

# A Gnarled Old Crab-apple Tree Answers Joyce Kilmer

Encore for Voice and Piano

Poem by  
**Peter Viereck**

Music by  
**Bruce Trinkley**

**A Gnarled Old Crab-apple Tree Answers Joyce Kilmer**

*I'll bow my trunk to true simplicity  
But not to folksy simperings that drool.  
Poems are made by trees like me,  
But only God can make a fool.*

**Peter Viereck** (1916-2006), American poet and historian, was born in New York City. He graduated from Harvard in 1937 with a degree in history and in 1942 received a Ph.D in European history. He began teaching history at Mount Holyoke College in 1948 and continued teaching there for more than 50 years, specializing in Russian history. *Terror and Decorum*, his first volume of poetry, won the Pulitzer Prize in 1948. He continued to write and publish poetry throughout his career, and was noted for his conservative approach, utilizing regular meter and rhyme in his poetry. He also had a wicked sense of humor and satire.

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## Answers Joyce Kilmer

Country Waltz ♩ = 72

**Voice**

*f* A GNARLED OLD CRAB-AP-LE TREE *rall.* ANS-WERS JOYCE *a tempo* KIL - MER.

**Piano**

*mf* *rall.* *a tempo* *f* *con pedale*

*mf*

I'll bow my trunk \_\_\_\_\_ to true\_\_ sim - pli - ci - ty But not to folk - sy simp'-rings that

**4**

*mp*

drool. \_\_\_\_\_ Po - ems are made \_\_\_\_\_ by trees like me. \_\_\_\_\_

**8**

**12**

Po-ems are made by trees like me. I'll bow my

11

*mf*

*f*

trunk \_\_\_\_\_ to true\_\_ sim - pli - ci - ty But not to folk - sy simp'rings that

14

drool. \_\_\_\_\_ Po - ems are made \_\_\_\_\_ by trees like me, \_\_\_\_\_

17

15

But on - ly God \_\_\_\_\_ can make a fool. \_\_\_\_\_ Po - ems are made \_\_\_\_\_ by

20

*mf*

trees like me, \_\_\_\_\_ But on - ly God \_\_\_\_\_ can make a fool. \_\_\_\_\_

23

*mf*

*mp* *poco rit.*

But on - ly God \_\_\_\_\_ can make a fool. \_\_\_\_\_

27

*mp* *poco rit.*