

AS THE MIRK NIGHT



**Four Settings of Robert Burns for Mixed
Choir (SATB)**

Phillip A. Cooke

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(2021)

PERFORMANCE NOTES

- Breath marks are suggestions only
- The songs can be performed individually or as a set, but if they are as a set they should be in the order as presented in the score
- The *mmm* sound is a resonant humming sound, perhaps with a slightly open mouth if necessary, to create a fuller sound.
- The *Ab* sound is a generic 'A' sound such as one from the southern counties of England may say when pronouncing the word 'after'
- The *Ooo* sound could be a more exaggerated version of that sound found in the word 'smooth'

Green Grow the Rashers, O! was first performed by the University of Aberdeen Chamber Choir conducted by Paul Mealor at King's College Chapel, Aberdeen, UK on the 26 May 2017

Duration: c.14 minutes

Cover photograph: Max Hermans, unsplash.com

For more information: www.phillipcooke.com

PROGRAMME NOTE

As The Mirk Night is a set of four relatively simple arrangements of these beautiful Burns songs for choir. I have tried to keep as close to the originals as possible with the odd change of texture and harmony here and there adding a twenty-first century gloss to the piece. They form part of a wider concern in my work that involves engaging with Scottish culture and history.

PAC

AS THE MIRK NIGHT

Four Settings of Robert Burns for Mixed Choir (SATB)

ROBERT BURNS (1759-1796)

I. Green Grow The Rashes, O

Arr. PHILLIP A. COOKE (2020-21)

Adagio non troppo (♩ = c.52)

pp sempre
**mmm*

pp sempre
**mmm*

pp sempre
**mmm*

Solo baritone *mp espress.*
There's nought but care on ev - 'ry han', In ev - 'ry hour that pas - ses, O: what

pp sempre
**mmm*

Piano accompaniment

* See preface for more information.

mmm *p* Green...

mmm *p* Green...

mmm *p* Green...

mf *p* *mf*
sig - ni - fies the life o' man, An' 'twere na for the las - ses, O, Green grow the rash - es, O!

mmm *p* Green...

Piano accompaniment

7 *mp* 3

Green... *Ah *mmm*

Green... *Ah *mmm*

Green... *Ah *mmm*

f non troppo *p*

— Green grow the rash-es, O! The sweet-est hours that e'er I spend, Are spent am-ang the las-ses, O!

Green... *Ah *mmm*

* See preface for more information.



10 *pp* *mp espress.*

— The world-ly race may rich-es chase, An' rich-es still may fly them, O: And

pp *mp espress.*

— The world-ly race may rich-es chase, An' rich-es still may fly them, O: And

pp *mp espress.*

— The world-ly race may rich-es chase, An' rich-es still may fly them, O: And

mp espress.

— The world-ly race may rich-es chase, An' rich-es still may fly them, O: And

pp *mp espress.*

— The world-ly race may rich-es chase, An' rich-es still may fly them, O: And

13 *mf* *p* *mf*

though at last they catch them fast, Their hearts can ne'er en-joy them, O. Green grow the rash-es, O!_____

mf *p* *mp*

though at last they catch them fast, Their hearts can ne'er en-joy them, O. Green...

mf *p* *mp*

though at last they catch them fast, Their hearts can ne'er en-joy them, O. Green..._____

mf *p* *mp*

though at last they catch them fast, Their hearts can ne'er en-joy them, O. Green...

16 *f* *p*

— Green grow the rash-es, O! The sweet-est hours that e'er I spend, Are spent am-ang the las-ses, O!_____

f *p*

Green... O! The sweet-est hours that e'er I spend, Are spent am-ang the las-ses, O!_____

f *p*

Green..._____ O! The sweet-est hours that e'er I spend, Are spent am-ang the las-ses, O!_____

f *p*

Green... O! The sweet-est hours that e'er I spend, Are spent am-ang the las-ses, O!_____

19 *p espress.*

Gi'e me a can - ny hour at e'en, My arms a - bout my dear - ie, O; An'

p espress.

