

Love Me Little / Ewer / SSA with Kbd

Love Me Little

RICHARD EWER

SSA Voices with Keyboard

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About the Composer

Richard Ewer holds a Bachelor's degree in Choral and Instrumental Music Education from Utah State University and a Master's in Music Composition from the University of Oregon. A former music educator, Richard taught and directed high school choirs for several years in Eugene, Oregon, before moving to the Phoenix, Arizona area. He has composed and arranged numerous pieces for many types of performers and ensembles and his piece *Windflowers* was published previously by Carl Fischer Music. As a singer, classical guitarist, and pianist, Richard has had an active performing career and especially enjoys performing musical theater. He and his wife Cassandra, a professional singer, have three children and live in Gilbert, AZ.

Performance Notes

Love Me Little has been a popular poem for over 500 years, but the language of the 16th century was often more indirect than we are used to five centuries later. In this poem, the speaker urges her suitor to be patient and not rush the romance too fast—that to “love me (a) little” now, will improve the chance that their love will last long, “while life endures.”

Also, in the 16th century the word “burden” had two additional meanings to the ones we use today, those being: 1) a main idea or message, and 2) the refrain or chorus of a song. Both of these meanings are expressed in this poem's use of the word. Thus, the chorus reiterates that the point of the poem is “love me a little now, and our love will last long.”

Love Me Little

for SSA Voices with Keyboard

Text from an Anonymous
Sixteenth-century Poem

RICHARD EWER

Flowing freely ♩ = 75

Keyboard *mp*

5 Soprano I *mp*

Soprano II *mp*

Alto *mp*

Love me lit - tle,
Love me lit - tle,
Love me lit - tle,

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9

love me long, Is the bur - den of my song.— Love that is too

love me long, Is the bur - den of my song.— Love that is too

love me long, Is the bur - den of my song.— Love that is too

13

fierce and strong Burn - eth soon to waste:

fierce and strong Burn - eth soon to waste:

fierce and strong — Burn - eth soon to waste:

16

Still, I would not have thee cold, Not too back - ward, nor too bold;—

Still, I would not have thee cold, Not too back - ward, nor too bold;—

Still, I would not _____ have thee cold, Not too backward, _____ nor too bold;

20

Love that last-eth till 'tis old Fad - eth not in haste. Love me lit-tle,

Love that last-eth till 'tis old Fad - eth not in haste. Love me lit-tle,

Love that last-eth till 'tis old _____ Fad - eth not in haste. Love me lit-tle,

25

poco rit. *a tempo*

love me long, Is the bur-den of my song.

love me long, Is the bur-den of my song.

love me long, Is the bur-den of my song.

poco rit. *a tempo*

p *mp*

29

mf

Say thou lov'st me while thou live; I to thee my love will give,

Say thou lov'st me while thou live; I to thee my love will give,

Say thou lov'st me while thou live; I to thee my love will give,

mf

mf

mf

33

Ne - ver dream - ing to de - ceive While that life en -

Ne - ver dream - ing to de - ceive While that life en -

Ne - ver dream - ing to de - ceive While that life en -

36

dures: Nay, and af - ter death, in sooth, I to thee will

dures: Ah I to thee will

dures: Ah I will

40

keep my truth, As now, when in my May of youth; This my love as -

keep my truth, As now, when in my May of youth; This my love as -

keep my truth, As now, when in my May of youth; This my love as -

The musical score for measures 40-43 consists of three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in a soprano, alto, and tenor range. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and a more active treble line with chords and melodic fragments.

44

sures. Love me lit-tle, love me long, Is the bur-den

sures. Love me lit-tle, love me long, Is the bur-den

sures. Love me lit-tle, love me long, Is the bur-den

The musical score for measures 44-47 continues with three vocal staves and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are repeated across the three vocal parts. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and a moving bass line.

48 *poco rit.* *mp* *a tempo* *mf*

of my song. Win - ter's cold, or
 of my song. Win - ter's cold, or
 of my song. Win - ter's cold,

poco rit. *mp* *a tempo* *mf*

51

sum - mer's heat, Au - tumn's tem - pests, on it beat,
 sum-mer's, sum-mer's heat, Au - tumn's tem - pests, on it, on it beat,
 sum - mer's heat, Au - tumn's tem - pests, on it beat,

54

It can never know de - feat, Ne-ver can re - bel:

It can ne-ver, ne-ver know de - feat, Ne-ver can re - bel:

It can ne - ver, ne - ver know de-feat, Ne-ver can re - bel:

58

Such the love that I would gain, Such the love, I tell thee plain,

Such the love that I would gain, Such the love, I tell thee plain,

Such the love that I would gain, Such the love, I tell thee plain,

62 *rit.*

Thou must give, or woo in vain, woo in vain:

Thou must give, or woo in, woo in vain:

Thou must give, or woo in vain, woo in vain:

pp

pp

pp

65 **Slower**

p So to thee, fare - well! *mp* Love me lit - tle, love me

p So to thee, fare - well! *mp* Love me lit - tle,

p So to thee, fare - well! *mp* Love me lit - tle,

Slower

p

mp

68 *mf* *mp*

long, Is the bur - den of my song.

mf *mp*

love me long, Is the bur - den of my song.

mf *mp*

love me long, Is the bur - den of my song.

72 *rit.* *pp*

Love me lit - tle, love me long.

pp

Love me lit - tle, love me long.

pp

Love me lit - tle, love me long.

rit. *p*



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