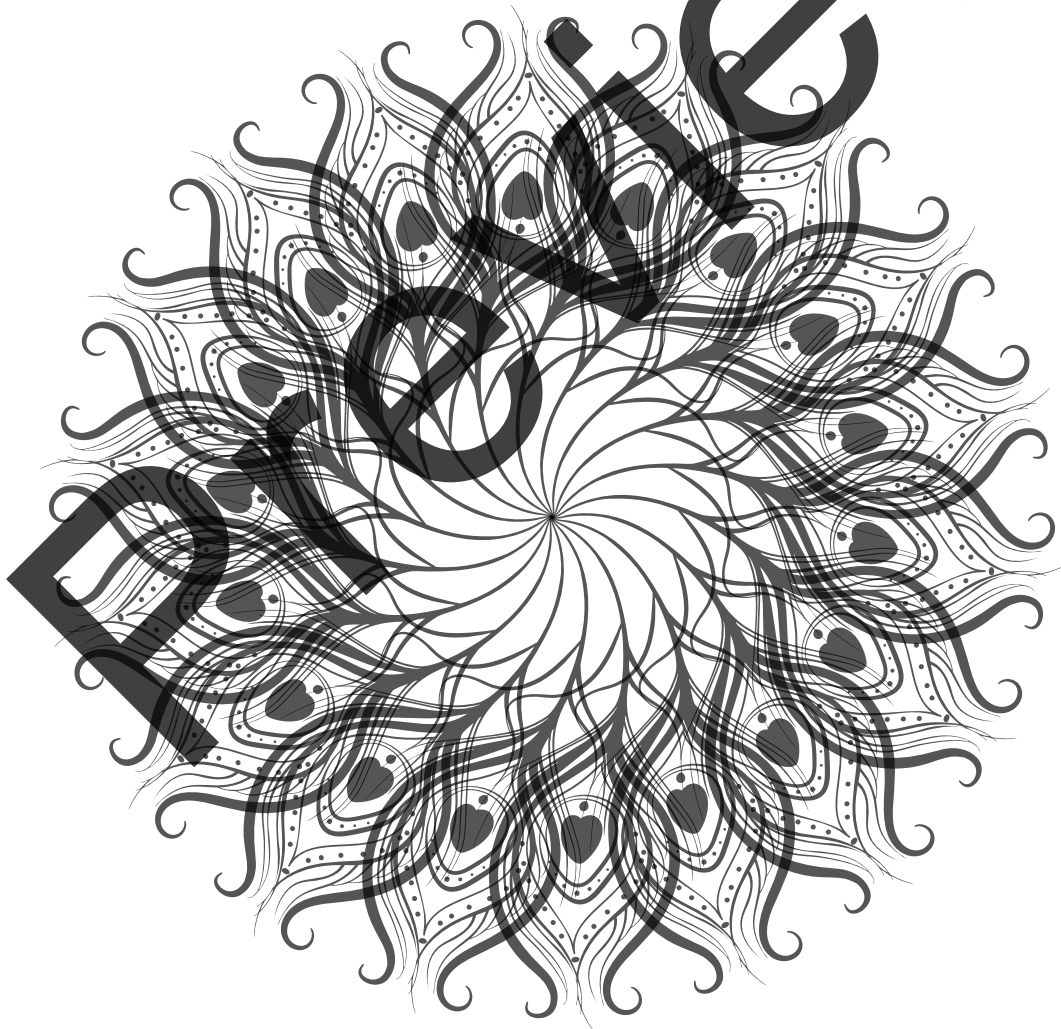


S t e p h e n M i t t o n

My Love is Come

for Piano, SA Chorus, and Optional Cello



D u r a t i o n

Approx. 4:00

*My heart is like a singing bird
Whose nest is in a water'd shoot;
My heart is like an apple-tree
Whose boughs are bent with thickset fruit;
My heart is like a rainbow shell
That paddles in a halcyon sea;
My heart is gladder than all these
Because my love is come to me.*

*Raise me a dais of silk and down;
Hang it with vair and purple dyes;
Carve it in doves and pomegranates,
And peacocks with a hundred eyes;
Work it in gold and silver grapes,
In leaves and silver fleurs-de-lys;
Because the birthday of my life
Is come, my love is come to me.*

– Christina Rossetti, *A Birthday* (1861) –

About this Piece:

Christina Rossetti's poem *A Birthday* is one of her most beloved elaborations on pure unfettered joy in love. In this setting, I have taken advantage of the ambiguity of the subject of affection (Rossetti never specifies a type of love or a gender in the poem), choosing to focus on familial love, and more particularly the love of an expectant parent awaiting the arrival of a new baby with joy and celebration.

