

# A Birthday

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Charles West

With a light flowing touch ♩ = 70

Alto 1

Alto 2 *mf*  
My heart is like a sing-ing bird \_\_\_\_\_ whose nest is

Tenor 1 *pp*  
My heart, my heart, my heart is like a sing-ing bird, sing ing—

Tenor 2 *pp*  
My heart\_ is like a sing - ing bird sing ing—

Baritone *pp*  
My heart\_ is like a sing - ing bird sing ing—

Bass *p*  
My heart\_ is like a sing - ing bird whose nest \_\_\_\_\_ is

With a light flowing touch ♩ = 70  
My heart is like a sing-ing bird \_\_\_\_\_ whose nest is

Piano (for rehearsal only)

6

A.1 *mf* my heart is like an apple tree\_

A.2 in a wat-er'd shoot;\_

T.1 bird, a wat-er'd shoot; my heart, my heart, my

T.2 bird, is in my heart is like an

Bar. bird whose nest my heart is like an

B. in a wat-er'd shoot; my heart is like an

Pno. in a wat-er'd shoot; my heart is like an apple tree\_

*mf*, *p*, *mp*, *pp*, *p*

11

A.1

A.2 *mf*  
whose boughs are bent with thick set fruit;

T.1 *p* *pp* *p*  
heart is like an app - le tree, app le tree with thick-set fruit;

T.2 *p* *pp*  
app - le tree, app le tree with

Bar. *p* *pp* *p*  
app le tree, app le tree whose

B. *p* *p*  
app - le tree, whose boughs are bent with thick-set fruit;

Pno. *p*  
whose boughs are bent with thick - set fruit;

**A**

16

A.1 *mf* My heart is like a rain-bow shell

A.2

T.1 *p* bent with thick-set fruit; rain - bow shell,

T.2 *p* thick-set fruit; bent with fruit; rain - bow shell,

Bar. boughs are bent with fruit; My heart is like a

B. *mp* boughs are bent; My heart, my

Pno. My heart is like a rain-bow shell

21

A.1

A.2 *mf* that pad-dles in a hal-cyon sea; *mf* my

T.1 *p* hal - cyon sea; *p* my heart is

T.2 *p* hal - cyon sea; *p* my heart, my

Bar. *mp* rain - bow shell that pad-dles in a hal-cyon sea; *p* my

B. *mp* heart is like a rain-bow shell in a hal - cyon sea; my

Pno. that padd-les in a hal-cyon sea; My

*mf* *rall.* *f* *mp* *leggiero*  $\text{♩} = 70$

*pp subito*

A.1 *mf* *f* *pp subito*

is glad-der than all these be-cause, be-cause my love is come to me.

A.2 *f* *mp* *leggiero*

heart is glad-der than all these be-cause, be-cause my love is come to me.

T.1 *mf* *pp* *leggiero*

glad - der than all these be - cause, love come to me.

T.2 *mf* *pp* *leggiero*

heart is glad - der be - cause, love come to me.

Bar. *mf* *pp* *leggiero*

heart is glad - der be - cause. love come to me.

B. *mp* *mf* *p* *leggiero*

heart is glad-der than all these be - cause, love come to me.

*rall.*  $\text{♩} = 70$   
heart is glad-der than all these be cause, be-cause my love is come to me.

Pno.

**B** Più mosso ♩ = 80

*mf* *leggiero*

A.1 Sing - ing birds and app - le trees;

A.2 *mf* *leggiero* rain - bow shells and hal - cyon

T.1 *mp* *leggiero* Sing - ing birds in app - - le trees,

T.2 *mp* *leggiero* Like sing - ing birds and app - le trees; My

Bar. *mp* *leggiero* Like rain<sup>3</sup> - bow shells and hal - cyon,

B.

**B** Più mosso ♩ = 80

Sing - ing birds and app - le trees; rain - bow shells and hal - cyon

Pno. trees.

33

**rall.** *f* **rall.** *p*

A.1 my heart is glad-der than all these be - cause, be -

A.2 seas; my heart is glad-der than all these be -

T.1 Like rain-bow shells and hal - cyon seas; my heart is glad-der than all these;

T.2 heart is glad - der than all these;

Bar. hal - cyon seas; my heart is glad-der than all these;

B. *mp* My heart is glad- der than these. *mf*

seas; my heart is glad-der than all **rall.** these be - cause, **rall.** be -

Pno.



37 *pp* *f* *pp* *mf* *p* *pp* *mf* *p* *pp* *mf*

A.1 cause my love is come to me. Raise me a dais of silk and down;

A.2 cause my love is come to me. Raise me a dais of silk and

T.1 love come to me. Raise me a dais of silk and down,

T.2 love come to me.

Bar. love come to me.

B. Raise me a dais of silk and down,

cause my love is come to me. Raise me a dais of silk and down;

Pno.

43

A.1 *mp* hang it with pur - - ple

A.2 *f* down; Hang it with vair and pur - - ple

T.1 *3* raise me a dais of silk and down; pur - - -

T.2 *mp* Hang it with vair and

Bar. *mp* Vair and pur - ple,

B. silk and down; hang it with vair and

Pno. hang it with vair and purp - - le

A.1  
dyes; carve it in doves and po - me -

A.2  
dyes; carve it in doves and

T.1  
ple dyes; doves and po - me - gra -

T.2  
pur - ple dyes; carve it in doves and

Bar.  
vair and pur - ple dyes; carve it in

B.  
pur - ple, pur - ple dyes; carve it in doves and  
dyes; carve it in doves and po - me -

Pno.

