

four settings of sixteenth-century poems of love, for unaccompanied SATB choir dividing into 8 and 12 parts

Sir Edward Dyer

1. The lowest trees...

ALAN BULLARD

Medium tempo (♩ = ♩ throughout)

p espress.

Soprano
The low-est trees have tops, the ant her gall, The fly her spleen, the lit-tle

Alto
The low-est trees have tops, the ant her gall, The fly her spleen, the lit-tle

Tenor
The low-est trees have tops, the ant her gall, The fly her spleen, the lit-tle

Bass
The low-est trees have tops, the ant her gall, The fly her spleen, the lit-tle

8 *mf*

sparks their heat; The slen-der hairs cast sha-dows, though but small, And bees have

sparks their heat; The slen-der hairs cast sha-dows, though but small, And bees have

sparks their heat; The slen-der hairs cast sha-dows, though but small, And bees have

sparks their heat; The slen-der hairs cast sha-dows, though but small, And bees have

14 *f* *p*

stings al-though they be not great; Seas have their source, and so have shal - low

stings though they be not great; Seas have their source, and so have shal - low

stings, al-though they be not great; Seas have their source, and so have shal - low

stings though they be not great; Seas have their source, and so have shal - low

21 *pp* *div. f*

springs; And love is love in beg-gars as_ in kings... Where ri-vers smooth - est run,

springs; Love_ is love in beg - gars as_ in kings... Where ri-vers smooth - est run,

springs;_ And love is love in beg-gars as_ in kings... Where ri-vers smooth - est_ r

springs;_ And love is love in beg - gars as_ in kings... Where ri-vers smooth est run,

29 *p* *f* *p* *pp*

deep are the fords; The di - al stirs, _____ yet none per-ceive it move; The fir-mest

deep are the fords; The di - al stirs, _____ yet none per-ceive it move; _____

deep are the fords; The di - al stirs, _____ yet none per-ceive it move; The fir-mest

deep are the fords; The di - al stirs, _____ yet none per-ceive it move;

36 *cresc. poco a poco* *p* *moving on mp*

faith is in the few - est words; The tur-tles can-not sing, and yet they love:

The fir-mest_ faith_ is in the few - est words; The tur-tles_ can-not sing, and yet_

faith is in the few - est words; The tur-tles can-not sing, and yet they love:

The fir-mest_ faith_ is in the few - est words; The tur-tles_ can-not sing, and yet_

held back

43

mf *f* *mp* *pp*

S.1 True hearts, true hearts have eyes and ears, no tongues to speak;

S.2 True hearts, true hearts have eyes and ears, no tongues to speak;

A.1 —they love: True hearts, true hearts have eyes and ears, no tongues to speak;

A.2 —they love: True hearts, true hearts have eyes and ears, no tongues to speak;

T.1 True hearts, true hearts have eyes and ears, no tongues to speak;

T.2 True hearts, true hearts have eyes and ears, no tongues to speak;

B.1 —they love: True hearts, true hearts have eyes and ears, no tongues to speak;

B.2 —they love: True hearts, true hearts have eyes and ears, no tongues to speak;

relax and calm

a tempo

50

pp *pp* *mp*

S. They hear and see, and sigh, And then they break,

A. They hear and see, and sigh, And then they break,

T. They hear and see, and sigh, And then they break. The low-est trees have

B. They hear and see, and sigh, And then they break. The low-est trees have

58 *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

break, and then they break, break, break,

break, and then they break, break,

tops, the ant her gall, The fly her spleen, the lit-tle sparks, their

tops, the ant her gall, The fly her spleen, the lit-tle sparks, their

65 *p* *p* *mp*

and then they break, they break. hairs, sha-dows,

and then they break, they break. sha-dows,

heat; The sleeper has cast sha-dows, though but small, And bees have

heat; The sleeper has cast sha-dows, though but small, And bees have

70 *fp* *fp* *fp* *p cresc. molto* *ff* *mf* *a tempo*

stings, Seas have their source, and so have

stings, Seas have their source, and so have

stings, al-though they be not great, Seas have their source, and so have

— stings, though they be not great, Seas have their source, and so have

COPY

INSPECTION

76 *pp sub.* (*senza cresc.*) *(pp) sfpp* *sfpp*

shal - - - low_ springs; And love, and love

pp sub. (*senza cresc.*) *(pp) sfpp* *sfpp*

shal - - - low_ springs; And love, and love

pp sub. (*senza cresc.*) *(pp) sfpp* *sfpp*

shal - - - low_ springs; is love, love,

pp sub. (*senza cresc.*) *(pp) sfpp* *sfpp*

shal - - - low_ springs; is love, is love,

83 *mp*

in beg-gars, in beg-gars as_ ki

mp

in beg-gars, as in kings.

mp

in beg-gars as in kings.

mp

in beg-gars kings.