Gi'e me a can - ny hour at e'en, My arms a - bout my dear - ie, O; An'



22 *mp* *p* *mf*

world - ly cares, and world - ly men May a' gae tap - sal - tee - rie, O. Green...

mp *p* *mf*

world - ly cares, and world - ly men May a' gae tap - sal - tee - rie, O. Green..._____

mf

Green...

mf

Green grow the rash - es, O!_____

f *p*

Green... O! The sweet - est hours that e'er I spend, Are spent am-ang the las - ses, O!___

f *p*

Green... O! The sweet - est hours that e'er I spend, Are spent am-ang the las - ses, O!___

f *p*

Green... O! The sweet - est hours that e'er I spend, Are spent am-ang the las - ses, O!___

f *p*

— Green grow the rash - es, O! The sweet - est hours that e'er I spend, Are spent am-ang the las - ses, O!___



28 *pp sempre*

pp sempre

pp sempre

Solo baritone *mp espress.*

For — you sae douce, wha sneer at this, Ye're nought but sense - less as - ses, O; The

pp sempre

31

mmm *(non cresc.)* *(pp)* Green...

mmm *(non cresc.)* *(pp)* Green...

mmm *(non cresc.)* *(pp)* Green...

mf *p*
 wis - est man the world e'er saw, He dear - ly loved the las - ses, O. Green grow the rash - es, O!

mmm *(non cresc.)* *(pp)* Green...



34

Green... Ah... *mmm*

Green... Ah... *mmm*

Green... Ah... *mmm*

— Green grow the rash - es, O! The sweet - est hours that e'er I spend, Are spent am - ang the las - ses, O!

Green... Ah... *mmm*

8 rit. A tempo

37 *ppp* *mf espress.*

Auld Na - ture swears, the love - ly dears Her

ppp *mf espress.*

Auld Na - ture swears, the love - ly dears Her

ppp *mf espress.*

Auld Na - ture swears, the love - ly dears Her

mf espress.

the las - ses, O! Auld Na - ture swears, the love - ly dears Her

ppp *mf espress.*

Auld Na - ture swears, the love - ly dears Her

40 *f* *p*

nob - lest work she clas - ses, O; Her pren - tice han' she tried on man, And then she made the las - ses, O.

f *p*

nob - lest work she clas - ses, O; Her pren - tice han' she tried on man, And then she made the las - ses, O.

f *p*

nob - lest work she clas - ses, O; Her pren - tice han' she tried on man, And then she made the las - ses, O.

f *p*

nob - lest work she clas - ses, O; Her pren - tice han' she tried on man, And then she made the las - ses, O.

43 *mf* _____ *f*

Green grow the rash- es, O! Green grow the rash- es, O! The sweet - est hours that e'er I spend, Are

Green grow the rash- es, O! Green grow the rash- es, O! The sweet - est hours that e'er I spend, Are

Green grow the rash- es, O! Green grow the rash- es, O! The sweet - est hours that e'er I spend, Are

Green grow the rash- es, O! Green grow the rash- es, O! The sweet - est hours that e'er I spend, Are



rit.

46 *ff* *appass.* _____ *pp*

spent am-ang, are spent am-ang, are spent am-ang, are spent am-ang the las - ses, the las - ses,

spent am-ang, are spent am-ang, are spent am-ang, are spent am-ang the las - ses, the las - ses,

spent am-ang, are spent am-ang, are spent am-ang, are spent am-ang the las - ses, the las - ses,

spent am-ang, are spent am-ang, are spent am-ang, are spent am-ang the las - ses, the las - ses,

49

O!
O!
O!
O!

Tempore edulorem

Portinscale, Oldmeldrum
July 2016; revised Oldmeldrum
April 2020

II. Ca' The Yowes to the Knowes

Adagio liberamente (♩=c.52)

+ *p espress.*

Ca' the yowes to the knowes, Ca' them whaur the heath - er grows,

pp sempre

**mmm* *mmm*

pp sempre

**mmm* *mmm*

pp sempre

**mmm* *mmm*

pp sempre

**mmm* *mmm*

+ Could be solo if desired
* See preface for more information.



poco rit.

5

Ca' them whaur the bur - nie rows, My bon - nie dear - ie.

mmm *mmm*

mmm *mmm*

mmm *mmm*

mmm *mmm*

mmm *mmm*

(tutti)
10 *p* *espress.* *mf*

Hark, the ma - vis ev' - ning sang, Sound - in' Clu - den's woods a - mang; Then a fauld - in'

p *espress.* *mf*

Hark, the ma - vis ev' - ning sang, Sound - in' Clu - den's woods a - mang; Then a fauld - in'

p *espress.* *mf*

Hark, the ma - vis ev' - ning sang, Sound - in' Clu - den's woods a - mang; Then a fauld - in'

p *espress.* *mf*

Hark, the ma - vis ev' - ning sang, Sound - in' Clu - den's woods a - mang; Then a fauld - in'



poco rit. A tempo

15 *pp* *mf* *espress.*

let us gang, My bon - nie dear - ie. Ca' the yowes to the

pp *mf* *espress.*

let us gang, My bon - nie dear - ie. Ca' the yowes to the knowes,

pp *mf* *espress.*

let us gang, My bon - nie dear - ie. Ca' the yowes to the

pp *mf* *espress.*

let us gang, My bon - nie dear - ie. Ca' the yowes to the knowes,

20 *f non troppo*

knowes, whaur the heath - er grows, Ca' them whaur the bur - nie rows,

f non troppo

Ca' them whaur the heath - er grows, Ca' them whaur the bur - nie rows,

f non troppo

knowes, whaur the heath - er grows, Ca' them whaur the bur - nie rows,

f non troppo

Ca' them whaur the heath - er grows, Ca' them whaur the bur - nie rows,



poco rit. *A tempo*

24 *pp* *p espress.*

My bon - nie dear - ie. We'll gae down by Clu - den side,

pp *p espress.*

My bon - nie dear - ie. We'll gae down by Clu - den side,

pp

My bon - nie dear - ie.

