

Benjamin Britten

FIVE FLOWER SONGS OP.47

for mixed chorus



BOOSEY & HAWKES

To Leonard and Dorothy Elmhirst on the occasion of their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary: 3rd April 1950

dnr 2835

1. To Daffodils

Op.47, No.1

Words by
Robert Herrick

Music by
Benjamin Britten

Allegro impetuoso

SOPRANO: Fair daf - fo - dils, we weep to see You haste....

ALTO: Fair daf - fo - dils,..... we weep..... to see.....

TENOR: Fair daf - fo - dils,..... we weep..... to see.....

BASS: Fair daf - fo - dils, we weep to see You haste....

PIANO (rehearsal only): Allegro impetuoso

The musical score consists of five staves. The top four staves represent vocal parts: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The bottom staff represents the Piano. The vocal parts sing a repeating phrase: "Fair daf - fo - dils, we weep to see You haste....". The piano part provides harmonic support with a steady, rhythmic pattern. The tempo is marked as "Allegro impetuoso".

mf cresc.

a - way so soon:..... As yet the ear -

mf cresc.

You haste..... a - way so soon:..... As

mf cresc.

You haste..... a - way so soon:..... As

mf cresc.

a - way so soon:..... As yet the ear -

The continuation of the musical score follows the vocal line from the previous page. It includes lyrics such as "a - way so soon:..... As yet the ear -", "You haste..... a - way so soon:..... As", and "a - way so soon:..... As yet the ear -". The piano accompaniment is present throughout, providing harmonic support. The dynamics "mf cresc." are indicated above certain measures.

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ly ris - ing sun..... Has not..... at - tained his
yet the ear - ly ris - ing sun Has not.....
yet the ear - ly ris - ing sun Has not.....
ly ris - ing sun..... Has not..... at - tained his

1

noon..... Stay, stay, Un - til the hast - - ing day Has
.... at - tained his noon. Stay, stay,..... Un - til the hast - - ing
.... at - tained his noon. Stay, stay,..... Un - til the hast - - ing
noon..... Stay, stay, Un - til the hast - - ing day Has

1

dim.

run..... But to e - ven - song; And, hav - ing

day Has run..... But to e - ven - song; And,.....

day Has run..... But to e - ven - song; And,.....

run..... But to e - ven - song; And, hav - ing

3

prayed to - geth-er,..... we Will go..... with

..... hav-ing prayed.... to - geth-er, we Will go.....

..... hav-ing prayed... to - geth-er, we Will go.....

prayed to - geth-er,..... we Will go..... with

you a - long, we will go with you..... a - long,

.... with you a - long, we will go with you a -

.... with you a - long, we will go with you a -

you a - long, we will go with you..... a - long,

[2] Sempre Allegro

with you.... a - long. We have short time to stay, as

- long, a - long. We have short time to stay, as

- long, a - long. We have short time to stay, as

with you.... a - long. pp sotto voce
Fair.....

[2] Sempre Allegro

pp

Musical score for the first section of "Daffodils". The score consists of three staves. The top two staves are in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The key signature is one flat. The music is in common time. The lyrics are:

you. We have as short a Spring; As quick a growth
 you. We have as short a Spring; As quick a growth
 you. We have as short a Spring; As quick a growth
 daf-fo - dils, Fair..... daf-fo - dils.....

Musical score for the second section of "Daffodils". The score consists of three staves. The top two staves are in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The key signature is one flat. The music is in common time. The lyrics are:

to meet de - cay, As you,..... or an - y thing.....
 to meet de - cay, As you,..... or an - y thing.....
 to meet de - cay, As you,..... or an - y thing.....
 Fair..... daf-fo - dils..... You haste...
 (piano dynamic)

We die, As your hours do, and dry.... A -

We die, As your hours do, and dry.... A -

We die, As your hours do, and dry.... A -

a - way..... SO... SOON.....

- way..... Like to the Sum-mer's rain; Or as.....

- way..... Like to the Sum-mer's rain; Or as.....

- way..... Like to the Sum-mer's rain; Or as.....

