

If thou must love me

for

Unaccompanied Chorus

(SATB)

by

Peter Owens

First performed 18 October 2003
By members of Collegium Musicum of London
At the wedding of Janet Owens and Paul Denne

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If thou must love me

A Sonnet for Janet and Paul

Text by Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806–1861)

Music by Peter Owens (b. 1960)

Andante piacevole: ♩ = 96

mf

Soprano
If thou must love me, — let it be for nought Ex-cept for

mf

Alto
If thou must love — me, let it be for

mf

Tenor
If thou must love me, let it be, let — it be for

mf

Bass
If thou must love me, let — it be for —

4 Rit. A tempo dim.

S
love's sake on-ly. — Do not say, 'I love her for her smile, her

A
love's sake. Do not say, 'I love her for her — smile, — her

T
love's sake. Do not say, 'I — love her — smile, her

B
love's sake. Do not say, 'I love her smile, her

8 *p*

S
look, her way Of speak-ing gent - ly,

A
look, — her speak - ing gent - ly, for a trick of

T
look, her speak - ing, — for a trick, a trick of

B
look, her speak - ing gent - ly, a trick of

12

S *mp* for a trick of thought *mf* That falls in well with

A *mp* thought, for a trick of thought *mf* That falls in well with

T *mp* thought, for a trick of thought *mf* That falls in well with mine, that

B *mp* thought, a trick of thought, *mf* That falls in well with

15

S *dim.* *mp* mine, and cer-tes brought A sense of plea-sant ease

A *dim.* *mp* mine, and cer-tes brought plea-sant ease

T *dim.* *mp* falls in well with mine, cer-tes brought A sense of plea-sant ease

B *dim.* *mp* mine, and cer-tes brought plea-sant

18

S *Intimo pp* on such a day' For these things in them - *cresc.*

A *pp* on such a day' These things

T *pp* on such a day' For these things in them - *cresc.*

B *pp* ease on such a day' These things

21

S selves, Be - lov-ed, may Be changed, or

A *cresc.* in them-selves, be-lov-ed, may be changed, or

T selves, Be - lov-ed, may Be changed, or

B *cresc.* in them-selves, be-lov-ed, may Be changed, or

24

S *mf* change for thee, and love, so wrought, *f* May be un-wrought

A *mf* change for thee, and love, so wrought, *f* May be un-wrought

T *mf* change for thee, and love, so wrought, *f* May be un-wrought

B *mf* change for thee, and love, so wrought, *f* May be un-wrought

28

p so. *mp* Pensoso (If thou must love me, let it be for

A *p* so. *mp* (If thou must love me, let it be for

T *p* so. *mp* (If thou must love me, let it

B *p* so. *mp* (If thou must love, let it

31

S nought Ex-cept for love's sake on - ly.)

A nought Ex-cept for love's sake.)

T be, let it be for love's sake, be for love's sake on - ly.)

B be for love's sake on - ly, love's sake.)

Affetuoso

34 *p*

S Nei - ther love me for Thine own dear pi-ty's wip-ing my cheeks dry, A

A *p* Nei - ther love me for Thine own dear pi - ty's wip-ing my cheeks dry, A

T *p* Nei - ther love me for Thine own dear pi - ty's wip-ing my cheeks dry, A

B *p* Nei - ther love me for Thine own dear pi - ty's wip-ing my cheeks dry, A

38

S crea-ture might for - get to weep, who bore Thy com-fort long, and

A crea - ture might for - get to weep, who bore Thy com-fort long, and

T crea - ture might for - get to weep, who bore Thy com - fort long, and

B crea - ture might for - get, who bore Thy com - - fort long, and

Raggiante

42 *mf*

S lose thy love there - by! But love me for love's sake,

A lose love there - by! But love me for love's sake,

T lose, lose thy love there - by! But love me for love's

B lose, and lose thy love there - by! But love for

45 *f* *cresc.*

S that e - ver - more Thou mayst

A - love's sake, that e - ver - more Thou mayst love

T sake, love's sake, that e - - - ver - more Thou mayst

B love's sake, that e - - - ver - more Thou mayst love

47 *ff*

S love on, through love's e - ter - ni - ty.

A on, through love's e - ter - ni - ty.

T love on, through love's e - ter - ni - ty.

B on, through love's e - ter - ni - ty.