



Fain Would I  
Change That Note

Ralph Vaughan Williams  
(1872-1958)

Fain would I change that note  
To which fond Love hath charmed me  
Long, long to sing by rote,  
Fancying that that harmed me:  
Yet when this thought doth come  
‘Love is the perfect sum  
Of all delight!’  
I have no other choice  
Either for pen or voice  
To sing or write.

O Love! they wrong thee much  
That say thy sweet is bitter,  
When thy rich fruit is such  
As nothing can be sweeter.  
Fair house of joy and bliss,  
Where truest pleasure is,  
I do adore thee:  
I know thee what thou art,  
I serve thee with my heart,  
And fall before thee.

attr. Tobias Hume (1605)

# Fain would I Change That Note

RVW

Andante tranquillo

S *mp*  
Fain would I change that note To which fond

A *mp*  
Fain would I change that note To which fond

T *mp*  
Fain would I change that note To which fond

B *mp*  
Fain would I change that note To which fond

5  
S *mf*  
Love hath charm'd me Long,

A *mf*  
Love hath charm'd me Long,

T *mf*  
Love hath charm'd me Long,

B *mf*  
Love hath charm'd me Long,



## Fain would I Change That Note

9

S long to sing by rote, Fan - cy - ing

A long to sing by rote, Fan - cy - ing

T long to sing by rote, Fan - cy - ing

B long to sing by rote, Fan - cy - ing

13

S that that harm'd me: Yet when this thought doth

A that that harm'd me: Yet when this thought doth

T that that harm'd me: Yet when this thought doth

B that that harm'd me: Yet when this thought doth

18

S come 'Love is the per - fect sum Of all de - light!'

A come 'Love is the per - fect sum Of all de - light!' I

T come 'Love is the per - fect sum Of all de - light!'

B come 'Love is the per - fect sum Of all de - light!'

# Fain would I Change That Note

22 *f*

S I have no oth - er choice \_\_\_\_\_ Ei - ther for pen or

A have no oth - er choice \_\_\_\_\_ Ei - ther for pen or voice To

T *f* \_\_\_\_\_ I have no oth - er choice, \_\_\_\_\_ no oth - er

B *f* \_\_\_\_\_ I have no oth - er choice \_\_\_\_\_ Ei - ther for

26 *dim.* *p*

S voice To sing \_\_\_\_\_ or write.

A *dim.* *p* sing \_\_\_\_\_ or write.

T *dim.* *p* choice Ei - ther for pen or voice To sing or write.

B *dim.* *p* pen \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ voice To sing or write.

30 *mp*

S O Love! they wrong thee much That say thy

A *mp* O Love! they wrong \_\_\_\_\_ thee much That \_\_\_\_\_ say \_\_\_\_\_ thy

T *mp* O Love! they wrong \_\_\_\_\_ thee much That say thy

B *mp* O Love! they wrong \_\_\_\_\_ thee much That \_\_\_\_\_ say thy

## Fair would I Change That Note

34

S sweet is bit - ter, When thy rich fruit is

A sweet is bit - ter, When thy rich fruit is

T sweet is bit - ter, When thy rich fruit is

B sweet is bit - ter, When thy rich fruit is

*mf*

39

S such As noth - ing can be sweet - er.

A such As noth - ing can be sweet - er.

T such As noth - ing can be sweet - er.

B such As noth - ing can be sweet - er.

44

S Fair house of joy and bliss, Where tru - est

A Fair house of joy and bliss, Where tru - est

T Fair house of joy and bliss, Where tru - est

B Fair house of joy and bliss, Where tru - est

*p* *cresc.*

# Fain would I Change That Note

47

S  
pleas - ure is, I do a - dore thee: I know thee

A  
pleas - ure is, I do a - dore thee: I know thee what thou

T  
pleas - ure is, I do a - dore thee: I

B  
pleas - ure is, I do a - dore thee:

51

S  
what thou art, I serve thee with my

A  
art, I know thee what thou art, I serve thee

T  
know thee what thou art, I know thee what thou

B  
I know thee what thou art, I

54

S  
heart, And fall be - fore thee.

A  
with my heart, And fall be - fore thee.

T  
art, I serve thee with my heart, And fall be - fore thee.

B  
serve thee with my heart, And fall be - fore thee.

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