

Robert Russell Bennett

Chamber Music



Three Chaucer Songs (1926)

Merciless Beauty

for Soprano and String Quartet

(Piano-Vocal Score prepared by Robert Russel Bennett)

Janet Schlein Somers and Paul Mack Somers, editors



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Duration: c. 7'16"

for Soprano and String Quartet
(Piano-Vocal Score Prepared by Robert Russell Bennett)

GEOFFREY CHAUCER (1343-1400)

ROBERT RUSSELL BENNETT
(1894-1981)

*Edited by Janet S. Somers
and Paul M. Somers*

1. Captivity

Semplice ♩ = 80

The musical score is set in 4/4 time with a tempo of Semplice ♩ = 80. It consists of three systems of music. The first system shows the beginning of the piece with a Soprano line and a Piano accompaniment. The second system, starting at measure 4, includes the vocal line with the lyrics "Your ey - en two wol" and the piano accompaniment. The third system, starting at measure 6, includes the vocal line with the lyrics "slee me so - den - ly, I may the beaut - tè of hem" and the piano accompaniment. The piano part features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, and includes dynamic markings such as *p* and *mezza voce*.

4

8

not sus - ten - e, So wound - eth hit through - out my hert - e ke - ne.

11

And but your word wol hel - en hast - i - ly My

14

hert - eswound - e, whyl that hit is gren - e, Your ey - en two wol slee me sod - en -

17

ly, I may the beau - tè of hem not sus - ten - e.

2. Rejection

Andante ♩ = 60

pp

Soprano

So hath your

Piano

pp *lamentoso*

una corda

4

beau-tè fro your her-te chac-ed Pit-ee, that me ne a-vail-eth not to pley - ne

7

For daun-ger halt your mer-cy in his cheyn - - e

10 *mp*

Gilt - les my deeth thus han ye me pur - chac-ed; I

p

13

sey yousooth me ded-eth not to fay - ne; So hath your beau-tè fro your her-te cha-ced

16

Pit - ee, that me ne a - vail - eth not to pley - ne

19 **Animato**
mf

Al - las! that na - ture hath in yow_ com-pas - sed So greet beau-tè, that

mf

3. Escape

Allegro deciso ♩ = 132

Soprano

Piano

f

f

Sin I fro

5

Love es - cap - ed am so fat, I

8

nev - er thenk to ben in his pri - son le - ne;

10

11

Sin I am free, I coun-te him not a be - ne.

Musical score for measures 10-11. The vocal line is in 3/4 time. The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand with eighth-note patterns and a left hand with chords and eighth-note accompaniment.

15 *Tranquillo* ♩ = 100

He may ans - were, and se - ye this or that;

Musical score for measures 15-18. The tempo is *Tranquillo* with a metronome marking of ♩ = 100. The time signature is 3/4. The piano accompaniment is marked *p* and features a complex texture with many sixteenth notes in both hands.

18

I do no fors, I spek - e right as I me - ne.

Musical score for measures 18-20. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 2/4 at measure 18. The piano accompaniment is sparse, with chords in the right hand and simple bass lines in the left hand.

21 *sempre tranquillo*

Sin I fro Love es - cap - ed am so fat, I nev - er

Musical score for measures 21-23. The tempo is *sempre tranquillo*. The piano accompaniment is marked *pp* and features long, flowing lines in both hands.