'Tis Spring, When Love Controls

from

Hymn to the Earth [1929]

Edward Joseph Collins, music and words

Notes by Jon Becker, editor for the Collins project

Daughter of the South, Collins's only opera, is set on a Southern plantation during the USA's Civil War (literally: dramatic action commences on the day the war begins and ends on the day when peace is declared). *Again the Year Has Come to the Spring* is an aria from this "opera in one act and two scenes."

Collins had an unusual passion for the Civil War, noting in his journal that just hearing the name "Stonewall Jackson" had had a strong effect on him since boyhood. Elsewhere in his journals, he took time to write of seeing Civil War veterans in Joliet parades, and of reading books about the war or novels set during it, including *Gone with the Wind*.

In Scene I of *Daughter*, plantation owner Col. Edmond Randolph celebrates in song that his daughter Mary Lou, the "Daughter of the South," plans to marry a Northerner named Robert. In response, rriend and neighbors, invited to Col. Randolph's plantation for this happy occasion, sing:

Chorus (SATB)
To Mary Lou and Robert! To the South and the North!

Chorus sopranos
'Tis spring when love controls the hearts of men

Chorus tenors
and earth pours forth her rich green hoard
When robins sing to burst their throats,
And all things wake to life renewed

Chorus SATB
The springtime of life
Is the springtime of love
And airy and light are the dancing feet
that are carried along
on the golden wings of delirious youth!
The springtime of life
Is the springtime of love
And airy and light are the dancing feet
that are carried along
on the golden wings of delirious youth!
Ah springtime of life
Ah springtime of life
Ah springtime of love!
'Tis spring when love controls the hearts of men
When earth pours forth her rich green hoard
When robins sing to burst their throats,
Ah springtime of life!
Ah springtime of life!
When love controls the hearts of men
And all things wake to life renewed
renewed
renewed!