

Gordon Thornett

# THREE FLOWER SONGS

SETTINGS OF POEMS BY ROBERT HERRICK

*for Women's Choir (SSA)  
A Cappella*

2015

Gordon Thornett

# THREE FLOWER SONGS

*for Women's Choir (SSA)*  
*A Cappella*

1. To Blossoms      2. To Daffodils      3. Gather ye Rosebuds

All three of these poems are by the seventeenth century English lyric poet, Robert Herrick (1591-1674). While flowers are referred to in each of them, their main common theme is time - in particular the briefness of our lives here on this earth, and the need to use this time well.

'Gather ye rosebuds' was in fact the first to be written, and this was in response to a request by the University of Michigan Women's Glee Club for a song with the theme of time. It was premiered in Ann Arbor, Michigan in November 2013, and a recording can be heard at <https://soundcloud.com/gtbham/gather-ye-rosebuds>.

'To Blossoms' and 'To Daffodils' were written more recently, and are awaiting a good recording. Whilst 'Gather ye rosebuds', which can be obtained separately from Swirly Music, may be performed on its own, it is suggested that the other two pieces would work best in a sequence, as here presented.

*Gordon Thornett has written a number of choral settings for Christmas and other seasons of the year. His Festive Overture, 'The Joy of Christmas' is published by Faber Music, and some of his choral pieces are published by Oxford University Press, Norsk Musikforlag and Shawnee Press. There are also about twenty pieces, mainly choral, listed under his name on [SwirlyMusic.org](http://SwirlyMusic.org), which can be ordered in printed form or as digital downloads.*

www.newcarols.com

Copyright © 2015 G.J. Thornett

Unauthorized photocopying or reproduction of any part of this material is prohibited.

Catalog No. GTT-021

# 1. To Blossoms

Robert Herrick

Gordon Thornett

**Moderato** ♩ = 96

*p* *mf*

SOPRANO 1  
So fast, \_\_\_\_\_ so fast! Fair pled-ges of a

SOPRANO 2  
So fast, \_\_\_\_\_ so fast! Fair pled-ges of a

ALTO  
So fast, \_\_\_\_\_ so fast! Fair pled-ges of a

6

fruit-ful tree, Why do ye fall so fast? Your date is not so past, Your date is not so

fruit-ful tree, Why do ye fall so fast? Your date is not so past, Your date is not so

fruit-ful tree, Why so fast? Your date is not so past, Your date is not so

12

*mp*

past. But you must stay but here a-while, To blush and gen-tly\_ smile; And go at

past. But you must stay but here a-while, To blush and gen-tly\_ smile; And go at

past. But you must stay but here a-while, To blush and gen-tly\_ smile; And go at

18

last. Why do ye fall so fast? *p*

last. Why do ye fall so fast? *p*

last. Why do ye fall so fast? *p*

23

*mf* What, were ye born to be An hour or half's de - light; And so to bid good- *f* *mp*

*mf* What, were ye born to be An hour or half's de - light;

*mf* What, were ye born to be *f*

28

What, were ye born to be *mf* An hour or half's de - light;

night? *mp* 'Twas pi-ty Na-ture brought ye forth, Mere-ly to show your *mf*

Good- night. *mp* 'Twas pi-ty Na-ture brought ye forth, Mere-ly to show your *mf*

33

Good night. *mp* 'Twas pi-ty Na-ture brought ye forth, Mere-ly to show your *p*

worth, And lose you quite. Why do ye fall so fast? *mp* *p*

worth, And lose you quite. Why do ye fall so

worth, *mp* And lose you quite.

38

*f legato*

But you are love - ly

*f legato*

fast?

But you are love - ly leaves, where

*f legato*

Why do ye fall so fast? But you are love - ly leaves, where

42

leaves where we may read how soon things have their end, though ne'er so

we may\_ read how soon things have their end, ne'er so

we may\_ read how soon things have their end, though ne'er so

46

*mf*

*mp*

brave: And af - ter they have shown their pride Like you a - while, they glide in-to the

*mf*

*mp*

brave: And af - ter they have shown their pride Like you a - while, they glide in-to the

*mf*

*mp*

brave: And af - ter they have shown their pride Like you a - while, they glide in-to the

52

grave, the grave, the grave. *pp* So fast, *p* so

grave, the grave, the grave. *pp* So fast, *p* so fast!\_

grave, they glide in - to the grave, the grave. *pp* So fast, *p* so fast!\_

59

fast! Why do ye fall so fast? *pp* Why do ye

Why do ye fall so fast?

Why do ye fall so

62

*poco rit..*  
fall so fast? *ppp* dying away fall so fast?

*pp* Why do ye fall so fast? *ppp* dying away fall so fast?

*pp* fast? Why do ye fall so fast? *ppp* dying away fall so fast?