This piece is meant to showcase the piano in less of an accompanimental role and more as the primary vehicle for poetic and emotional expression, beginning with an intimate introduction evoking the quiet thrill that attends a discovery of pregnancy, which grows, changes, and blossoms as preparations are made for the anticipated birthday (*"raise me a dais of silk and down; Hang it with vair and purple dyes...and peacocks with a hundred eyes"*).

*This piece was commissioned by Benjamin Gaughran
for the Ann Arbor Women's Chamber Chorus*

Commissioned by Benjamin Gaughran for the Ann Arbor Women's Chamber Chorus

— for Audrey —

My Love is Come

Text by Christina Rossetti

for Piano, SA Chorus, and Optional Cello

Stephen Mitton
(2022)

Delicately ♩ = 84

Soprano

Alto

Cello (Opt.)

Piano

p

Ped. ... *

S

A

Vc.

Pno.

Ped. ... *

With lightness ♩ = ♩ (♩. = 56)

10

S

A

Vc.

Pno.

Ped.

With lightness ♩ = ♩ (♩. = 56)

p *mf*

14

S

A

Vc.

Pno.

f

My heart _____ is like a sing-ing bird _____

f

My heart _____ is like a sing-ing bird _____

14

p *mf* *f*

p *f*

18

S
A

Whose nest _____ is in a wat - er'd shoot; —
Whose nest _____ is in a wat - er'd shoot; —

Vc.

18

mp *mf* *pizz.* *arco*

Pno.

mp *f*

22

S
A

My heart is like an ___ app - le - tree ___ Whose
My heart is like an ___ app - le - tree ___ Whose

Vc.

22

f *mp* *p*

Pno.

mp *p*

24 *mf*

Slightly faster ♩. = 63

27 *heavy* *p*

S boughs are bent with thick - set fruit;

A *heavy* *p*
boughs are bent with thick - set fruit;

Vc. 27

Pno. *mf*

32 *f joyous!*

S My heart _____

A *f joyous!*
My heart _____

Vc. 32 *f*

Pno. *mp* *8va* *loco* *f* *p*

34

35

S *mf* is like a rain-bow shell That padd - les

A *mf* is like a rain-bow shell That padd - les

Vc.

Pno. *mf* *f brillante* *p* *loco*

39

S *f* in a hal - cy - on sea;

A *f* in a hal - cy - on sea;

Vc. *f*

Pno. *f*

mp introspective

S
42
My heart is glad - der
mp introspective

A
42
My heart is glad - der

Vc.
42

Pno.
42

p

S
46
than all these — Be-cause my love Be-cause my love — is come to me. —
mf *f* solo *rit.*

A
46
than all these — Be-cause my love Be-cause my love *rit.*

Vc.
46

Pno.
46

Tempo I ♩ = 84

52 *mp*

S

A

Vc.

Pno.

p

Ped. ----- *

Ped. ----- *

Ped. ----- *

58 (solo) *mf* tenderly

S

A

Vc.

Pno.

mp

pp

p

Ped. ----- *

Ped. ----- *

Raise me a dais of silk and down; Hang it with vair and pur - ple

Hang it with vair and pur - ple

61

S
dyes; Carve it in doves and pom - e-gran-ates, And

A
dyes; Carve it in doves and pom - e-gran-ates, And

Vc.

Pno.

Ped. *

65

S
pea - cocks with a hun-dred - eyes;

A
pea - cocks with a hun-dred eyes;

Vc.

Pno.

Ped. *

♩ = ♩ (♩ = 56)

68

S

A

Vc.

Pno.

mp *mf* *mf* *p* *mf*

71

S

A

Vc.

Pno.

ff *sub. p* *ff* *sub. p*

accel. *accel.*

10 $\text{♩} = 63$

74 *tutti*
f

S
Work it in gold and sil - ver grapes,

A
Work it in gold and sil - ver grapes,

74 $\text{♩} = 63$

Vc.
ff *mf*

Pno.
ff *f* *mf*

78

S
In leaves and sil - ver fleurs - de - lys;

A
In leaves and sil - ver fleurs - de - lys;

78

Vc.
f *mf*

Pno.
f *mf*

82 *rit.* -----

S
Be - cause the birth - day of my life

A
Be - cause the birth - day of my life

Vc.

Pno.

86 **With affection** ♩ = ♩ (♩ = 63) *rit.* -----

SA Solo *f*
Is come, my love, my love is come to

SA *p*
Is come, my love my love is come to

Vc.

Pno.

12 $\text{♩} = 52$ Subito Tempo I ($\text{♩} = 84$)

SA Solo *p* n.
me.

SA *p* n.
me.

91 $\text{♩} = 52$ Subito Tempo I ($\text{♩} = 84$)

Vc. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

Ped. ----- *

94 *rit.* $\text{♩} = 52$

S

A

Vc. *p* *pp*

Pno. *p* *pp*

Ped. ----- *p*