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Composer's note

For these settings I have used texts from three great composers of madrigals from the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries: Thomas Morley, John Bennet and Orlando Gibbons. As a singer I performed these texts many times in their original settings and always loved their melodies, their energy, their wit, and also, at times, their great expressiveness. I have cast them here in a jazz style with a piano part that can be played as written or interpreted freely within the chord structure of the music. I would encourage the addition of bass and drum kit and a separate bass and drum kit part is available if needed, prepared by the pianist Alex Hawkins.

If you are performing this work with jazz players who want to improvise, you may wish to add instrumental solo sections to give them a chance to shine. Here are a few suggestions that you might want to consider:

- In 'Sing we and chant it', at the end of bar 95, repeat from bar 60 without the choir. The choir can join again at bar 97.
- In 'Learned Poets', at the end of bar 23, repeat from bar 4 without the choir. The choir can join again at bar 24.
- In 'Fire, fire!', at the end of bar 88, repeat from bar 61 without the choir. The choir can join again on the last beat of bar 78.

I am grateful to the organisation of the LandesJugendChor in the Rheinland-Palatinate for commissioning this work and to their conductor, Jan Schumacher. I have known Jan ever since he was a singer himself in this choir when I first conducted them, 23 years ago, in a Europa Cantat Festival in Sweden.

Duration: c.10 minutes

Also available:

Little Jazz Madrigals Bass and Drum Kit Part (ISBN 978-0-19-356156-4)

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Little Jazz Madrigals

1. Sing we and chant it

Thomas Morley (1557–1602)

BOB CHILCOTT

Jazz waltz ♩ = c.192

**SOPRANO
ALTO**

**TENOR
BASS**

PIANO

f

Sing_____ we,____

f

Jazz waltz ♩ = c.192

f

7

sing we and chant it While_____ love doth_____ grant_____ it.

44

ah

hast - eth. Now is best lei - sure — To take our plea - sure.

49

p *f*

Fa la la la la la la la la la la, Fa la la la

p *f*

54

la la la la la, Fa la la la la.

la la la la la la la la la, Fa la la la la.

la la la la la, Fa la la la la.

la la la la, Fa la la la la.

99

No mirth be lack - ing! Let spare no trea - sure_ To live in plea - sure.

The musical score is written for three parts: Soprano, Alto, and Bass. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The Soprano part has lyrics under the notes. The Alto and Bass parts provide harmonic support with chords and single notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a sharp sign indicating the end of the section.

The musical score consists of three systems. The first system includes a vocal line with lyrics and two piano accompaniment staves. The second system continues the piano accompaniment. The third system shows the final measures of the piece.

Vocal Line:

- Musical notation: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), common time signature.
- Lyrics: Fa la la la la la la la la la la, — Fa la la la
- Dynamics: *p* (piano) at the start, *mf* (mezzo-forte) after the first measure rest.

Piano Accompaniment (Right Hand):

- Musical notation: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), common time signature.
- Dynamics: *p* (piano) at the start, *mf* (mezzo-forte) after the first measure rest.

Piano Accompaniment (Left Hand):

- Musical notation: Bass clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), common time signature.
- Dynamics: *p* (piano) at the start, *mf* (mezzo-forte) after the first measure rest.

12 *mp* *mf*

weep, — O — weep, — O mine eyes, — O — weep — O mine

mp *mf*

mp *mf*

16 *f*

eyes, — mine eyes, — A — las, — these your spring — tides, A —

f

f

20 *mf*

— las, — these your — spring — tides, Me — thinks, me — thinks in — crease — not, in —

mf

mf

3. Learned Poets

Orlando Gibbons (1583–1625)

BOB CHILCOTT

Bossa nova feel ♩ = c. 126

SOPRANO ALTO

TENOR BASS

PIANO

Bossa nova feel ♩ = c. 126

mf

5 *unis. mf*

O, O, O — that the learn - ed, the learn - ed po - ets of — this — time, Who in — a love -

10

- sick line, a love - sick line so well — can — speak, O, —

unis. mf

O, O, O —

38

— for — if their mu - sic please in earth - ly — things, How would, how

42

would it sound if strung, if strung with hea - ven - ly strings? *f* O, O, O — *f*

46

— for — if their mu - sic please in earth - ly — things, How would, how

13

Fi - re, fi - re! my

17

heart! my heart! Fa

21

la la la la la la, fa la la la la, Fa

51 *mf*

Fa *la* *fa* *la* *la*

la la la la la, fa la la la la, Fa

55 *f*

fa *la, fa la la la la la la*

la la la la la, fa la la la la la la

59 *f*

la. *O, I burn me! O, I burn me!*

la. *O, I burn me! O, I burn me!*

92

ah Ay me!

burn! I burn! A - las! I burn!

97

Ay me! will none come quench me? O

Ay me! will none come quench me?

101

cast, cast wa - ter on, a - las, and drench me, O

ah