## 2. To Daffodils

Robert Herrick

Gordon Thornett

**Allegretto** ♩ = 80

SOPRANO 1 *mf*  
Fair Daf-fo-dils, we weep to see you haste a-way so soon;— And yet the ear-ly

SOPRANO 2 *mf*  
Fair Daf-fo-dils, we weep to see you haste a-way so soon;— And yet the

ALTO *mf*  
Fair Daf-fo-dils, we weep to see you haste a-way so soon;— The

6 *f*  
ri - sing sun has not at-tain'd his noon.— Stay, stay, stay, stay,

*f* *mf*  
ri - sing sun has not at-tain'd his noon.— Stay, stay, Un

*f* *mf*  
ri - sing sun has not at-tain'd his noon.— Stay, — stay, Un - til the hast-ing

12 *mf*  
Un - til the hast ing day has run But to the e - ven- song;— And,hav-ing pray'd to-

*mf*  
til the hast ing day has run,the day has run But to the e - ven- song;— And,hav-ing pray'd to-

*mf*  
day has run,the day has run But to the e - ven- song;— And,hav-ing pray'd to-

18

geth-er, we will go with you a-long. Daf-fo-dils, fair daf-fo-dils. We

geth-er, we will go with you a-long. Daf-fo-dils, fair daf-fo-dils. We

geth-er, we will go with you a-long. Daf-fo-dils, fair daf-fo-dils. We

25

have short time to stay, as you, We have as short a spring; As quick a growth to meet de-cay, as

have short time to stay, as you, We have as short a spring; As quick to meet de-cay, as

have short time to stay, as you, We have as short a spring; To meet de-cay, as

31

you, or a-ny thing. We die as your hours do, and dry a-way, like to the sum-mer

you, or a-ny thing. We die as your hours do, and dry a-way, like to the

you, or a-ny thing. We die as your hours do, and dry a-way, like

37

*poco rall.* **Meno mosso** ♩ = 160

rain; Or as the pearls of morn-ing's dew, Ne'er to be found a-gain.

sum-mer rain; Or as the pearls of morn-ing dew Ne'er to be found a-gain.

to the sum-mer rain; Or as the pearls of morn-ing dew Ne'er to be found a-gain.



# 3. Gather ye rosebuds

Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

Gordon Thornett

**Vivo** ♩ = 100

SOPRANO 1  
While ye may, while ye may.

SOPRANO 2  
While ye may, while ye may.

ALTO  
While ye may, while ye may.

7 **mf**

Gath-er ye rose-buds while ye may, Old time is still a - fly ing: And

Soprano 2 and Alto: While ye may,

13

this same flow'r that smiles to- day To- mor- row will be dy ing.

Soprano 2 and Alto: while ye may, To- dy - ing,

19

*f*

The glo-rious lamp of heav'n, the sun, The high-er he's a-

*f*

mor-row will be dy ing. The glo-rious lamp of heav'n, the sun, The high-er he's a-

*f*

dy - ing, dy - ing, dy- ing. The glo-rious lamp of heav'n, the sun, The high-er he's a-

25

get- ting, The soon - er will his race be run, And near - er he's to

get- ting, The soon - er will his race be run, And near - er he's to

get- ting, The soon - er will his race be run, his race be run, And near - er he's to

30

**Meno mosso** ♩. = 82

*mf*

set ting. The age is best which is the first, When

*mp* *mf*

set ting. While ye may, while ye may, while ye may, while ye may, When

*mp* *mf*

set ting. While ye may, while ye may, while ye may, while ye may, When

36

rit. . . . .

youth and blood are warm-er;—

youth and blood are warm-er;— But be - ing spent, they still suc-ceed the

youth and blood are warm - er; But be-ing spent, the worse and worst\_Times still suc-ceed the

*mf espr.*

*mf espr.*

41

Poco meno mosso ♩ = 72

Tempo primo  
Vivo ♩ = 100

while ye may, while ye may, while ye may,\_\_\_\_\_ Then be not coy, but

form- er.\_\_\_\_\_ while ye may, while ye may, while ye may,\_\_\_\_\_ Then be not coy, but

form- er.\_\_\_\_\_ Then be not coy, but

*pp*

*f*

*pp*

*f*

*pp*

*f*

48

use your time, Andwhile ye may\_ go mar- ry:\_\_\_\_\_ For hav - ing lost but

use your time, Andwhile ye may\_ go mar- ry, mar ry:\_\_\_\_\_ For hav - ing lost,—

use your time, Andwhile ye may\_ go mar- ry,\_\_\_\_\_ mar-ry: For hav - ing lost,—

53

once\_ your prime \_\_\_\_\_ You may for ev - er tar-ry, \_\_\_\_\_  
 hav - ing lost your prime \_\_\_\_\_ You may for ev - er

58

hav - ing lost but once your prime \_\_\_\_\_ You may for  
 \_\_\_\_\_ for ev - er tar-ry, \_\_\_\_\_ mar-ry. \_\_\_\_\_  
 tar-ry, \_\_\_\_\_ for ev - er tar-ry, \_\_\_\_\_ tar-ry. \_\_\_\_\_  
 ev - er tar-ry, \_\_\_\_\_ for ev - er tar-ry, \_\_\_\_\_ mar-ry. \_\_\_\_\_

63

*pp* Gath - er ye rose - buds while ye may, \_\_\_\_\_ while ye  
 \_\_\_\_\_ *pp* Gath - er ye rose - buds while ye may, \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ *pp* Gath - er ye rose - buds while ye may, \_\_\_\_\_

66

*molto rit.* may, while ye may, while ye may, \_\_\_\_\_ while ye may.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ while ye may, while ye may, \_\_\_\_\_ while ye may.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ while ye may, while ye may.