



Gather ye  
Rose-buds

Hugh S. Robertson  
(1874-1952)

**Sir Hugh Stevenson Robertson** (1874–1952) was born in Glasgow, Scotland, son of a Funeral Undertaker and Carriage Hirer, and served as an assistant in the family enterprise, eventually becoming manager. He first established his musical career as conductor of the Toynbee House Choir in Glasgow. He took leadership of the Toynbee Musical Association and transformed it, founding the Glasgow Orpheus Choir. He was director of the Orpheus choir for almost fifty years, leading it to national and international recognition. The Orpheus Choir had no equal in Britain and toured widely. He is recognized as one of the most significant British coral directors in history. He was also active as teacher, composer, adjudicator, critic, poet, playwright, essayist, and lecturer. He died at his home in Cathcart, Glasgow. His son was the Australian politician and diplomat Hugh Robertson. His compositions include a significant number of part-songs, especially settings of Scottish folk songs.

Gather ye rosebuds while ye may,  
Old Time is still a-flying:  
And this same flower that smiles to-day  
To-morrow will be dying.

The glorious lamp of Heaven, the Sun,  
The higher he's a-getting,  
The sooner will his race be run,  
And nearer he's to setting.

That age is best which is the first,  
When youth and blood are warmer:  
But being spent, the worse, and worst  
Times still succeed the former.

Then be not coy, but use your time,  
And while ye may, go marry:  
For having lost but once your prime  
You may for ever tarry.

Robert Herrick (1591–1674)

# Gather Ye Rose-buds

Hugh S. Robertson

Allegro con allegrezza ♩ = 144

S *mf* Gath - er ye rose - buds while ye — may, *p* Old Time is still a - fly - ing: And

A *mf* Gath - er ye rose - buds while ye — may, *p* Old Time is still a - fly - ing: And

T *f* Old Time is still a - fly - ing: And

B *f* Old Time is still a - fly - ing: And

5 S *allarg.* this — same flow'r that smiles to - day To - mor - row will be dy - ing, To -

A *allarg.* this — same flow'r that smiles to - day To - mor - row will be dy - ing, To -

T *allarg.* this same flow'r that smiles to - day To - mor - row will be dy - ing, To -

B *allarg.* this same flow'r that — smiles to - day To - mor - row will be dy - ing, To -

## Gather Ye Rose-buds

9

S mor - row will be dy - ing. The glo - rious lamp of Heav'n, the Sun, The

A mor - row will be dy - ing. The glo - rious lamp of Heav'n, the Sun, The

T mor - row will be dy - ing. The glo - rious lamp of Heav'n, the Sun, The

B mor - row will be dy - ing. The glo - rious lamp of Heav'n, the Sun, The

*f a tempo*

13

S high - er he's a - get - ting, The soon - er will his race be run, And

A high - er he's a - get - ting, The soon - er will his race be run, And

T high - er he's a - get - ting, The soon - er will his race be run, And

B high - er he's a - get - ting, The soon - er will his race be run, And

17

S near - er he's to set - ting. Tra la la la la la la la la la Tra

A near - er he's to set - ting. Tra la la la la la la la la la Tra

T near - er he's to set - ting. Tra la la la la la la la la la Tra

B near - er he's to set - ting. Tra la la la la la la la la la Tra

*pp lightly and roguishly*

*ten.*

# Gather Ye Rose-buds

21

S  
la la la la la la la la la la Tra la la la la la la la la la la la Tra

A  
la la la la la la Tra la la la la la la la Tra

T  
la la la la la la Tra la la la la la la la Tra

B  
la la la la la la Tra la la la la la la la Tra

25

*mf with mock solemnity*

S  
la la la la la la la And near - er he's to set - ting.

A  
la la la la la la la And near - er he's to set - ting.

T  
la la la la la la la And near - er he's to set - ting.

B  
la la la la la la la And near - er he's to set - ting.

*f*

S  
That age\_ is best which is the\_ first, When youth and blood are\_ warm - er: But

A  
That age\_ is best which is the\_ first, When youth and blood are warm - er: But

T  
When youth and blood are warm - er: But

B  
When youth and blood are warm - er: But

## Gather Ye Rose-buds

33

S be - ing spent, the worse, and worst Times still suc - ceed the form - er, Worst *allarg.*

A be - ing spent, the worse, and worst Times still suc - ceed the form - er, Worst *allarg.*

T be - ing spent, the worse, and worst Times still suc - ceed the form - er, Worst *allarg.*

B be - ing spent, the worse, and worst Times still suc - ceed the form - er, Worst *allarg.*

37

S times suc - ceed the form - er. Then be not coy, but use your time, And *f a tempo*

A times suc - ceed the form - er. Then be not coy, but use your time, And *f a tempo*

T times suc - ceed the form - er. Then be not coy, but use your time, And *f a tempo*

B times suc - ceed the form - er. Then be not coy, but use your time, And *f a tempo*

41

S while ye may, go mar - ry: For hav - ing lost but once your prime You

A while ye may, go mar - ry: For hav - ing lost but once your prime You

T while ye may, go mar - ry: For hav - ing lost but once your prime You

B while ye may, go mar - ry: For hav - ing lost but once your prime You

# Gather Ye Rose-buds

45 *ten. pp lightly and roguishly*

S may for ev - er tar - ry. Tra la la la la la la la la la la la Tra

A may for — ev - er tar - ry. Tra la la la la la la la la la Tra

T may for — ev - er tar - ry. Tra la la la la la la la la la Tra

B may for — ev - er tar - ry. Tra la la la la la la la la la Tra

49 *in a laughing manner*

S la la la la la la la la la la Tra la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la Tra

A la la la la la la la Tra la la la la la la la la la Tra

T la la la la la la Tra la la la la la la la la la Tra

B la la la la la la Tra la la la la la la la la la Tra

53 *with mock solemnity* *sost.*

S la la la la la la la You may for ev - er tar - ry.

A la la la la la la la You may for ev - er tar - ry.

T la la la la la la la You may for ev - er tar - ry.

B la la la la la la la You may for ev - er tar - ry.

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