

## The Sky above the Roof

Text by *Mabel Dearmer* (1872–1915) [Br] after *Le ciel est, par-dessus le toit* by *Paul Verlaine* (1844–1896)

Set by *Ralph Vaughan Williams* (1872–1958) [Br]

**The sky above the roof**  
[ðʌ ska:ɪ ə.'bʌv ðʌ ruf]

**Is calm and sweet:**  
[ɪz kɑm ænd swɪt]

A tree above the roof  
Bends in the heat.

A bell out of the blue  
Drowsily rings:  
A bird from out the blue  
Plaintively sings.

Ah God! a life is here,  
Simple and fair,  
Murmurs of strife are here  
Lost in the air.

Why dost thou weep, O heart,  
Poured out in tears?  
What hast thou done, O heart,  
With thy spent years?

---

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

*Thank you!*

