

Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day? (Shakespeare's Sonnet 18)

(Song #1 from "Three Shakespeare Songs for Choir a Cappella")

for SATB choir a cappella
Music by Peter Bloesch

Duration: ca. 2:15

Words: William Shakespeare, Sonnet 18, slightly altered by Peter Bloesch
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Smoothly and caressingly (♩ = ca. 66)
mp molto cantabile

SOPRANO
Shall I com-pare thee to a sum-mer's day? Thou art more

ALTO
p
Ah, ah, more

TENOR
p
Ah, ah, more

BASS
p
Ah, ah, more

PIANO
(for rehearsal only)
p *mp*

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4 *poco* *mp*

S. love - ly and more tem - per - ate. Rough winds do shake the dar - ling

A. *mp* *mp gently*

A. love - ly and more tem - per - ate. Rough winds do shake the

T. *mp* *mp gently*

T. love - ly and more tem - per - ate. Rough winds do shake the

B. *mp*

B. ah, ah

PNO. *mp*

The first system of the musical score consists of five staves. The vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and the piano accompaniment (PNO.) are all in 3/4 time. The key signature has four sharps (F#, C#, G#, D#). The Soprano part begins with a *poco* dynamic and a *mp* dynamic. The Alto and Tenor parts have *mp* and *mp gently* dynamics. The Bass part has a *mp* dynamic. The piano accompaniment has a *mp* dynamic. There are two 'ah' vocalizations in the Bass part. The system ends with a double bar line.

7 *poco* [*"lease" = allotted time*] *poco*

S. buds of May, And sum - mer's lease hath all too short a date.

A. *poco* *poco*

A. buds of May, And sum - mer, too short a date. Ah,

T. *poco* *poco*

T. buds of May, And sum - mer, too short a date.

B. *mp gently* *poco*

B. buds of May, And sum - mer too short Ah,

PNO. *pp*

The second system of the musical score consists of five staves. The vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and the piano accompaniment (PNO.) are all in 3/4 time. The key signature has four sharps (F#, C#, G#, D#). The Soprano part begins with a *poco* dynamic and a *poco* dynamic. The Alto and Tenor parts have *poco* and *poco* dynamics. The Bass part has *mp gently* and *poco* dynamics. The piano accompaniment has a *pp* dynamic. There are two 'Ah' vocalizations in the Alto and Bass parts. A bracket above the Soprano part indicates that *"lease" = allotted time*. The system ends with a double bar line.

10 *p* ["eye of heaven" = the sun]

S. *p* Some - times too hot the eye of heav - en shines, And of - ten

A. *pp* Unis. Div. Ah, ah Ah

T. *p* *mp* Some-times the eye of heav - en shines, Ah

B. ah ah

PNO. *p* *cresc.*

13 *mp*

S. *mp* is his gold com - plex - ion dimm'd, And ev' - ry fair from

A. *p* *mp* *p* is dimm'd, Ev' - ry

T. *p* *mp* Ev' - - ry

B. *p* *mp* *p* is dimm'd, Ev' - - ry

PNO. *mp* *mp*

["fair from fair" = beautiful thing from beauty]

16

S. *pp* fair some - times de - clines, *Rit.* *pp* *p* Mm, But

A. *pp* fair some - times de - clines, *Rit.* *pp* *p* Mm, But

T. *pp* fair. *mp* By chance, or na - ture's *p* chang - ing course un - trimm'd. But *["untrimmed" = stripped of beauty]*

B. *pp* fair. *p* Chance or *mp* chang - ing course un - trimm'd. But *p*

PNO. *mp* *Rit.* *pp* *p*

19

S. *mp* thy e - ter - nal sum - mer shall not fade, *mf*

A. *mp* thy e - ter - nal sum - mer shall not fade, *mf*

T. *mp* thy e - ter - nal sum - mer shall not fade, *mf* shall not *p*

B. *mp* thy e - ter - nal sum - mer shall not fade, *mf* shall not *p*

PNO. *mp* *mf* *p*

22 **Ten.** **A tempo** **mp** **Slight accel.** *very gracefully* ["that fair thou ow'st" = that beauty you own]

S. Nor lose pos - ses - sion of that fair thou

A. Nor lose _____ that _____ fair thou

T. fade, _____ Nor lose that _____ fair thou

B. fade, _____ Nor lose _____ that fair thou

PNO. **mp**

25 **A bit faster** (♩ = ca. 72)

S. ow'st,

A. ow'st, _____

T. **p** ow'st, of that fair thou ow'st, **mp** Nor

B. **p** ow'st, **p** of that fair thou ow'st, **mp** Nor

PNO. **p** **mp**

25 **A bit faster** (♩ = ca. 72)

PNO. **p** **mp**