Hot sun, cool fire...

George Peele

ALAN BULLARD

Slowly and intensely

S. *pp*

Solo mezzo-soprano *p*

cool fire, tem - pered with sweet air,

A. *pp*

oo*

T. *pp*

oo*

Solo baritone *p*

Hot sun, Black

B. *pp*

oo* oo

* nearly closed lips

6

S. *oo* (solo join chorus)

solo *oo* (solo join chorus)

fair nurse,

A. *oo*

T. *oo*

solo *oo* (solo join chorus)

B. shade, shad - ow my white hair,

11

S. *div. f* Shine, sun, shine, sun;

A. *div. f* burn, fire,

T. *div. f* Shine, sun, e, sun;

B. *div. f* burn, fire,

16

p breathe, air, and ease me;

burn, fire; breathe, air, and ease me;

p breathe, air, and ease me;

burn, fire; breathe, air, and ease me;

20

mp fair nurse, *p* fair

fp misterioso Black shade, black shade,

mp fair nurse,

fp misterioso Black shade, black shade,

25

pp nurse, shroud me, and please me; *poco più mosso* shroud *pp*

pp nurse, shroud me; *pp* shroud

pp shroud me; *pp* shroud

pp shroud me, and please me; *pp* shroud

pp shroud me; *mp* Sha - dow, my sweet nurse,

pp shroud me; *mp* Sha - dow, my sweet nurse,

pp shroud me; *mp* Sha - dow, my sweet

pp shroud me; *mp* Sha - dow, my sweet

Inspection COPY

poco a poco accel.

30

mp cresc.

S.1 me, Make not my glad cause cause of my

S.2 me, Make not my glad cause cause of my

A.1 me, Make not my glad cause cause

A.2 me, Make not my glad cause cause

T. 8 keep me from burn - ing, burn - ing, Make not my glad cause

B.1 nurse, keep me from burn - ing, burn - ing, burn - ing, burn

B.2 nurse, keep me from burn - ing, burn -

mp cresc.

f

35

f

rit.

Slower

pp but intense

S. mourn - ing. Let not my beau - ty's fire

A. of my mourn - ing. Let not my beau - ty's fire

T. 8 of my mourn - ing. Let not my beau - ty's fire

B. *dim.* Let not my beau - ty's fire

pp but intense

41

In - flame un - staid de - sire, Nor pierce a - ny

In - flame un - staid de - sire, Nor pierce a - ny

In - flame un - staid de - sire, Nor pierce a - ny

In - flame un - staid de - sire, Nor pierce a - ny

63 *f* **accel.**

S. Shine, sun, shine, sun, shine, sun, shine, sun,

A. Shine, sun, shine, sun, shine, sun, shine, sun,

T. Shine, sun, shine, sun, shine, sun, shine, sun,

B. Shine, sun, shine, sun, shine, sun, shine, sun,

68 *ff* **rit. al fine** *mf* *p* *div.* *p* *poco* *attacca*

burn, fire, burn, fire, burn, fire, burn, fire,

burn, fire, burn, fire, burn, fire, burn, fire,

burn, fire, burn, fire, burn, fire, burn, fire,

burn, fire, burn, fire, burn, fire, burn, fire,

Thomas Campion

Fire, fire...

ALAN BULLARD

Very fast

S. *p*

A.1 *p* Fire,

A.2 *p* Fire,

T.1 *p* Fire, *f* (ya)

T.2 *p* Fire, *f* (ya)

B.1 *p* Fire, *f* (ya) *p* fire,

B.2 *p* Fire, *f* (ya) *p* fire,

4 *p* *f*

S.1 Fire, (ya), fire, (ya) fire, (ya), fire, (ya)

S.2 Fire, (ya) fire, (ya), fire, (ya) fire, (ya), fire, (ya)

A.1 (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya)

A.2 (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya), fire, (ya) fire, (ya), fire, (ya)

T.1 fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya)

T.2 fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya), fire, (ya), fire, (ya)

B.1 (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya)