Fair daf-fo - dils,..... Fair daf-fo - dils,

pp

pp al fine

..... the pearls... of morn - ing's dew Ne'er to be found.....

pp al fine

..... the pearls... of morn - ing's dew..... Ne'er to be

pp al fine

..... the pearls... of morn - ing's dew..... Ne'er to be

pp

Stay, stay, stay, daf-fo - dils.....

pp al fine

rall.

..... a - gain..... a - gain..... a - gain,..... a - gain!

found a - gain..... a - gain, a - - - gain!

found a -- gain..... a - gain, a - - - gain!

Ne'er to be found..... a - gain, a - - - gain!

rall.

2. The Succession of the Four Sweet Months

Op.47, No.2

Words by
Robert Herrick

Music by
Benjamin Britten

Andante legato

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

PIANO
(rehearsal only)

mf

..... with mel - low showers O-pens the way for ear - ly

May in a more rich and sweet ar - ray, In a

dim.

flowers,.... for flowers,.... First, A - pril, she with

dim.

more rich and sweet ar - ray,..... more sweet ar - ray,.....

p

Next en - ters June and brings

dim.

pp

mel - low showers O - pens the way for ear - ly flowers,.....

Then af - ter her..... comes smil - ing.....

us more Gems than... those two that went be -

cresc.

.... for ear - ly flowers, First, A - pril, she..... with mel - low

cresc.

May, In a more rich and sweet ar - ray.....

p cresc.

- fore, Next en - ters June, and brings us more Gems.....

mf

Then (last - ly,) Ju - ly.... comes and she... more

cresc.

showers opens the way for flowers,.....

In a more rich ar - ray..... In a more sweet ar -

..... than those two, those two that went be -

wealth brings in..... than all..... those....

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

1

First, A - pril, she..... with mel - low showers,

- ray, Then af - ter her comes

- ife, Next en - ters June, brings us more

three,..... Then, (last - ly,) Ju - -

1

sempre f

First, A - pril, she..... with mel - low showers,

smil - ing May, Then af - ter her comes

Gems, Next en - ters June, brings us more

ly,..... Then, (last - ly,) Ju - -

sempre f

dim.

First, A - pril, she..... O-pensthe way for ear - - ly

smil-ing May, Then af - ter her, in a more rich and sweet ar -

Gems, Next en -ters June..... and brings us more Gems.....

- ly comes..... and she more

dim sempre

rall. -

flowers;.....

- ray;.....

..... than those two that went be - fore;

wealth brings in..... than all..... those three;

rall.

a tempo

ppp

A - pril!.....

ppp

May!.....

ppp

June!.....

ppp

Ju - ly!

a tempo

ppp

ppp

p

ppp

p

ppp

p

p

3. Marsh Flowers

Op.47, No.3

Words by
George Crabbe

Music by
Benjamin Britten

Moderato con forza

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

PIANO
(rehearsal
only)

f

pp

Here....

Here the strong mal-low strikes her sli-my root, her sli-my

f

pp

Here....

Here the strong mal-low strikes her sli-my root, her sli-my

Moderato con forza

f

pp

Here the dull.... night-shade

root;..... Here....

Here the dull.... night-shade

root;..... Here....

p

fp

p

s

hangs her dead - ly fruit, her dead - ly fruit:.....

.....

hangs her dead - ly fruit, her dead - ly fruit:.....

.....

fp

Here..... *mf* And pen - cil'd

mf

On hills of dust the hen - bane's fad - ed green,.....

fp

Here..... *mf* And pen - cil'd

mf

On hills of dust the hen - bane's fad - ed green,.....

fp *mf*

flower of sick - ly scent is seen, the flower is

p cresc.

..... the hen - bane's fad - ed, fad - ed

flower of sick - ly scent is seen, the flower is

p cresc.

..... the hen - bane's fad - ed, fad - ed

seen..... Here on its wi - ry stem, in rig - id

f#p

green..... Here.....

seen..... Here on its wi - ry stem, in rig - id

f#p

green..... Here.....

fp

bloom,..... Grows..... the lav - en - der.....

..... Grows the salt... lav - en-der that lacks per-fume,..... the

fp

bloom,..... Grows..... the lav - en - der.....

..... Growsthe salt... lav - en-der that lacks per-fume,..... the

..... that lacks, that lacks per - fume.....

dim.

lav - en - der..... that lacks per - fume.....

