

The Poet's Life

Text by *Ellen Burroughs (Sophie Jewett)* (1861–1909) [Am]

Set by *Sir Edward Elgar* (1857–1934) [Br], from *Seven Lieder of Edward Elgar*, #4

A poet sang, so light of heart was he,
[ʌ 'pɔːt sæŋ soːʊ laɪt əv hært wəz hi]

A song that thrilled with joy in ev'ry word:
[ʌ sɔŋ ðæt θrɪld wɪð dʒɔɪ ɪn 'ev.ri wɜd]

It quiver'd with ecstatic melody;
It laughed as sunshine laughs upon the sea;
But, though the song rang out exultantly,
The world pass'd by, with heavy step and loud,
None heeding, save that, parted from the crowd,
Two lovers heard.

There fell a day when sudden sorrow smote
The poet's life. Unheralded it came,
Blotting the sun-touch'd page whereon he wrote
His golden song. Ah! then, from all remote,
He sang the grief that had nor hope nor name
In God's ear only; but one sobbing note
Reached the world's heart, and swiftly, in the wake
Of bitterness and passionate heart-break,
There follow'd fame.

The entire text to this title with the complete
IPA transcription is available for download.

Thank you!