pp

My bon - nie dear - ie.

29

mf

Through the ha - zels spread - ing wide, O'er the waves that swee - tly glide

mf

Through the ha - zels spread - ing wide, O'er the waves that swee - tly glide



poco rit. A tempo

33

pp *mf espress.*

To the moon sae clear - ly. Ca' the yowes to the knowes, them whaur the

pp *mf espress.*

To the moon sae clear - ly. Ca' the yowes to the knowes, them whaur the

mf espress.

Ca' the yowes to the knowes, Ca' them whaur the

mf espress.

Ca' the yowes to the knowes, Ca' them whaur the

38 *f non troppo* *pp*

heath - er grows, Ca' them whaur the bur - nie rows, My bon - nie dear - ie.

heath - er grows, Ca' them whaur the bur - nie rows, My bon - nie dear - ie.

heath - er grows, Ca' them whaur the bur - nie rows, My bon - nie dear - ie.

heath - er grows, Ca' them whaur the bur - nie rows, My bon - nie dear - ie.



poco meno mosso (♩ = c.60)

43 *pp sempre* *pp sempre* *pp sempre* *p espress.*

mmm *mmm* *mmm*

Solo baritone

Fair and love - ly as thou art, Thou hast stown my ve - ry heart;

48

mmm

mmm

mmm

(solo) *pp*

I can die, but can - na part, My bon - nie dear - ie. My bon - nie

(altri) *pp*

(*pp*) My bon - nie



53

pp

dear - ie.

dear - ie.

Tempore dolore

III. O May, Thy Morn Was Ne'er Sae Sweet

Moderato (♩ = c.72)

pp sempre
*mmm

pp sempre
*mmm

pp sempre
*mmm

Solo baritone
p espress.

O May, thy morn was ne'er sae sweet as the mirk night_ o' De - cem - ber! For

pp sempre
*mmm

* See preface for more information.



poco rit. A tempo

5

pp espress.
mmm

pp espress.
mmm

pp espress.
mmm

pp espress.
pp

spark - ling was the ro - sy wine, And_ pri - vate_ was the_ cham - ber: O

pp espress.
mmm

pp espress.
O

9

May, thy morn was ne'er sae sweet as the mirk night o' De - cem - ber! For

May, thy morn was ne'er sae sweet as the mirk night o' De - cem - ber! For

May, thy morn was ne'er sae sweet as the mirk night o' De - cem - ber! For

(tutti)

May, thy morn was ne'er sae sweet as the mirk night o' De - cem - ber! For

poco rit.

13

spark - ling was the ro - sy wine, And pri - vate was the cham - ber: And *pp* , *mf* sub.

spark - ling was the ro - sy wine, And pri - vate was the cham - ber: And *pp* , *mf* sub.

spark - ling was the ro - sy wine, And pri - vate was the cham - ber: And *pp* , *mf* sub.

spark - ling was the ro - sy wine, And pri - vate was the cham - ber: And *pp* , *mf* sub.

A tempo

17

dear was she I dare - na name, But I will ay re - mem - ber: And

dear was she I dare - na name, But I will ay re - mem - ber: And

dear was she I dare - na name, But I will ay re - mem - ber: And

dear was she I dare - na name, But I will ay re - mem - ber: And

rit.

21

dear was she I dare - na name: But I will ay re - mem - ber.

dear was she I dare - na name: But I will ay re - mem - ber.

dear was she I dare - na name: But I will ay re - mem - ber.

dear was she I dare - na name: But I will ay re - mem - ber. And

dear was she I dare - na name: But I will ay re - mem - ber.

Solo baritone
p espress.