..... that lacks, that lacks per - fume.....

dim.

lav - en - der..... that lacks per - fume.....

pp

At the wall's base the fie - ry net-tie springs... With fruit glo-

At the wall's base the fie - ry net-tie springs... With fruit glo-

At the wall's base the fie - ry net-tie springs... With fruit glo-

At the wall's base the fie - ry net-tie springs... With fruit glo-

At the wall's base the fie - ry net-tie springs... With fruit glo-

At the wall's base the fie - ry net-tie springs... With fruit glo-

- bose and fierce with poi - - - - - son'd

- bose and fierce with poi - - - - - son'd

- bose and fierce with poi - - - - - son'd

- bose and fierce with poi - - - - - son'd

cresc.

p dolce

stings;... In ev - 'ry chink de-lights the fern to grow,...

stings;... In ev - 'ry chink.....

stings;... In ev - 'ry chink, in ev - 'ry chink de-

stings;... In ev - 'ry chink, with... glos - -

..... With glos - sy leaf and taw - ny bloom be - low;..... The few dull

..... With... glos - sy..... leaf,..... The....

- lights the fern to grow, With glos - sy leaf and taw - ny bloom.....

- sy..... leaf..... With bloom be - low;.....

.....

flowers that o'er the place are spread *dim.*
 few.... dull.... flowers that there... are..... spread *Par -*

..... The few dull flowers that o'er the place are spread

.... The... few.... dull... flowers that there are.... *dim.*

semre piu p
 na - ture of their fen - ny bed,..... Par - take the na - ture of their
 - take.... the..... na - - - - - ture.... of..... their...

Par - take the na - ture of their fen - ny bed,..... Par -

dim.
 spread Par - take... the.... na - - ture of.....

semre piu p

pp

fen - ny bed,..... their fen - ny bed..... These, with our sea - weeds.....

pp

fen - - - ny..... bed..... These, these with our

pp

- take the na - ture of their fen - ny bed..... These, with our sea - weeds.....

pp

..... their fen - - - ny bed..... These, these with our

f

... roll - ing up.... and down..... up..... and down,.....

f

sea-weeds roll - ing up.... and down..... up..... and down,.....

f

..... roll - ing up.... and down..... up..... and down,.....

f

sea-weeds roll - ing up.... and down..... up..... and down,.....

f

.....

pp

Form the con-tract - ed Flor - a of our

pp

Form the con-tract - ed Flor - a of our

pp

Form the con-tract - ed Flor - a of our

pp

Form the con-tract - ed Flor - a of our

dim.

town, the Flor - a of our town

dim.

town, The con-tract-ed Flor - a.... of our ^{ppp} town

dim.

town, the Flor - a of our town

dim.

town, The con-tract-ed Flor - a.... of our ^{ppp} town.

dim.

4. The Evening Primrose

23

Op.47, No.4

Words by
John Clare

Music by
Benjamin Britten

Andante tranquillo

Soprano: When once the sun sinks..... in the west,
Alto: When once the sun sinks..... in the west,
Tenor: When once the sun sinks..... in the west,
Bass: When once the sun sinks..... in the west,

PIANO (rehearsal only)

And dew - drops pearl the eve - ning's breast; Al-most as pale as moon -
And dew - drops pearl the eve - ning's breast;
And dew - drops pearl the eve - ning's breast;
And dew - drops pearl the eve - ning's breast;

beams are,..... as moon-beams are, The eve - ning prim-rose

p

Or its com-pa-n - ion - a-ble star, The eve.. ning prim-rose

The eve - ning prim-rose

pp

The eve - ning prim-rose

opes a - new..... Its blos - soms...

ppp

opes a - new..... Its blos - soms...

ppp

opes a-new Its del-i-cate blos - soms to.... the dew

p

opes a - new..... Its blos - soms...

ppp

(p)

opes a-new..... Its blos - soms...

ppp

pp

And, her - mit-like, shun - ning the light, *cresc.*
Wastes... its fair bloom up -

pp

And, her - mit-like, shun - ning the light, *cresc.*
Wastes... its fair bloom up -

pp

And, her - mit-like, shun - ning the light, *cresc.*
Wastes... its fair bloom up -

pp

And, her - mit-like, shun - ning the light, *cresc.*
Wastes... its fair bloom up -

pp

pp

pp

- on the night; *pp* Who, blind-fold to its fond ca -

- on the night; *pp* Who, blind-fold

- on the night;

- on the night;

pp

- res-ses, ca-res-ses....
 to its fond ca-res-ses, ca-res-ses....
 Knows not the beauty.... he..... pos-ses-ses.