B.2 (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya), fire, (ya) fire, (ya), fire, (ya)

8 *mf* *div. fp* *mf* *div. f* *mf* *f*

S. Lo here I burn in such a sn... That all the tears, the tears,

A. Lo here I burn in such de sire That all the tears

T. Lo here I burn in such de - sire That all the tears, the tears,

B. Lo here I burn in such de - sire That all the tears

15 *p* *pp*

S. rs, the tears that I can strain Out of mine i - dle emp - ty brain Can -

A. that I can strain Out of mine i - dle emp - ty brain Can -

T. tears, the tears (fire) (fire) (fire) Can -

B. (fire) (fire) (fire) Can -

21 *f* *f*

-not al-lay my scorch - ing pain. Dread O - cean,

-not al-lay my scorch - ing pain. Come Trent and Hum - ber, and fair Thames; Dread O - cean,

-not al-lay my scorch - ing pain. Dread O cean,

-not al-lay my scorch - ing pain. Come Trent and Hum - ber, and fair Thames; Dread O - cean,

30 *pp* *div.* *unis.*

haste with all thy streams: And if you can - not

haste with all thy streams: And if you can - not

haste with all thy streams: you can - not

haste with all thy streams: And if you can - not

38 *f* *pp* *f*

quench my fire O drown, O drown both me and my de - sire.

quench my fire, O drown both me and my de - sire.

quench my fire, O drown O drown both me and my de - sire.

quench my fire, O drown both me and my de - sire.

55 *f* *div. a 3* *ff* *f* *mf*

S. to my de - sire: See, all the riv - ers, the riv - ers back - ward, back - ward

A. to my de - sire: See, all the _____ riv - ers _____ back - ward

T. to my de - sire: See, all the riv - ers, the riv - ers back - ward, back - ward

B. to my de - sire: See, all the _____ riv - ers _____ back - ward

light and calm ♩ = ♩ (4 in a bar)

62 *mp* *p* *pp* *p*

fly, fly, fly, fly, And the Oc - ean doth his waves de - ny, his waves de - ny, For

fly, fly, fly, fly, fly, fly,

fly, fly, fly, fly, And the Oc - ean doth his waves de - ny, his waves de - ny, For

fly, fly, fly, fly, fly, fly,

65 *mf* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *pp*

fear, for fear, for fear my heat, my heat should drink them dry.

fear, fear, fear, heat, heat, drink them dry.

fear, for fear, for fear my heat, my heat should drink them dry.

fear, fear, fear, heat, heat, drink them dry.

69 *pp peacefully* *p* *pp* *p*
 Come, heav'n - ly show'rs, then pour - - ing down;
 Come, heav'n - ly show'rs, then pour - - ing down;
 ah ah
 Come, heav'n - ly show'rs, then pour - - ing down;

72 *mf*
 — Come, you — that once the world — did
 — Come, you — that once the world — did
 ah
 — Com you — that once the world — did

76 *mf* *f* *mf* *f*
 drown; Some then you spared, but now save
 drown; Some then you spared, but now save
 Some then you spared, but now save
 drown; Some then you spared, but now save



80

S. *mp* *ff*
all, That else must burn, and with me

A.1 *mp* *ff*
all, That else must burn, and with me

A.2 *mp* *ff*
all, That else must burn, and with me

T. *p* *ff*
all, now save all, now save all, now save all, now save all, now save all, now save and with me

B.1 *p* *ff*
all, now save all, now save all, now save all, now save all, now save all, now save and with me

B.2 *p* *ff*
all, now save all, now save all, now save all, now save all, now save all, now save and with me

85 *ff*
fall, fall, fall, fall,

mp
fall, with me fall, with me fall, with me fall, with me fall, with me fall, with me fall, with me

mp
fall, with me fall, with me fall, with me fall, with me fall, with me fall, with me fall, with me

ff
fall, fall, fall, fall,

mp
fall, with me fall, with me fall, with me fall, with me fall, with me fall, with me fall.

mp
fall, with me fall, with me fall, with me fall, with me fall, with me fall, with me fall.

