



**Ah! My Heart
is Weary Waiting**

**John B. Herbert
(1852-1927)**

John Bunyan Herbert (1852-1927) was born in Cambridge, Ohio. A year later, his family moved to Monmouth, Illinois, where he received his early education. He bought a book on harmony at age 14 and spent his spare time mastering the subject. He attended Monmouth College, and was its first graduate. At his father's insistence, he attended the Hahnemann-Medical College of Chicago and set up practice in Monmouth. He continued to study music, sang in a church choir, and organized a male quartet that appeared at several of the national Prohibition Conventions and many Chautauquas. George Root visited Monmouth and they became good friends. After studying with George Root and Philip Bliss, he closed his medical practice to work with music full time. At one time, Herbert taught at the Southern Development Normal music school in Waco, Texas. There he taught many future composers of Gospel hymns. He died in Monmouth, Illinois. He composed many hymns, glees and part-songs. He also wrote political songs, a harmony method text, a book on how to write accompaniments for songs, and a collection of settings of songs from the plays of Shakespeare. His most popular composition was his 1891 setting of "Away in a manger."

Ah! my heart is weary waiting,
Waiting for the May—
Waiting for the pleasant rambles,
Where the fragrant hawthorn brambles,
With the woodbine alternating,
Scent the dewy way.
Ah! my heart is weary waiting,
Waiting for the May.

Ah! my heart is sick with longing,
Longing for the May—
Longing to escape from study,
To the young face fair and ruddy,
And the thousand charms belonging
To the summer's day.
Ah! my heart is sick with longing,
Longing for the May.

Ah! my heart is sore with sighing,
Sighing for the May—
Sighing for their sure returning,
When the summer beams are burning,
Hopes and flowers, that dead or dying,
All the winter lay.
Ah! my heart is sore with sighing,
Sighing for the May.

Pedro Calderón de la Barca (1600-1681)
Translation by Denis Florence MacCarthy (1817-1882)

Ah! My Heart is Weary Waiting

J. B. Herbert

Andante

S Ah! my heart is wea - ry wait - ing, Ah!

A Ah! my heart is wea - ry wait - ing, Ah!

T Ah! my heart is wea - ry wait - ing,

B Ah! my heart is wea - ry wait - ing,

5 S Wait - ing for the *rit.* May— Wait - ing for the *a tempo* plea - sant ram - bles,

A Wait - ing for the *rit.* May— *a tempo* Wait - ing for the plea - sant ram - bles,

T Wait - ing for the *rit.* May— *a tempo* Wait - ing for the plea - sant ram - bles,

B Wait - ing for the *rit.* May— *a tempo* Wait - ing for the plea - sant ram - bles,

9 S Where the fra - grant haw - thorn bram - bles, With the wood - bine al - ter - nat - ing,

A Where the fra - grant haw - thorn bram - bles, With the wood - bine al - ter - nat - ing,

T Where the fra - grant haw - thorn bram - bles, With the wood - bine al - ter - nat - ing,

B Where the fra - grant haw - thorn bram - bles, With the wood - bine al - ter - nat - ing,

Ah! My Heart is Weary Waiting

13

S Scent the dew - y way. Wait - ing, wait - ing, Wait - ing for the

A Scent the dew - y way. Wait - ing, wait - ing, Wait - ing for the

T 8 Scent the dew - y way. Wait - ing for the

B Scent the dew - y way. Wait - ing for the

17

S May, Wait - ing for the May. *rit. e dim.*

A May, Wait - ing for the May. *rit. e dim.*

T 8 May, Wait - ing, wait - ing, Wait - ing for the May. *rit. e dim.*

B May, Wait - ing, wait - ing, Wait - ing for the May. *rit. e dim.*

Tempo 1

21

S Ah! my heart is sick with long - ing, Ah! _____

A Ah! my heart is sick with long - ing, Ah! _____

T 8 Ah! my heart is sick with long - ing,

B Ah! my heart is sick with long - ing,

Ah! My Heart is Weary Waiting

25

S Long - ing for the May— Long - ing to es - cape from stud - y,

A Long - ing for the May— Long - ing to es - cape from stud - y,

T Long - ing for the May— Long - ing to es - cape from stud - y,

B Long - ing for the May— Long - ing to es - cape from stud - y,

rit. *a tempo*

29

S To the young face fair and rud - dy, And the thou - sand charms be - long - ing

A To the young face fair and rud - dy, And the thou - sand charms be - long - ing

T To the young face fair and rud - dy, And the thou - sand charms be - long - ing

B To the young face fair and rud - dy, And the thou - sand charms be - long - ing

33

S To the sum - mer's day. Long - ing, long - ing, Long - ing for the

A To the sum - mer's day. Long - ing, long - ing, Long - ing for the

T To the sum - mer's day. Long - ing for the

B To the sum - mer's day. Long - ing for the

Ah! My Heart is Weary Waiting

37 *rit. e dim.*

S May, Long - ing for the May.

A May, Long - ing for the May.

T 8 May, Long - ing, long - ing, Long - ing for the May.

B May, Long - ing, long - ing, Long - ing for the May.

41 **Tempo 1**

S Ah! my heart is sore with sigh - ing, Ah!

A Ah! my heart is sore with sigh - ing, Ah!

T Ah! my heart is sore with sigh - ing,

B Ah! my heart is sore with sigh - ing,

45 *rit.* *a tempo*

S Sigh - ing for the May— Sigh - ing for their sure re - turn - ing,

A Sigh - ing for the May— Sigh - ing for their sure re - turn - ing,

T 8 Sigh - ing for the May— Sigh - ing for their sure re - turn - ing,

B Sigh - ing for the May— Sigh - ing for their sure re - turn - ing,

Ah! My Heart is Weary Waiting

49

S When the sum - mer beams are burn - ing, Hopes and flow'rs, that dead or dy - ing,

A When the sum - mer beams are burn - ing, Hopes and flow'rs, that dead or dy - ing,

T 8 When the sum - mer beams are burn - ing, Hopes and flow'rs, that dead or dy - ing,

B When the sum - mer beams are burn - ing, Hopes and flow'rs, that dead or dy - ing,

53

S All the win - ter lay. Sigh - ing, sigh - ing, Sigh - ing for the

A All the win - ter lay. Sigh - ing, sigh - ing, Sigh - ing for the

T 8 All the win - ter lay. Sigh - ing for the

B All the win - ter lay. Sigh - ing for the

57

S May, Sigh - ing for the May. *rit. e dim.*

A May, Sigh - ing for the May. *rit. e dim.*

T 8 May, Sigh - ing, sigh - ing, Sigh - ing for the May. *rit. e dim.*

B May, Sigh - ing, sigh - ing, Sigh - ing for the May. *rit. e dim.*

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David Anderson
SHORCHOR Music
1706 NE 177th St.
Shoreline, WA 98155 USA

