

BELOVED

for Mezzo-Soprano & Piano



Song of Solomon

Ben Ponniah

BELOVED

A Song Cycle

(2022)

Duration:	9 minutes
Cover photograph:	pixabay.com
For more information:	www.benponniah.com

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PROGRAMME NOTE

Beloved consists of three songs for Mezzo-Soprano. The text is from the Song of Solomon: a collection of love poems. There are many different interpretations of the Song of Solomon. For example, some view the book as describing God's love for us. Others believe that it is a celebration of human love and nature.

I chose to set this text as I felt a strong connection between my sometimes voluptuous, jazz-inspired harmonic language and the nature of the poetry.

BJP

BELOVED

I. My Beloved Spake

Song of Solomon

BEN PONNIAH (b. 1984)

Lusingando e legato ♩ = 63

p
con pedale

4 *p* ————— *mf*

My be-lov - ed spake and said un-to me,

pp ————— *mp*

7 *f* ————— *mp* ————— *f*

Rise up, my love, my fair one,

mf

11 *mp* *p*

and come a - way.

mf

15 *mp*

For lo, the win-ter is past, — the

p

19 *p*

rain is ov - er, — the rain is ov - er and gone;

23 *mf*

The

mp *f* *mf*

27

flowers ap - pear on the earth; the

mp *f*

31 *f* *mp* *p* **Ad libitum**

time of the sing - ing of birds is come, and the

f *mp* *p*

a tempo

35

rit.

mp

voice of the tur - tle is heard in our land,

39

mp

mf

The fig tree put-teth forth her green figs,

p

mp

43

mp

and the vines with the ten - der grape give a good smell.

p

49 *mp* *f* *mp*

A - rise, my love, my

rall.

53 *f* *mp* *pp*

fair one, and come a - way.

II. Awake, O North Wind

Andante ♩ = 63 *pp*

A wake, a - wake, a -

pp *con pedale*

4 *mp* *pp*

wake, O north__ wind, O north__ wind, O

mp *pp*

7 *mp*

north__ wind,__ O north__

The musical score is for a piece titled 'II. Awake, O North Wind'. It is in 4/4 time, marked 'Andante' with a tempo of ♩ = 63. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 1-3) features a vocal line starting with 'A wake, a - wake, a -' and a piano accompaniment of triplet eighth notes in both hands, marked 'pp' and 'con pedale'. The second system (measures 4-6) continues the vocal line with 'wake, O north__ wind, O north__ wind, O' and the piano accompaniment. The third system (measures 7-9) continues with 'north__ wind,__ O north__'. Dynamics range from 'pp' (pianissimo) to 'mp' (mezzo-piano). The piano part consists of a steady triplet eighth-note accompaniment throughout.

10 *accel.*

wind, O north wind,

13

north wind; and

15 *Piu mosso* ♩ = 82 *f*

come, and come, and

17 *rit.*

come, thou south;

20 **Tempo primo** *mp*

blow u-pon my gar - den,

23 *mf*

blow u-pon my gar - den, that the spi - ces there - of may

26 *p* *mp* *mf* 9

flow out, flow out, flow out.

29 *f* *mf*

Let my be - lov - ed come in - to his

Tranquillo (a tempo)

32 *p*

gar - den, and eat his plea - sant

35 *mp*

fruits, eat his plea - sant

39 *mf* *mp*<

fruits, his plea - sant fruits, his

43 *p*

plea - sant fruits, plea - sant fruits,

47

mp

plea - - - sant, plea - - - sant

mp

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 47 and 48. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has four sharps (F#, C#, G#, D#). The vocal line consists of two measures, each with a half note followed by a dotted half note. The lyrics are "plea - - - sant, plea - - - sant". The piano accompaniment has two staves. The right hand plays a sustained chord in the first measure, which changes in the second measure. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note pattern. The dynamic marking *mp* (mezzo-piano) is present at the beginning and in the middle of the piano part.

49

molto rit.

fruits.

pp

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measure 49. The key signature remains the same. The vocal line has a single measure with a whole note, followed by a fermata. The lyrics are "fruits.". The piano accompaniment has two staves. The right hand features a series of triplets of eighth notes, with a fermata at the end. The left hand also features a series of triplets of eighth notes. The dynamic marking *pp* (pianissimo) is located at the end of the piano part. The tempo marking *molto rit.* (molto ritardando) is written above the vocal line.

III. The Apple Tree

Dolce e con amore ♩ = 63

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Dolce e con amore' with a quarter note equal to 63 beats per minute. The piano accompaniment features a consistent triplet pattern in the bass line, often with a 'con pedale' instruction. The vocal line includes lyrics in English.

System 1: The piano accompaniment begins with a triplet pattern in the bass line, marked *mp* and *con pedale*. The vocal line is silent.

System 2: The vocal line begins with the lyrics "As the ap - ple tree a-mong the". The piano accompaniment continues with the triplet pattern, marked *mf* in the first measure and *mp* in the second measure.

System 3: The vocal line continues with the lyrics "trees of the wood, so is my be - lo-ved a-mong the sons. As_ the". The piano accompaniment continues with the triplet pattern, marked *mf* in the first measure.

10 *mf*

ap - ple tree a - mong the trees of the wood, so is

12 *f*

my be - lo - ved a-mong the sons.

15 *p*

I sat down un - der his sha - dow with great de - light, with great de -

18 *f* *mp* rit.

light, and his fruit was sweet, and his fruit was sweet to my taste, _____

Tempo primo ♩ = 63

22 *p*

sweet to my taste, sweet to my taste, sweet to my taste,

25 *mf* *mp*

sweet to my taste. As the ap - ple tree, _____ as the

28

ap-ple tree, _____ so is my be-lo-ved a-mong the

f

31

molto rit.

sons.

mp *pp*

Chertsey, 6 May 2022