

# THE BRIDE

Words by P. J. O'Reilly

Song for Voice and Piano by

Montague Ring (Amanda Aldridge)

**VOCAL SCORE** 



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The "renaissance" in English music is generally agreed to have started in the late Victorian period, beginning roughly in 1880. 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 were engraved, printed and are regularly performed today, performance scores for a considerable number of compositions, both large-scale and more intimate works, are not available. These works were either never engraved or were engraved and printed 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, coupled with changing musical tastes, played a pivotal role in creating this void. As a result, music publishers lost the ability to generate revenue from the sale/rental of such music. In 1964, holograph and copyist scores from both Novello and from publishers it represented were offered to the British Library and the Royal College of Music Library (see The RCM Novello Library – The Musical Times, Feb. 1983 by Jeremy Dibble).

These autograph full score manuscripts along with copies of engraved vocal scores, widely available through various online library sources, 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 non-engraved/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

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#### **Source Information**

Autograph Manuscript: Vocal Score: Northwestern University Libraries McCormick Library of Special Collections Manuscript Transcription & Score Preparation

Unknown Chappell & Co., Ltd. no. 24666 © 1910 Aldridge Collection, Box 3

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#### Reference Material and Software

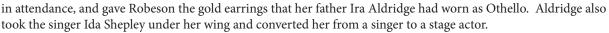
Notation Software: Finale v. 26 Audio Software: Garritan Personal Orchestra 5 Graphic Software: Adobe Photoshop CS5

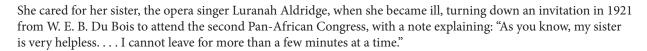
Document Software: Adobe In Design CS5 Music Notation Reference: Behind Bars by Elaine Gould, Faber Music © 2011

Amanda Christina Elizabeth Aldridge, also known as Amanda Ira Aldridge was a British opera singer, teacher and composer, under the pseudonym of Montague Ring. She was the daughter of African-American Shakespearian actor Ira Aldridge.

Amanda Aldridge was born on 10 March 1866 in Upper Norwood, London, the third child of African-American Shakespearian actor Ira Frederick Aldridge and his second wife, the Swedish Amanda Brandt. Aldridge studied voice under Jenny Lind and Sir George Henschel at the Royal College of Music in London, and harmony and counterpoint with Frederick Bridge and Francis Edward Gladstone.

After completing her studies, Aldridge worked as a concert singer, piano accompanist, and voice teacher. A throat condition ended her concert appearances, and she turned to teaching and published about thirty songs between the years 1907 and 1925 in a romantic parlour style, as well as instrumental music in other styles. Her notable students included Roland Hayes, Lawrence Benjamin Brown, Marian Anderson and Paul Robeson. In 1930, when Robeson played Othello in the West End, Aldridge was





Aldridge ended her singing career to compose and teach music, when laryngitis had damaged her throat. Amanda Aldridge mainly composed Romantic parlour music, a type of popular music performed primarily in parlours of the middle-class homes, frequently by amateur singers and pianists. All of her published music was known under the name of Montague Ring. Under this pseudonym, she gained recognition for her many voice and piano pieces. She composed love songs, suites, sambas and light orchestral pieces, working in a popular style that was infused with multiple genres.

At the age of 88, Aldridge made her first television appearance in the British show *Music For You*, where Muriel Smith sang Montague Ring's "Little Southern Love Song". After a short illness, she died in London on 9 March 1956.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amanda\_Aldridge

### THE BRIDE

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Oh larks that charm the summer sky
Oh little birds of the forest wide
Make merry today, make merry today
So fair a bride shall pass the way
So fair, so fair a bride!

Oh flowers that deck the olden road Oh whispering leaves of the shady tree Make merry today, make merry today And seetly greet her on her way So wonrous fair is she! And hearts that pass her as she goes With grace divine Thy blessing pour, And love and gladness shall be thine for evermore, And love and gladness shall be thine for evermore, For evermore!

