



A LOVE SYMPHONY

PERCY PITT
(1870-1932)

A LOVE SYMPHONY

Percy Pitt

Moderato assai

S *mf*
A - long the gar - den ways just now I heard the flow - ers

A *mf*
A - long the gar - den ways just now I heard _____ the flow - ers

T *mf*
A - long the gar - den ways just now _____ I heard the flow - ers

B *mf*
Just now I heard the

S ⁴
speak; _____ The white - rose told me of your brow, The

A
speak; _____ The white - rose told me of your brow, _____ The

T
speak; _____ The white - rose told me of your brow, The red - rose

B
flow - ers speak; _____ The white - rose told me of your brow, The

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7

S red - rose of your cheek; The li - ly of your bend - ed head; The

A red - rose of your cheek; The li - ly of your bend - ed head; The

T of your cheek; The li - ly of your bend - ed head; The

B red - rose of your cheek; The li - ly of your bend - ed head; The bind - weed

11

S bind - weed of your hair; Each look'd its love - li - est and

A bind - weed of your hair; Each look'd its love - li - est and said

T bind - weed of your hair; Each look'd its love - li - est and

B of your hair; Each look'd its love - li - est and

15

S said You were more fair, you were more fair. I

A You were more fair, you were more fair. I

T said You were more fair, you were more fair.

B said You were more fair, you were more fair.

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20

S went in - to the wood a - non, And heard _____ the wild birds sing, How

A went in - to the wood a - non, And heard _____ the wild birds sing, How

T I went in - to the wood And heard the wild birds sing, How

B I went in - to the wood And heard the wild birds sing, _____ How

24

S *mf* > sweet you were; they war - bled on, Piped, trilled, the self - same

A *mf* > sweet you were; they war - bled on, Piped, trilled, the self - same

T *mf* > sweet you were; they war - bled on, Piped, trilled, the

B *mf* > sweet you were; they war - bled on, Piped,

27

S thing. Thrush, black - bird, lin - net,

A thing. Thrush, black - bird, lin - net, with - out

T self - same thing. Thrush, black - bird, lin - net,

B trilled, the self - same thing.

30

S Thrush, black - bird, lin - net, And still be - gan a - gain, be -

A pause, black - bird, lin - net, And still be - gan a -

T Thrush, black - bird, lin - net, The bur - den did re - peat, And still be - gan a -

B Thrush, black - bird, lin - net, And still be - gan a - gain,

34

S cause You were more sweet.

A gain, be - cause You were more sweet, you were more

T gain, be - cause You were more sweet, you were more

B be - cause You were more sweet.

37

S And then I went down to the sea, And heard its mur - m'ring

A sweet. And then I went down to the sea, And heard its

T sweet. And then I went down to the sea, And heard its mur - m'ring

B And then I went down to the sea, And

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41

S *p* too, Part of an an - cient mys - te - ry, *mf* All

A *p* mur - m'ring too, An an - cient mys - te - ry, *mf* All

T *p* too, Part of an an - cient mys - te - ry, All made of

B *p* heard its mur - m'ring too, An an - cient mys - te - ry, *mf* All

44

S made of me and you; How ma - ny thou - sand years a - go I

A made of me and you; How ma - ny thou - sand years a - go I

T me and you; How ma - ny a thou - sand years a -

B made of me and you; How ma - ny a thou - sand years a - go I

48

S loved, And you were sweet— *f* Long - er I *mf* could not stay, and so

A loved, And you were sweet— *f* I *mf* could not stay,

T go I loved, And you were sweet— *f* Long - er I *mf* could not stay, and

B loved, And you were sweet— *f* Long - er I

52

S I fled back, back to your

A and so I fled back to your

T so I fled back

B could not stay, and so I

56

S feet, back to your feet, you were so sweet!

A feet, to your so sweet!

T to your feet, you were so sweet!

B fled back to your feet, you were so sweet!

Percy Pitt (1870-1932) was born in London and received his general education in France. He studied music at the conservatory in Leipzig, lived in Paris studying with Reinecke and Jadassohn, then with Josef Rheinberger in Munich. He held various organist and choirmaster positions before being appointed Chorus Master for the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in 1906. There, he quickly became an assistant conductor and then the Principal Conductor. In 1908, he was instrumental in bringing Hans Richter to London for the famed Covent Garden Ring Cycles; Pitt sharing the conducting with Richter. In 1915, he became conductor of the Beecham Opera Company and, in 1920, the director of the British National Opera Company. In 1926 he became the first General Musical Director of the fledgling BBC. He made numerous records with the BBC Wireless Symphony Orchestra, including many "Operatic selections" on Columbia and Regal labels. His compositions were well-respected, mainly light orchestral music.

Along the garden ways just now
I heard the flowers speak;
The white-rose told me of your brow,
The red-rose of your cheek;
The lily of your bended head;
The bindweed of your hair;
Each looked its loveliest and said
You were more fair.

I went into the wood anon,
And heard the wild birds sing,
How sweet you were; they warbled on,
Piped, trilled, the selfsame thing.
Thrush, blackbird, linnet, without pause,
The burden did repeat,
And still began again because
You were more sweet.

And then I went down to the sea,
And heard its murmuring too,
Part of an ancient mystery,
All made of me and you;
How many a thousand years ago
I loved, and you were sweet—
Longer I could not stay, and so
I fled back to your feet.

Arthur William Edgar O'Shaughnessy (1844-1881)

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