleil clair,
[vwa.jã la ro.ze e lə sɔ.lɛj klɛr]
seeing the dew and the sun's clear-light,

Luire dans son nid tissé d'herbes fines,
[lɥi.rɛ dã sɔ̃ ni ti.se dɛr.bɛ fi.nɛ]
shining on his nest woven of-grasses fine,
(*shining on his nest of finely woven grasses,*)

Comme un frais rayon s'échappe dans l'air.
[kɔ. mœ̃ frɛ rɛ.jɔ̃ se.ja.pɛ dã lɛr]
like a fresh ray-of-light he-darts-off into the-air.
(*darts into the air like a ray of light.*)

Il se hâte et vole aux sources voisines,
[il sɛ̃ a. te vɔ. lo sur.sɛ̃ vwa.zi.nɛ]
He himself hurries and flies to-the springs nearby,
(*In haste he flies to the nearby springs,*)

Où les bambous font le bruit de la mer,
[u lɛ bã.bu fɔ̃ lə bʁɥi də la mɛr]
where the bamboo makes the sound of the sea,

Où l'açoka rouge aux odeurs divines
[u la.sɔ̃.ka ru. ʒo. zɔ̃.dœr di.vi.nɛ]
where the-hibiscus red with-the scents heavenly
(*where the red hibiscus with its heavenly scent*)

S'ouvre et porte au cœur un humide éclair.
[su. vre pɔr. to kœ. rœ̃. ny.mi. de.klɛr]
it-opens and wears in-the heart a moisture glistening.
(*opens and reveals the glistening moisture at its heart.*)

Vers la fleur dorée, il descend, se pose,
[vɛr la flœr dɔ̃.re |il de.sã sɛ̃ po.zɛ]
Towards the flower golden, he descends, he alights,
(*He descends towards the golden flower and alights,*)

Et boit tant d'amour dans la coupe rose,
[e bwa. tā da.mur dā la ku.pə ro.zə]
and drinks so-much love from the cup of-the-rose,

Qu'il meurt, ne sachant s'il l'a pu tarir!
[kil mœr nə sa.ʃā sil la py ta.rir]
that-he dies, not knowing if-he it-have could drunk-dry.
(*that he dies, not knowing if he could have drained it dry.*)

Sur ta lèvre pure, ô ma bien-aimée,
[syr ta læ.vrə py.rə |o ma bjɛ.ne.me.ə]
On your lips pure, oh my well-loved-one,
(*On your pure lips, oh my beloved,*)

Telle aussi mon âme eut voulu mourir,
[tɛ. lo.si mō. na. my vu.ly mu.rir]
likewise also my soul would-have wished to-die,
(*my soul likewise would have sooner died,*)

Du premier baiser qui l'a parfumée.
[dy prə.mje be.ze ki la par.fy.me.ə]
from-the first kiss that it-had perfumed.
(*from the first kiss which has perfumed it.*)

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