

## Chant guerrier

No. 3 of *Neuf mélodies* (later renamed *Irlande*).

H. 41, 1829

Original poem in English by Thomas Moore (1779-1852), French poem by Thomas Gounet (1801-1869).

## Chant guerrier

*Refrain:* N'oublions pas ces champs  
dont la poussière  
Est teinte encor du sang de nos guerriers!  
Nous leur devons des pleurs, une prière;  
La liberté rayonne à nos foyers.

1. Ils sont tombés, mais de la mort  
des braves,  
En nous léguant cet heureux avenir  
Qui nivela le maître et les esclaves,  
Monde nouveau qui ne doit pas finir.

*Refrain:* N'oublions pas, *etc.*

2. Pourquoi faut-il qu'au milieu des batailles  
Vienne mourir un injuste pouvoir,  
Et que le deuil, les tristes funérailles,  
Des affranchis soient le premier devoir?

*Refrain:* N'oublions pas, *etc.*

3. Heureux le peuple, à ses serments fidèle,  
Qui sans combats vit consacrer ses droits!  
La liberté jamais ne fut si belle  
Qu'en descendant du marchepied  
des rois.

*Refrain:* N'oublions pas, *etc.*

## War Song

*Refrain:* Forget not the fields  
whose dust  
is still tinged with our warriors' blood!  
We owe them tears and a prayer.  
Freedom shines in our dwellings.

1. They fell, but died the death  
of the brave,  
Bequeathing to us that blessed future  
which levelled master and slaves:  
a new world which must not end!

*Refrain:* Forget not the fields, *etc.*

2. Why must it be that midst battles  
an unjust power is brought low,  
and that mourning and sad ceremonies  
must be the first duty of the freed?

*Refrain:* Forget not the fields, *etc.*

3. Happy the people that, faithful to its oath,  
saw its rights established without struggle.  
Freedom was never so fair  
as when it stepped down from the throne  
of kings.

*Refrain:* Forget not the fields, *etc.*

– Translation by David Cairns  
and Katherine Kolb

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Addendum to *Experiencing Berlioz: A Listener's Companion* by Melinda O'Neal  
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