* almost a measured *glissando*

92

S.1
fall, fall,

S.2
fall, fall,

A.1
fall, and with me fall. *ff* Fire, *ffp*

A.2
fall, and with me fall. *ff* Fire, *ffp*

T.1
fall. *ffp* Fire, *ff* (ya)

T.2
fall. *ffp* Fire, *ff* (ya)

B.1
ffp Fire, (ya) *ff* Fire, (ya) *ffp* Fire, (ya) *ff* Fire, (ya)

B.2
Fire, (ya) *ffp* Fire, (ya) *ffp* Fire, (ya) *ffp* Fire, (ya)

97 *ffp*

Fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya)

Fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya)

(ya) (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya)

(ya) (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya)

(ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya)

fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya)

(ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya)

(ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya)



102

S. fire, (ya), fire, (ya) fire, (ya) Lo here I burn in such de - sire, de - sire, de - sire, de -

A. fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) Lo here I burn in such de - sire, de - sire, de - sire, de -

T. fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) Lo here I burn in such de - sire, de - sire, de - sire, de -

B. fire, (ya) fire, (ya) fire, (ya) Lo here I burn in such de - sire, de - sire, de -

109

S.1 -sire. (ya) Fire, fire!

S.2 -sire. (ya) Fire, fire!

S.3 -sire. (ya) Fire, fire!

A.1 -sire. (ya) Fire, fire!

A.2 -sire. (ya) Fire, fire!

A.3 -sire. (ya) Fire, fire!

T.1 -sire. (ya) Fire, fire!

T.2 -sire. (ya) Fire, fire!

T.3 -sire. (ya) Fire, fire!

B.1 -sire. (ya) Fire, fire!

B.2 -sire. (ya) Fire, fire!

B.3 -sire. (ya) Fire, fire!

4. Come heavy sleep...

Anon.

ALAN BULLARD

Slowly optional SOLO *p espress.*

S. the i-mage of true death: my wea-ry weep - ing eyes,

A. *div. p* Come hea - vy sleep, And close up these,

T. *div. p* Come hea - vy sleep, And close up these,

B. *div. p* Come hea - vy sleep, And close up these,

9 **TUTTI** *mf*

— Whose spring of tears doth stop my vi - tal breath, vi - tal breath,

— Whose spring of tears doth stop my vi - tal breath,

— Whose spring of tears doth stop my vi - tal breath,

— Whose spring of tears doth stop my vi - tal breath,

15 *f sub.*

S. *pp* And tears* my heart and tears* my heart *sfp* with sor - row's high - swol'n

A.1 *pp* tears*... heart... tears*... heart... sor - row's high - swol'n

A.2 *pp* tears*... heart... tears*... heart... sor - row's high - swol'n

A.3 *pp* tears*... heart... tears*... heart... sor - row's high - swol'n

T. *f sub.* And tears* my heart, and tears* my heart with sor - row's high - swol'n

B.1 And... my... and... my... with sor - row's high - swol'n

B.2 And... my... and... my... with sor - row's high - swol'n

B.3 And... my... and... my... with sor - row's high - swol'n

* 'tares' not 'tiers'

20

S.1 cries: *pp* ah *ff* Come and pos-

S.2 cries: *pp* ah *ff* Come and pos-

S.3 cries: *pp* ah *ff* Come and pos-

A.1 *f* cries, sor - row's high_ swol'n cries: *pp* *ff* Come and pos-

A.2 *f* cries, sor - row's high_ swol'n cries: *pp* *ff* Come and pos-

A.3 *f* cries, sor - row's high_ swol'n cries: *pp* *ff* Come and pos-

T.1 cries: *pp* ah *ff* Come and pos-

T.2 cries: *pp* ah *ff* Come and pos-

T.3 cries: *pp* ah *ff* Come and pos-

B.1 *f* cries, sor - row's high_ swol'n cries: *pp* *ff* Come and pos-

B.2 *f* cries, sor - row's high_ swol'n cries: *pp* *ff* Come and pos-

B.3 *f* cries, sor - row's high_ swol'n cries: *pp* *ff* Come and pos-

25 *pp sub.* *cresc. poco a poco* *f* *p* opt. SOLO

S. -sess my tir - ed thoughts - worn soul, That liv - ing dies, — that liv - ing dies till *p*

A. *pp sub.* *cresc. poco a poco* *f* *p* *p*

T. *pp sub.* *cresc. poco a poco* *f* *p* *p*

B. *pp sub.* *cresc. poco a poco* *f* *p* *p*

-sess my tir - ed thoughts - worn soul, That liv - ing dies, — that liv - ing dies, till

31 (opt. SOLO)
espress.

thou on me be stole.

thou on me be stole.