 Thus it blooms on while night is by;.... When day..... looks out
 Thus it blooms on while night is by;.... When day..... looks out
 Thus it blooms on while night is by;.... When day..... looks out
 Thus it blooms on while night is by;.... When day..... looks out
 cresc.
 cresc.
 cresc.
 cresc.

p *dim.*

with o - - pen eye, 'Bashed at the gaze it

p *dim.*

with o - - pen eye, 'Bashed at the gaze it

p *dim.*

with o - - pen eye, 'Bashed at the gaze it

p *dim.*

with o - - pen eye, 'Bashed at the gaze it

mf

p *dim.*

p *dim.*

pp

can - not shun, It faints and wi - thers and

can - not shun,.....

pp

can - not shun,..... It faints and wi - thers

can - not shun,.....

pp

is gone... It faints and wi - thers and

p It faints and wi - thers and is gone...

and is gone... It faints and wi - thers

pp It faints and wi - thers and is gone...

pp

is gone,..... and..... is gone.

It faints and wi - thers and is..... gone.

and is gone... It faints and is gone.

It faints and wi - thers and..... is..... gone.

5. Ballad of Green Broom

29

Op.47, No.5

Music by
Benjamin Britten

Words anon.

Cominciando esitando

SOPRANO
ALTO
TENOR
BASS

(rehearsal only)

PIANO

pp

Broom, green Broom,
Broom, green Broom,
Broom, green Broom,
Broom, green Broom,

Cominciando esitando

green Broom, green
green Broom, green
There was..... an old man liv'd out in the wood,
green Broom, green

sim.
sim.
sim.

p

Broom, green Broom, green Broom,

Broom, green Broom, green Broom,

And his trade was a - cut-ting of Broom, green Broom, green Broom.....

Broom, green Broom, green Broom,

pp

green Broom,

pp

green Broom,

..... He had..... but one son with - out thought with-out good Who

pp

green Broom,

pp

cresc.

green Broom, green Broom green Broom,

cresc.

green Broom, green Broom green Broom,

cresc.

lay in his bed till 'twas noon, bright noon, bright noon, bright noon;.....

cresc.

green Broom, green Broom green Broom,

cresc.

[1]

f

green Broom, green Broom, green

f

green Broom, green Broom, green

..... Broom, green Broom, green

f

green Broom, The old....

f

pp

p

(pp) = sim.

Broom, green Broom,

(pp) = sim.

Broom, green Broom,

(pp) = sim.

Broom, green Broom,

..... man a-woke one morn-ing and spoke..... He swore he would

(pp)

pp

green Broom, green Broom, green

pp

green Broom, green Broom, green

pp

green Broom, green Broom, green

marcato

fire the room, that room, that room..... If his John would not rise and

marcato

cresc.

Broom, green Broom, green Broom,

cresc.

Broom, green Broom, green Broom,

cresc.

Broom, green Broom, green Broom,

cresc.

o - pen his eyes, And a - way to the wood to cut Broom, green Broom, green

f

green Broom, green Broom, green Broom,

mf

green Broom, green Broom, green..... Broom,

f

green Broom, green Broom, green Broom,

mf

Broom, green Broom,..... green..... Broom,

34

[2] poco animando

p

So John - ny a-rose and slipp'd on his clothes

green Broom, green Broom, green

green Broom,..... green..... Broom,..... green.....

green Broom, green Broom, green

[2] poco animando

*p**pp*cresc.
And a-way to the wood to cut Broom, green Broom, green Broom,.....

Broom, green Broom, green Broom,

..... Broom,..... green Broom, green a -

Broom, green Broom, green Broom,

cresc.