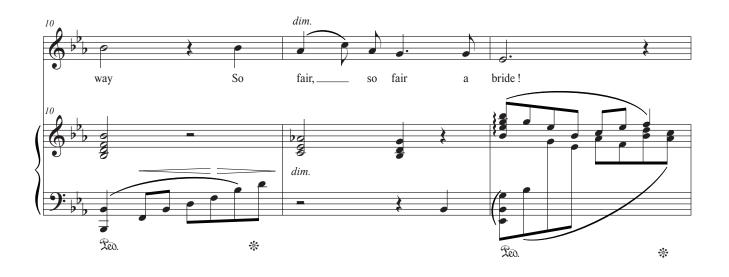
Oh sweet is she of whom I sing And dear to me all else above The maid who holds my heart, Who holds my heart My love, my bride!

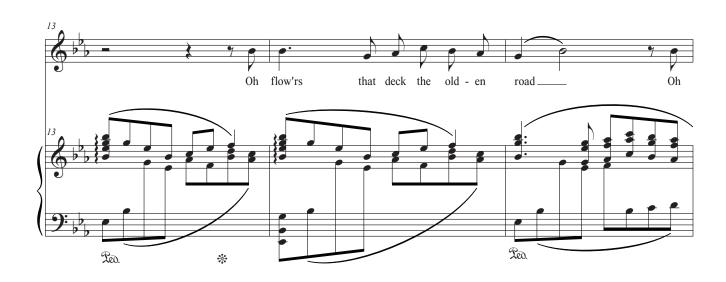
## The Bride

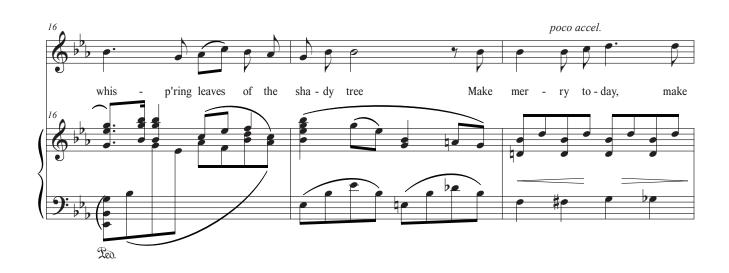
P. J. O'Reilly

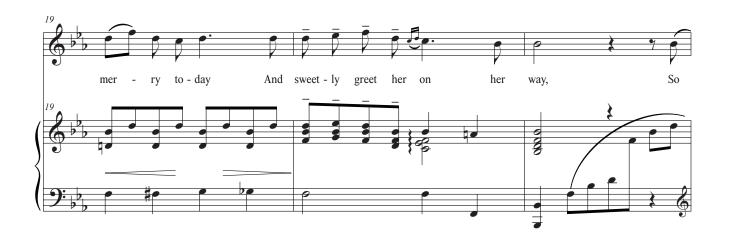
Montague Ring (Amanda Aldridge) 1910

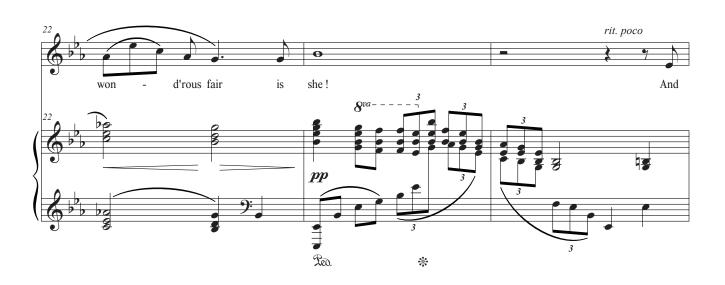


