



SIX FOUR-PART SONGS

No. 5

The Birthday

G. A. Osborne

(1806–1893)

George Alexander Osborne (1806–1893) was born in Limerick, Ireland. At the age of eighteen, he moved to Brussels, was appointed music instructor for the eldest son of the Dutch king, and became friends with Charles de Bériot. After fighting for the royalists in the Belgian revolution, he studied in Paris with several notable pianists. He developed close friendships with Chopin, Berlioz, and other famous musicians. He settled in London, becoming one of the most highly regarded pianists of the time. He was director of the Philharmonic Society and conductor of the Amateur Musical Society. He also held a position with the Royal Academy of Music. He died at Ulster Terrace, Regent's Park, London. His published compositions include piano works, piano transcriptions, a communion service, string quartets, chamber music, songs, part songs. With de Bériot, he composed more than 30 duos for violin and piano.

Of a maiden now we sing, gentle and fair,
With radiant smile devoid of guile, and modest air.
On this her natal day,
We join to wish her well,
But what her name is,
We must not, and we will not tell.

Few are her years, but those improved by tender care,
Give her the grace it should be woman's lot to wear.
Happy the loving home,
In which she's born to dwell,
But what her name is,
We must not, and we will not tell.

Time may steal over each grateful parent's head,
Yet do they not decline, but live in her instead.
Then, let us join with them
And all to wish her well,
But what her name is,
We must not, and we will not tell.

Robert West Taylor (1838–1890)

The Birthday

G. A. Osborne

Andante

S
Of a maid - en now we sing, gen - tle and fair, With ra - dant smile de -

A
Of a maid - en now we sing, gen - tle and fair, With ra - dant smile de -

T
Of a maid - en now we sing, gen - tle and fair, With ra - dant smile de -

B
Of a maid - en now we sing, gen - tle and fair, With ra - dant smile de -

S
void of guile, and mod - est air. On this her na - tal day, —

A
void of guile, and mod - est air. On this her na - tal day,

T
void of guile, and mod - est air. On this her na - tal day,

B
void of guile, and mod - est air. On this her na - tal day,

The Birthday

11

S We join to wish her well, — On this her na - tal day, We join to wish her *cresc.* *dim.*

A We join to wish her well, On this her na - tal day, We join to wish her *cresc.* *dim.*

T We join to wish her well, On this her na - tal day, We join to wish her *cresc.* *dim.*

B We join to wish her well, On this her na - tal day, We join to wish her *cresc.* *dim.*

16

S well, We must not, and we will not tell. *mf* *dim.*

A well, We must not, and we will not tell. *mf* *dim.*

T well, But what her name — is, We must not, and we will not tell. *f* *mf* *dim.*

B well, But what her name — is, We must not, and we will not tell. *f* *mf* *dim.*

21

S *p* Few are her years, but those im - prov'd by ten - der care, Give her the grace

A *p* Few are her years, but those im - prov'd by ten - der care, Give her the grace

T *p* Few are her years, but those im - prov'd by ten - der care, Give her the grace

B *p* Few are her years, but those im - prov'd by ten - der care, Give her the grace

The Birthday

26

S it should be wo - man's lot to wear. Hap - py the lov - ing home, —

A it should be wo - man's lot to wear. Hap - py the lov - ing home,

T it should be wo - man's lot to wear. Hap - py the lov - ing home,

B it should be wo - man's lot to wear. Hap - py the lov - ing home,

31

S In which she's born to dwell, Hap - py the lov - ing home, In which she's born to *cresc.* *dim.*

A In which she's born to dwell, Hap - py the lov - ing home, In which she's born to *cresc.* *dim.*

T In which she's born to dwell, Hap - py the lov - ing home, In which she's born to *cresc.* *dim.*

B In which she's born to dwell, Hap - py the lov - ing home, In which she's born to *cresc.* *dim.*

36

S dwell, *mf* We must not, and we will not *dim.* tell.

A dwell, *mf* We must not, and we will not *dim.* tell.

T dwell, *f* But what her name — is, *mf* We must not, and we will not *dim.* tell.

B dwell, *f* But what her name — is, *mf* We must not, and we will not *dim.* tell.

The Birthday

41

S Time may steal o - ver each grate - ful par - ent's head, Yet do they

A Time may steal o - ver each grate - ful par - ent's head, Yet do they

T Time may steal o - ver each grate - ful par - ent's head, Yet do they

B Time may steal o - ver each grate - ful par - ent's head, Yet do they

46

S not de - cline, but live in her in - stead. Then, let us join with them And

A not de - cline, but live in her in - stead. Then, let us join with them And

T not de - cline, but live in her in - stead. Then, let us join with them And

B not de - cline, but live in her in - stead. Then, let us join with them And

51

S all _____ to wish her well, Then, let us join with them And all to wish her *cresc.* *dim.*

A all to wish her well, Then, let us join with them And all to wish her *cresc.* *dim.*

T all to wish her well, Then, let us join with them And all to wish her *cresc.* *dim.*

B all to wish her well, Then, let us join with them And all to wish her *cresc.* *dim.*

The Birthday

56

S well, We must not, and we will not tell.

A well, We must not, and we will not tell.

T well, But what her name is, We must not, and we will not tell.

B well, But what her name is, We must not, and we will not tell.

Chappell & Co.
(1862)

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