my symphony

“To live content with small means; to seek elegance rather than luxury, and refinement rather than fashion; to be worthy, not respectable, and wealthy, not rich; to study hard, think quietly, talk gently, act frankly; to listen to stars and birds, to babes and sages, with open heart; to bear all cheerfully, do all bravely, await occasions, hurry never. In a word, to let the spiritual, unbidden, and unconscious grow up through the common. This is to be my symphony.”

(Known as My Symphony, these uplifting words were written by William Henry Channing, 1810-84, an American Christian-socialist clergyman, writer, philosopher, and Chaplain of the US House of Representatives.)