He sharp - end his knives, and for once he con-trives To
p

pp green Broom,
 - way to cut Broom,..... green Broom,.....
pp green Broom,
p *pp*

[3]

cresc. f cut a great bun-dle of Broom, green Broom, green Broom, green Broom,.....

cresc. f green Broom, green Broom, green Broom, green Broom, green
 green Broom, green Broom, green Broom, green cutting green

cresc. f green Broom, green Broom, green Broom, green

cresc. f

..... cut-ting Broom, green Broom, green Broom,

Broom, green..... cut-ting Broom,

Broom, green Broom, cut-ting green Broom, cut-ting

Broom, cut-ting green Broom, green cut-ting Broom,

green Broom, green

When John - ny pass'd un-der a la - dy's fine house,.....

green Broom, cut-ting green.....

green cut-ting Broom,..... green cut-ting Broom.....

cresc.

Broom, green Broom green Broom

cresc.

..... Pass'd un-der a La-dy's fine room, fine room, fine room

Broom cut-ting green Broom cut-ting green Broom cut-ting

cresc.

..... green cut-ting Broom green cut-ting Broom,

pp

green cut-ting Broom green cut-ting

..... She calld to her maid: "Go fetch me," she said, "Go

pp

green Broom green cut-ting Broom

pp

green cut-ting Broom, green Broom, green cut-ting

pp

cresc.

Broom, green Broom, green Broom, green Broom, green

cresc.

fetch me the boy that sells Broom, green Broom, green Broom, green Broom,.....

cresc.

..... green Broom, green Broom, green Broom, green

cresc.

Broom, green Broom, green Broom, green Broom, green

cresc.

④ Animato

Broom

..... Go fetch me the boy!.....

Broom When John - ny came in to the

Broom When John - ny came in to the La-dy's fine

④ Animato

f

The image shows a musical score for a two-part vocal piece. The top staff uses a treble clef and the bottom staff uses a bass clef. Both staves are in common time and key signature of one sharp (F#). The music consists of several measures of rests followed by a melodic line. The lyrics are as follows:

 La - dy's fine house, And stood in the La-dy's fine room, fine room, fine

 house, And stood in the La-dy's fine room, fine room, fine room, fine

 "Young John - ny" she said, Will you

 "Young John - ny" she said, "Will you give up your

 room.....

 room.....

 The music concludes with a final melodic line.

give up your Trade And mar-ry a la-dy in bloom, and mar-ry a
Trade And mar-ry a la-dy in bloom, full bloom, and mar-ry a

Vivace

Vivace

La - dy in full bloom?" Green..... Broom,.....
La - dy in full bloom?" John - ny gave his con-sent,
Green Broom,
John - ny gave his con-sent,

Vivace sim.

green..... Broom..... green.....

and to church they both went, And he wed-ded the La-dy in

green Broom green.....

and to church they both went, And he wed-ded the La-dy in

Broom;..... At..... mar -

bloom, full bloom, full bloom, full bloom, full bloom; At..... mar -

Broom;..... At mar -

bloom, full bloom, full bloom, full bloom, full bloom; At..... mar -

~~accel.~~

p

- ket and fair, all.... folks do de-clare, There's none like the Boy that sold

p

- ket and fair, all folks do de-clare, There's none like the Boy that sold

p

- ket and fair, all folks do de-clare, There's none like the Boy that sold

p

- ket and fair, all folks do de-clare, There's none like the Boy that sold

accel.

p

cresc. molto

Broom, greenBroom, green Broom, green Broom, green Broom, greenBroom, green

cresc. molto

Broom, greenBroom, green Broom, green Broom, green Broom, greenBroom, green

cresc. molto

Broom, greenBroom, green Broom, greenBroom, green Broom, greenBroom, green

cresc. molto

Broom, greenBroom, green Broom, greenBroom, green Broom, greenBroom, green

cresc. molto

Broom, green Broom, green Broom, green..... Broom, green.....

Broom, green Broom, green Broom, green..... Broom, green.....

Broom, green Broom, green Broom, Broom, green

Broom, green Broom, green Broom, Broom, green

..... Broom..... green..... Broom..... (ah).....

..... Broom..... green..... Broom.....

Broom green..... Broom.....

Broom green..... Broom.....

Broom green..... Broom.....

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FIVE FLOWER SONGS OP.47

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