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a vocal ensemble and piano. It consists of seven staves. The vocal parts are A.1 (Soprano), A.2 (Alto), T.1 (Tenor 1), T.2 (Tenor 2), Baritone (Bar.), and Bass (B.). The piano part (Pno.) is at the bottom. The score is in a key with one flat (B-flat major or D minor) and a 4/4 time signature. A large, sweeping melisma line starts at the beginning of the piece and continues through the vocal parts, ending at the end of the page. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The lyrics are: 'dyes; carve it in doves and po - me -' for A.1; 'dyes; carve it in doves and' for A.2; 'ple dyes; doves and po - me - gra -' for T.1; 'pur - ple dyes; carve it in doves and' for T.2; 'vair and pur - ple dyes; carve it in' for Bar.; 'pur - ple, pur - ple dyes; carve it in doves and' for B.; and 'dyes; carve it in doves and po - me -' for the piano part.

50

*f* *mf* *f*

A.1  
gra- nates, and pea - cocks with a hun-dred eyes;

A.2  
po - me-gra - nates, and pea - cocks with a hun-dred eyes,

T.1  
nates, pea - cocks\_ with hun - dred eyes;

T.2  
po - me - gra - nates, one hun - dred.

Bar.  
doves and po-me- gra - nates, pea - cocks with one hun-dred eyes;

B.  
po - me-gra - nates, a hun - dred eyes;

Pno.  
gran- ates, and pea - cocks with a hund-red eyes;

**D**

55

A.1 *f* *mf*  
 work it in gold and sil ver grapes, in

A.2 *f* *mf*  
 with a hun-dred eyes; work it, work it in gold and in sil - ver grapes,

T.1

T.2 *mf*  
 eyes; work it in gold and sil - ver grapes, in

Bar. *mf*  
 work it in gold and sil - ver grapes, in

B. *mf*  
 work in gold and sil - ver grapes, in

**D**  
 Work it in gold and sil ver grapes, in

Pno.

60

A.1  
leaves and sil - ver fleurs-de - lys;

A.2  
*mp* and fleurs - de - lys; *mf* be -

T.1  
*mp* Sil - ver fleurs - de - lys; the

T.2  
*mp* leaves and fleurs - de - lys; be -

Bar.  
*mp* sil - ver grapes, in leaves and sil - ver fleurs-de - lys; be -

B.  
*mp* leaves and fleurs - de - lys, fleurs-de - lys; be -

Pno.  
leaves and sil - ver fleurs-de - lys; be -

64 *mf* *f* *rall.* *mp* *leggiere* *pp subito*  $\text{♩} = 70$

A.1 the birth-day of my life is come, be-cause my love is come to me.\_\_\_\_\_

A.2 cause the birth-day of my life is come, be-cause my love is come to me.\_\_\_\_\_

T.1 birth - day of my life is come, love come to me.\_\_\_\_\_

T.2 cause the birth - day is come, love come to me.\_\_\_\_\_

Bar. cause the birth - day is come, love come to me.\_\_\_\_\_

B. *mp* *mf* *p leggiere* cause the birth-day of my life is come, love come to me.\_\_\_\_\_

cause the birth-day of my life is come, be-cause my love is come to me. *rall.*  $\text{♩} = 70$

Pno.

**E** Più mosso ♩ = 80

*mf* *leggiero*

A.1 Silk and down and pur - ple dyes,

A.2 *mf* *legato* Pea - cocks with a hun - dred

T.1 *mp* *leggiero* Silk and down and pur - - ple dyes,

T.2 *mp* *leggiero* Raise silk and down and pur - ple dyes, my

Bar. *mp* Carve pea - cocks with a hun - dred,

B.

**E** Più mosso ♩ = 80

Silk and down and pur - ple dyes, pea - cocks with a hun - dred

Pno. trees.



72

*rall.* . . . . . *f*

A.1 my heart is glad-der than all these be - cause,

A.2 eyes; my heart is glad-der than all these

T.1 like pea-cocks with a hun - dred eyes; glad - der than all these be

T.2 heart is glad - der than all these

Bar. hun - dred eyes; glad - der than all these

B. My heart is glad- der than these

*rall.* . . . . . my heart is glad-der than all these be - cause, be -

Pno.

76 **A tempo** ♩ = 70

A.1 *mf*  
be - cause \_\_\_\_\_ my

A.2 *mf*  
be - cause \_\_\_\_\_ my

T.1  
cause \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_ love \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_

T.2 *f*  
my love is \_\_\_\_\_

Bar. *f*  
my love is \_\_\_\_\_

B. *f*  
love is \_\_\_\_\_

**A tempo** ♩ = 70  
Pno. be - cause \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_ love \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ love \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_

79 *rall.*  
*mp* *pp*

A.1  
love is come to me!\_\_\_\_\_

A.2  
love is come to me!\_\_\_\_\_

T.1  
*mp* *p*  
come to me!\_\_\_\_\_

T.2  
*mp* *p*  
come my love is come to me!\_\_\_\_\_

Bar.  
*mp* *p*  
come to me!\_\_\_\_\_

B.  
*mp* *p*  
come to me!\_\_\_\_\_

Pno.  
love is *rall.* me! me!\_\_\_\_\_  
come my love is come to me!\_\_\_\_\_

Duration 3'50"