

HOW CAN THE TREE BUT WITHER?

LORD VAUX

R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS



Andante non troppo *mf*

Voice

Piano

p *pp*

How can — the

tree but waste and wi - ther a - way, — That hath not some - time

com - fort — of the sun? How can — that flower but fade — and

soon de - cay, That al - ways is with dark clouds o - ver -

- run? Is this a life? Nay, death you may it call,

poco rit.
That feels each pain and knows no joy at all.

mf
What food - less beast can

live long in good plight? Or is it life where

cantabile

sens - es — there be none? Or what — a - vail - eth

cantabile

eyes — with - out — their light? — Or else a tongue to

him that is a - lone? Is this a life? Nay,

f death you may it call, *p* That feels each pain and knows no joy

at all. *pp* *p* poco affret. poco rit.

a tempo Where - to serve ears if that there be no

sound? Or such a head where no de - vice doth

cantabile

grow, But all of plaints, since sor - row is the ground Where-by the heart doth

pine in dead - ly woe? Is this a

pp *f*

colla voce a tempo *pp* poco rit.

life? Nay, death you may it call, That feels each pain and knows no

f a tempo *p*

f *pp*

joy at all.

poco rit.

colla voce *p* *pp*