Soprano I

25 *pp sempre*

*Ooo

Soprano II

pp sempre

*Ooo

Alto

pp sempre

*Ooo

Solo baritone

here's tae them that, like our - sel Can__ push a - bout the__ jor - um; And



Ooo

Ooo

Ooo

here's tae them that wish us weel, May__ a' that's_ guid watch_ o'er them.. May__

33 *mf sub.*
Ooo And here's tae them we daur - na tell, The
mf sub.
Ooo And here's tae them we daur - na tell, The
mf sub.
 And here's tae them we daur - na tell, The
mf sub.
 And here's tae them we daur - na tell, The
pp a' that's_ guid watch. o'er them. *mf sub.*
 And here's tae them we daur - na tell, The
mf sub.
 And here's tae them we daur - na tell, The



(tutti) 37 *f* *f* *dim.*
 dear - est o' the quor - um: And here's_ tae them we daur - na tell, The
f *f* *dim.*
 dear - est o' the quor - um: And here's tae them we daur - na tell, The
f *f* *dim.*
 dear - est o' the quor - rum: And here's tae them we daur - na tell, The
 (tutti) *f* *f* *dim.*
 dear - est o' the quor - num: And here's tae them we daur - na tell, The

rit.

41

pp *p* *pp*

dear - est o' the quor - um! The dear - est o' the quor - um!

pp *p* *pp*

dear - est o' the quor - um! The dear - est o' the quor - um!

pp *p* *pp*

dear - est of the quor - um! The dear - est of the quor - um!

pp *p* *pp*

dear - est o' the quor - um! The dear - est o' the quor - um!

Tempo dolorem

IV. Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Doon

Andante flessibile (♩=c.42)

+ *mp* *espress.*

Ye banks and braes o' bon - nie Doon, How can ye bloom sae fresh and fair? How

p *sempre*

*Ah Ah

p *sempre*

*Ah Ah

p *sempre*

*Ah Ah

+ Could be solo if desired

* See preface for more information.



poco rit. A tempo

5
can ye chant ye lit - tle bird, And I sae wea - ry fu' o' care? Ye'll

Ah Ah

Ah Ah

Ah Ah

9 *p sub.* *mf*
 break my heart, ye warb - ling bird That war - bles on the flow' - ry thorn, Ye

pp sub. *mp*
 *Ooo Ah

pp sub. *mp*
 *Ooo Ah

pp sub. *mp*
 *Ooo Ah

* See preface for more information.



13 *mp sim.* *pp* (tutti) *mf*
 mind me o' de - part - ed joys, De - part - ed nev - er to re - turn. Oft

p sim. *pp* *mp*
 Ah Ah Oft

p sim. *pp* *mp*
 Ah Ah Oft

p sim. *pp* *mp*
 Ah Ah Oft

17

ha'e I roved by bon - nie Doon To see the rose and wood - bine twine; And

ha'e I roved by bon - nie Doon To see the rose and wood - bine twine,

ha'e I roved by bon - nie Doon To see the rose and wood - bine twine,

ha'e I roved by bon - nie Doon To see the rose and wood - bine twine,

poco rit. **A tempo**

21

il - ka bird sang o' its love, And fond - ly sae did I o' mine. Wi'

il - ka bird sang o' its love, And fond - ly sae did I o' mine.

il - ka bird sang o' its love, And fond - ly sae did I o' mine.

il - ka bird sang o' its love, And fond - ly sae did I o' mine.

25 *mp sub.* *mf*

light - some heart I pu'd a rose, Fu' sweet up - on its thor - ny tree: But

p sub. *mp*

light - some heart I pu'd a rose, Fu' sweet up - on its thor - ny tree:

p sub. *mp*

light - some heart I pu'd a rose, Fu' sweet up - on its thor - ny tree:

p sub. *mp*

light - some heart I pu'd a rose, Fu' sweet up - on its thor - ny tree:

poco rit. A tempo

29 *p*

my fause lo - ver stole my rose, But Ah! he left the thorn wi' me. Ye

p

my fause lo - ver stole my rose, But Ah! he left the thorn wi' me. Ye

p *p espress.*

my fause lo - ver stole my rose, But Ah! he left the thorn wi' me. Ye

p *p*

my fause lo - ver stole my rose, But Ah! he left the thorn wi' me. Ye

33

banks and braes o' bon - nie Doon, How can ye bloom sae fresh and fair? How

banks and braes o' bon - nie Doon, How can ye bloom sae fresh and fair? How



poco rit.

37

Soprano I *p espress.*
Ye'll_

Soprano II

can ye chant ye lit - tle bird, And I sae wea - ry fu' o' care?

can ye chant ye lit - tle bird, And I sae wea - ry fu' o' care?

41

break my heart, ye warb - ling bird — Ye'll break my heart, ye warb - ling bird — That

pp sempre
*mmm mmm

pp sempre
*mmm mmm

pp sempre
*mmm mmm

pp sempre
*mmm mmm

* See preface for more information.



rit.

45

war - bles on the flow' - ry thorn,

mmm

mmm

mmm

mmm

Tempore dolorem