

David Van Vactor

Nydia

Song for Soprano & Piano

Text: *The Blind Flower Girl's Song*

From: *The Last Days of Pompeii*

By: Sir Edward G. D. Bulwer-Lytton

Roger Rhodes Music, Ltd.

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Nydia

Andante, quasi allegretto [♩ ca. 58]

Voice

Piano

p

Buy my flowers, O buy, I pray! The

5

blind girl comes from a - far; _____ If the earth be as fair as I hear__ them say, These

9

flow-ers herchild - ren are! _____ Do they her beau - ty

13

keep? _____ They are fresh from her lap, I know; _____ For I caught them fast a -

R.H.

17

sleep In her arms an hour a - go. an hour a -

21

go With the air which is her breath Her

25

soft and del - i-cate breath O - ver o - ver them mur - mur - ing mur - mur - ing o - ver them

29

mur - mur - ing mur - mur - ing low! On their lips her

33

sweet— kiss lin-gers yet, And their cheeks with her ten - der tears are wet. For she weeps -

37

- that gen - tle mo-ther weeps - (As morn and night her watch she keeps, With a

cresc.

41

yearn - ing heart and a pas - sion-ate care) To see the young things grow— so fair;

dim. *ritard*

45

meno mosso

p

— She weeps, for love— she weeps; — And the dews are the tears she

p

49

weeps_____ From the well of a mo - ther's love!

cresc.

53

Ye have a world of light,_____ Where love in the lov - ed re -

f *p*

57

joi - ces;_ But the blind_ girl's home is the House_ of Night, And its be - ings are emp - ty

61

Un poco piu mosso

voi - ces._ As one in the realm be - low, I stand by the streams of woe!_ I

cresc.

65

(a piacere)

Accelerando -----

hear the vain sha - dows glide, I feel their soft breath at my side. And I

p *simile*

69

poco ----- **a** ----- **poco** -----

thirst the loved forms to see, And I stretch my fond arms a - round, And I catch but a shape - less

agitato

73

Tranquillo subito

Tempo I

sound, For the liv - ing are ghosts to me. Come buy, come buy? O

colla voce *p*

77

hark!how the sweet things sigh From the grasp of the blind_ girl free us We

p

81

yearn for the eyes_ that see_____ us We are for night_ too gay,_____ In your

mf

85

calando - - - - -

eyes we be-hold the day_____ In your eyes we be-hold the day_____

pp

89

a tempo

be - hold_ the day_____ O buy my flowers! O buy_____

dim.

93

dim. *Quasi niente*

pp *lunga*

Red.

I.

Buy my flowers --- O buy --- I pray!
 The blind girls comes from afar;
 If the earth be as fair as I hear them say,
 These flowers her children are!
 Do they her beauty keep?
 They are fresh from her lap, I know;
 For I caught them fast asleep
 In her arms an hour ago.
 With the air which is her breath ---
 Her soft and delicate breath ---
 Over them murmuring low!

On their lips her sweet kiss lingers yet,
 And their cheeks with her tender tears are wet.
 For she weeps --- that gentle mother weeps ---
 (As morn and night her watch she keeps,
 With a yearning heart and a passionate care)
 To see the young things grow so fair;
 She weeps --- for love she weeps;
 And the dews are the tears she weeps
 From the well of a mother's love!

II.

Ye have a world of light,
 Where love in the loved rejoices;
 But the blind girl's home is the House of Night,
 And its beings are empty voices.

As one in the realm below,
 I stand by the streams of woe!
 I hear the vain shadows glide,
 I feel their soft breath at my side.
 And I thirst the loved forms to see,
 And I stretch my fond arms around,
 And I catch but a shapeless sound,
 For the living are ghosts to me.

Come buy --- come buy? ---
 (Hark! How the sweet things sigh
 [For they have a voice like ours),
 The breath of the blind girls closes
 The leaves of the saddening roses ---
 'We are tender, we sons of light,
 We shrink from this child of night;]
 From the grasp of the blind girl free us ---
 We yearn for the eyes that see us ---
 We are for night too gay,
 In your eyes we behold the day ---
 O buy --- O buy the flowers!'