

# What Sweeter Music

from Noble Numbers, op. 28/no. 7

SET TO MUSIC FOR

Soprano solo, Chorus and Orchestra

by

H. Walford Davies

Bassoon 1

Premiered at the Three Choirs Festival (Hereford) - September 9, 1909



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# ENGLISH HERITAGE

MUSIC SERIES

The “renaissance” in English music is generally agreed to have started in the late Victorian period, beginning roughly in 1880, and was most notable for compositions by C.V. Stanford, C. Hubert H. Parry, Edward Elgar, Henry Walford Davies, Harold Darke and others. Public demand for major works in support of the annual choral festivals held throughout England at that time was considerable which led to the creation of many large scale works for orchestra with soloists and chorus. Although a number of those works found their way into print and are regularly performed today, a considerable number of compositions, both large-scale and more intimate works, are not available. These works either were never published or were published but are no longer available in the publishers’ catalogues. While the existence of these works is documented in biographies of the composers, the ability to study and, most importantly, to perform these compositions is not possible.

Changes in the International copyright laws in the mid-1970’s played a pivotal role in creating this void, opening a significant number of musical compositions to public access. As a result, music publishers lost the ability to generate revenue from the sale/rental of such music. Performance score inventories of these works were eliminated. In addition, for many compositions, the only published material were vocal scores - full scores and orchestra parts were hand notated for the premiere of a work and then were ‘recycled’ for future performances. While full score autograph manuscripts are now accessible through the major music libraries in the UK, the hand-notated parts have long since been lost. These autograph full score manuscripts along with copies of the published vocal scores are now the only resources available for studying and performing these works.

The English Heritage Music Series has been created to ensure that these compositions are preserved, are accessible for scholarly research and, most importantly, are available for performance by future generations. Its mission is to:

- Source unpublished/out-of-print English composer compositions that are in the U.S. public domain
- Preserve these compositions through the preparation of performance scores using notation software
- Provide open Internet access to the scores to facilitate study, performance and sharing of performance material (program notes, audio, reviews, etc.)

In preparing the English Heritage Music Series editions, every effort has been made to adhere strictly to the notation contained in the manuscripts. Because of the passage of time and its effect on the condition of the manuscript, the absence of clear information often times by the composer in notating divided instruments, and with emendations in the composer and other hands resulting from use of the manuscript in performance, there were numerous circumstances which required interpretation and decisions for notes, accidentals, dynamics, articulations and tempi. Should questions arise in the use of these editions, the composers’ autograph manuscripts and the Novello vocal scores should be consulted for clarification.

**Matthew W. Mehaffey**  
Editor

Professor of Music  
University of Minnesota - School of Music  
Minneapolis, Minnesota USA

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## Source Information

*Autograph Manuscript:*

*Vocal Score:*

*Royal College of Music Library*

*Oxford University, Bodleian Music Section, Weston Library*

*Manuscript Transcription & Score Preparation*

Royal College of Music, London MS 6329

Novello Octavo Edition No. 13017 (1909)

Michael Mullen, Ass’t. Librarian - mmullen@rcm.ac.uk

Martin Holmes, Curator of Music - martin.holmes@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

David Fielding - dhcfielding@charter.net

## Reference Material and Software

*Notation Software:* Finale v. 26 *Audio Software:* Garritan Personal Orchestra 5 *Graphic Software:* Adobe Photoshop CS5

*Document Software:* Adobe In Design CS5 *Music Notation Reference:* Behind Bars by Elaine Gould, Faber Music © 2011

# What Sweeter Music

H. Walford Davies

**Allegro amabile** ♩ = 76

*mp* *p* **4**

10

16 *rit.* **2** **34** *a tempo* **15** *mp*

38 **35** **Leggiero** **3** *f*

46 **2**

53 **36** *f* **3** **3** **3** **6** **4** *p*

68 **2**

75 37

Musical staff 75-81: Bassoon part in G major. Measures 75-81. Dynamics: *p*. Includes a trill in measure 75 and a triplet in measure 81.

82

Musical staff 82-87: Bassoon part. Measures 82-87. Dynamics: *p*. Includes a triplet in measure 82.

88 38 *animato*

Musical staff 88-102: Bassoon part. Measures 88-102. Dynamics: *f*, *p*, *mp*, *mp*. Includes a triplet in measure 88, a septuplet in measure 89, and a triplet in measure 90.

103

Musical staff 103-109: Bassoon part. Measures 103-109. Dynamics: *p*. Includes a triplet in measure 103.

110

Musical staff 110-116: Bassoon part. Measures 110-116. Dynamics: *p*. Includes a triplet in measure 110.

117 39

Musical staff 117-123: Bassoon part. Measures 117-123. Dynamics: *f*, *mp*. Includes a triplet in measure 117.

124 40

Musical staff 124-138: Bassoon part. Measures 124-138. Dynamics: *p*. Includes a triplet in measure 124, a septuplet in measure 125, and a quintuplet in measure 126. Tempo markings: *rit.*, *a tempo*.

139

Musical staff 139-145: Bassoon part. Measures 139-145. Dynamics: *p*, *pp*. Includes a triplet in measure 139. Tempo marking: *rit. à piacere*.

146

Musical staff 146-152: Bassoon part. Measures 146-152. Dynamics: *pp*, *pp*. Includes a triplet in measure 146.



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 **LIBRARIES**

PUBLISHING

[ehms.lib.umn.edu](http://ehms.lib.umn.edu)

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