

English Music in the 20th Century

Vaughan Williams: *Five Variants on Dives and Lazarus*

As it fell out upon one day,
Rich Diverus he gave a feast;
And invited all his neighbours in,
And gentry of the best.

And it fell out upon that day,
Poor Lazarus he was so poor,
He came and laid him down and down,
Even down by Diverus' door.

Then Lazarus laid him down and down,
Even down by Diverus' door,
"Some meat, some drink, brother Diverus,
Do bestow upon the poor."

"Thou are none of mine, brother Lazarus,
Lying begging at my door,
No meat, no drink, will I give thee,
Nor bestow upon the poor."

Then Lazarus he laid him down and down,
Even down by Diverus' wall,
"Some meat, some drink, brother Diverus,
Or surely starve I shall."

"Thou are none of mine, brother Lazarus,
Lying begging at my wall,
No meat, no drink, will I give thee,
And surely starve you shall."

Then Lazarus he laid him down and down,
Even down by Diverus' gate,
"Some meat, some drink, brother Diverus,
For Jesus Christ His sake."

"Thou are none of mine, brother Lazarus,
Lying begging at my gate,
No meat, no drink, will I give thee,
For Jesus Christ His sake."

Then Diverus sent his merry men all
For to whip poor Lazarus away.
They had no will to whip one whip
But threw their whips away.

Then Diverus sent his hungry dogs
For to bite poor Lazarus away;
They had not will to bite one bite
But licked his wounds away.

Then it fell out upon one day,
Poor Lazarus he sickened and died.
There came two angels out of Heaven,
His soul thereto to guide.

"Rise up, rise up, brother Lazarus
And come you along with me.
There is a place prepared in Heaven,
For to sit upon an angel's knee."

Then it fell out upon one day,
Rich Diverus he sickened and died.
There came two serpents out of hell,
His soul thereto to guide.

"Rise up, rise up, brother Diverus
And come you along with me.
There is a place prepared in hell
For to sit upon a serpent's knee."