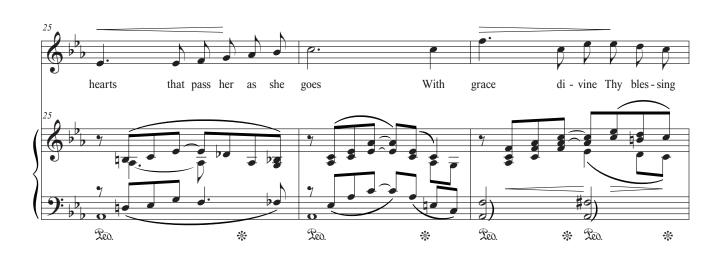


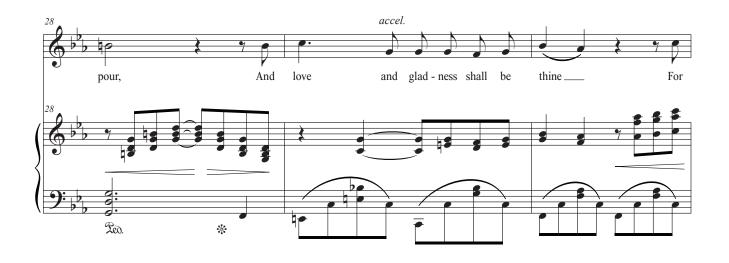


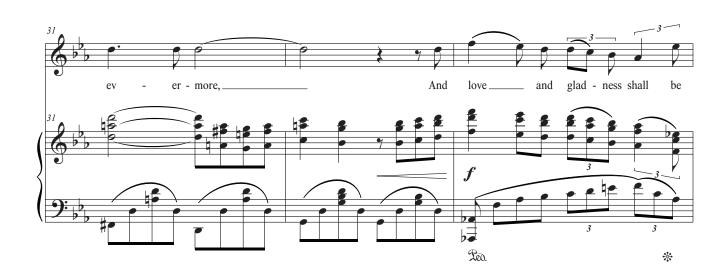


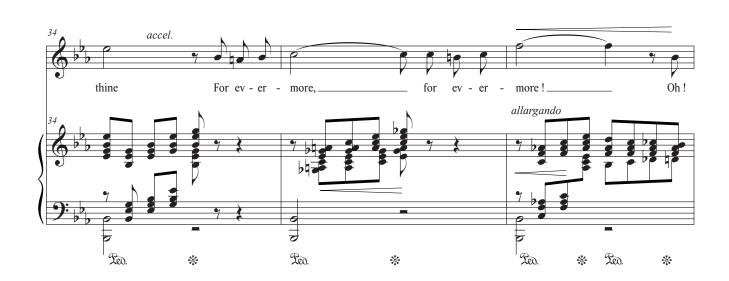


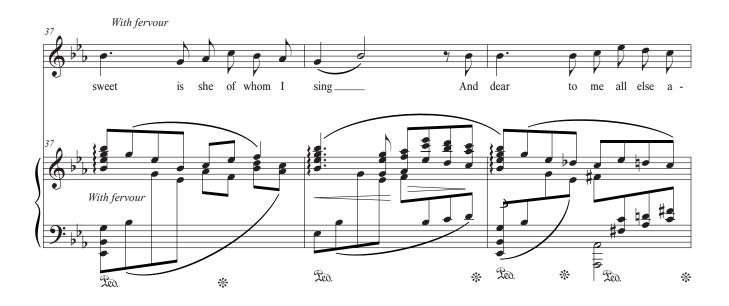


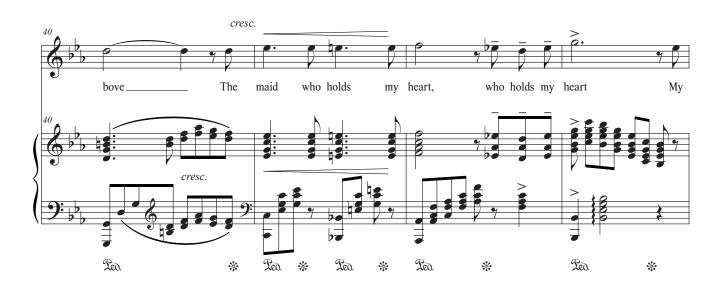


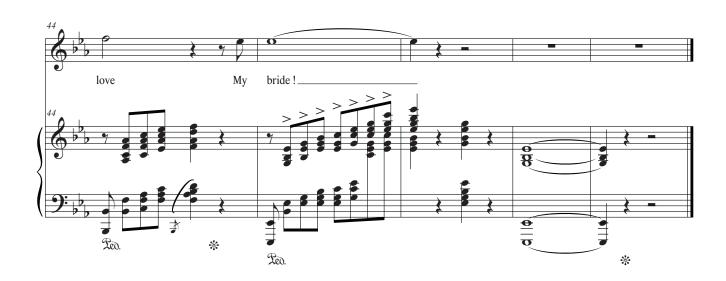
















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