

Michael Betteridge

Except for love's sake only

Three songs of Elizabeth Barrett Browning

If thou must love me

E B Browning

Michael Betteridge

Lightly ♩ = 112

Piano introduction in 4/4 time, marked *mp*. The music consists of a single melodic line in the right hand, with a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat).

4 *mf*

Vocal entry and piano accompaniment for the first line of the song. The vocal line begins with a quarter rest, followed by the lyrics "If thou must love me, _____ let it be fornaught". The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern as the introduction.

If thou must love me, _____ let it be fornaught

8

Vocal entry and piano accompaniment for the second line of the song. The vocal line begins with a quarter rest, followed by the lyrics "Ex-cept for love's sake on - ly.". The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern as the introduction.

Ex-cept for love's sake on - ly.

11

Do not say— "I love her for her smile, her look,

This system contains measures 11, 12, and 13. It features a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in grand staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 7/8. The lyrics are: "Do not say— 'I love her for her smile, her look,"

14

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

This system contains measures 14, 15, and 16. The lyrics are: "her way Of speak - ing gent - - - ly,"

17

for a trick of thought That falls in well with mine,

This system contains measures 17, 18, and 19. The lyrics are: "for a trick of thought That falls in well with mine,"

20

and cer - tes brought

This system contains measures 20, 21, and 22. The lyrics are: "and cer - tes brought"

23

A sense of plea-sant ease _____ on such a

26 *poco rit.* *Meno Mosso* (♩ = 104)

day," For these things _____

mp

p

Ped. _____

29

in them-selves, be-lov-ed, may Be changed,

mf

sim.

32

or change for thee, and love, so wrought, May be

35

un - wrought so. Nei-ther love me for thine own dear pi - ty's

38

wip-ing my cheeks dry, A crea-ture might for-get to weep,

rit.

41

who bore thy com-fort long, and lose thy love there -

44 - *pp* *mp* 3

by! But love me for love's sake, that

48 *f*

ev - er - more. Thou may'st love on,

52 *p* *p dim.*

Through love's e - ter - ni - ty.

55 *ppp*

Through love's e - ter - ni - ty.

First time he kissed me...

E B Browning

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Simply ♩ = 74

pp - like an echo

Mm, _____ Mm, _____

7

p - warm (no cresc.)

First time he kissed me, he but on - ly kissed the

11

dim.

pp

fin - gers of this hand where with I write:

15

And ev - er since, it grew more clean and white.

19 *mf dim.* *mp* *cresc.*

Slow to world - greet ings quick with its

23 *f* *dim.* *p*

"O list," When the an-gels speak. A ring of

(Freely - rubato)

28 *poco cresc.* *mp* *pp*

Am - e - thyst I could not wear here, plain - er to my sight than the

33 **In Tempo** *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

first kiss. The sec - ond passed in height the

38

first, and sought the fore head, and half missed, Half - fall - ing on the

42

hair. "O be - yond meed!"

mf cresc. *f sempre dim.*

cresc. *f sempre dim.*

46

poco rit.

"Be - yond meed."

p *pp*

pp

Slower (rubato)

50

poco parlando

That was the chri-sm of love, which love's own crown with sanc - ti - fy - ing sweet - ness

A Tempo

53 *molto cresc.* *f* *dim.*

did pre-cede the third u-pon my lips was fold - ed

cresc. *f* *sempre dim.* *ff* *8va* *ff* *15ma* *ff* *ff* *8vb* *ff*

57

down in per - fect, pur - ple

f *mf* *mf* *mf* *8vb* *mf*

60 *p* *f* *f* *mf*

state; Since when, in - deed,

mp *p* *mf* *mp*

64

mp molto *cresc.*

I have been proud and said, "My love my

cresc.

ff

8vb ff

66

own."

ff

ff

sub. mp

ff

Freely

In Tempo

70

"My love, my own."

p

pp simply

Because thou hast the power

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Fluidly ♩ = 144 (♩=♩ throughout)

with pedal (each chord change)

6 *mp*

Be - cause thou hast the power _____ and own'st the

pp *mp* *pp*

10

grace to look through _____ and be - hind this mask of

mp *pp*

14

me, (a - gainst. which years_ have beat_ thus blench - ing - ly

17

with their rains), The dim and wea - ry wit - ness

21

of life's race, Be - cause thou has the

27

faith and love_ to see, Through that same_

32 *p*

soul's dis - tract - ing leth - ar - gy, The pat - ient an -

37 *f* *mp*

- gel _____ wait - ing for a place _____ In the new heav - ens, _____

42 *p sempre cresc.*

be - cause nor sin nor woe, Nor God's in - flic - tion, nor death's neigh - bour - hood,

47 *f* *mp*

Nor all which oth - ers view - ing, turn _____ to go, Nor all which

52 *sempre cresc.*

makes me tired of all, self-viewed, Nothing repels thee,—

56

Nothing repels thee, Nothing repels—

60

thee. Dear - est,

64

teach me so To pour out gra - ti - tude,

68 *p*

as thou dost,

71 *rit.*
pp

good!