thou on me be stole. and shad-ow of

thou on me be stole. Come, shad-ow of my

38 TUTTI

child to this black-faced night, Come thou and charm,

All - ied to death, Come thou and charm,

rest, death, Come thou and charm,

dea Come thou and charm,

43 (senza cresc)

S.1 and charm these re - bels in my breast, Whose

S.2 and charm these re - bels in my breast, Whose

A. and charm these re - bels in my breast, Whose

T. charm these re - bels, these re - bels, Whose wak - ing

B. charm these re - bels, these re - bels, Whose wak - ing

48

p wak - ing fan - cies, whose wak - ing fan - cies doth my mind *f* af - fright.

p wak - ing fan - cies, whose wak - ing fan - cies doth my mind *f* af - fright.

p wak - ing fan - cies, whose wak - ing fan - cies doth my mind *f* af - fright.

f fan - cies doth my mind *f* af - fright.

f fan - cies doth my mind *f* af - fright.

54 **Slower** *pp* *ppp* *molto legato*

S. O come sweet sleep, come or I die for - ever, Come ere my

A. O come sweet sleep, come or I die for ev - er, Come ere my

T. O come sweet sleep, come or I die for ev - er, Come ere my

B. O come sweet sleep, come or I die for ev - er, Come ere my

60 opt. SOLO

last sleep come, or come ne - ver.

last sleep come, hea - vy sleep.

last sleep come, hea - vy sleep.

last sleep come, hea - vy sleep.



Alan Bullard's choral works are performed world-wide, and many have been recorded and broadcast. He has a reputation for music that choirs enjoy performing, and which speak directly to audiences.

The **Colne Choral Suites** series contains a number of Bullard's extended unaccompanied choral works, aimed primarily at more experienced choirs.

Madrigal Book was first broadcast on BBC Radio 3 by the BBC Northern Singers, director Stephen Wilkinson. It is a setting of four love-poems from the turn of the seventeenth century. The first poem sings of the richness, but sometimes the incompatibility, of love, and the second is the mysterious song of Bathsheba, mother of Solomon and alleged seductress of David. The third song portrays the scorching pain of love, which all the oceans of the world cannot quench, and finally the heart-broken lover takes refuge in sleep, 'the image of true death'.

1. The lowest trees have tops, the ant her gall,
The fly her spleen, the little sparks their heat;
The slender hairs cast shadows, though but small,
And bees have stings, although they be not great;
Seas have their source, and so have shallow springs;
And love is love, in beggars as in kings.

Where rivers smoothest run, deep are the fords;
The dial stirs, yet none perceives it move;
The firmest faith is in the fewest words;
The turtles cannot sing, and yet they love:
True hearts have eyes and ears, no tongues to speak,
They hear and see, and sigh, and then they break.

Sir Edward Dyer, 1602

2. Hot sun, cool fire, tempered with wet air,
Black shade, fair nurse, shadow my white hair.
Shine, sun; burn, fire: breathe, air, and ease me;
Black shade, fair nurse, shroud me and please me:
Shadow, my sweet nurse, keep me from burning,
Make not my glad cause cause of my mourning.

Let not my beauty's fire

Inflame unstaied desire,

Nor pierce any bright eye

That wanders in light

George Peele, 1599

3. Fire, fire, fire, fire!
Lo how I burn for such desire
That all the tears that I can strain
Can fill my idle empty brain

Cannot allay my scorching pain.

Come Trent and Humber, and fair Thames;
Dread Ocean, haste with all thy streams:

And if you cannot quench my fire,
O drown both me and my desire.

Fire, fire, fire, fire!

There's no hell to my desire:

See, how the rivers backward fly,

And the Ocean doth his waves deny,

For fear my heat should drink them dry.

Come, heavenly show'rs, then, pouring down;

Come, you that once the world did drown;

Some then you spared, but now save all,

That else must burn, and with me fall.

Thomas Campion, 1617

4. Come heavy sleep, the image of true death:
And close up these, my weary weeping eyes,
Whose spring of tears doth stop my vital breath,
And tears my heart with sorrow's high-swol'n cries:
Come and possess my tired thoughts-worn
soul,

That living dies, till thou on me be stole.
Come shadow of my end: and shape of rest,
Allied to death, child to this black-faced night,
Come thou and charm these rebels in my breast,
Whose waking fancies doth my mind affright.

O come sweet sleep, come or I die for ever,

Come ere my last sleep comes, or come never.

Anon., 1597

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