



WHEN YOU ARE OLD

Poem by
W.B. Yeats
(1891)

Music Composed
by
Frank Bridge
(1919)

PIANO / VOCAL SCORE



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COVER IMAGE

“Study of an Old Man with a Gold Chain” by Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn, 1632



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.

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Source Information

Full Score Manuscript
Vocal Score

Royal College of Music Library MS 10471
Chappell & Company ©1919

Manuscript Transcription & Score Preparation

David Fielding - dhcfielding@charter.net

Reference Material and Software

Notation Software: Dorico Pro Version 4.3.0.1110 *Audio Software:* Garritan Personal Orchestra 5
Document Software: Affinity Serif Publisher *Music Notation Reference:* Behind Bars by Elaine Gould, Faber Music © 2011

When You Are Old

BY

WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

When you are old and grey and full of sleep,
And nodding by the fire, take down this book,
And slowly read, and dream of the soft look
Your eyes had once, and of their shadows deep;

How many loved your moments of glad grace,
And loved your beauty with love false or true,
But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you,
And loved the sorrows of your changing face;

Verse 3 Not Set

*And bending down beside the glowing bars,
Murmur, a little sadly, how Love fled
And paced upon the mountains overhead
And hid his face amid a crowd of stars.*

When You Are Old

W.B. Yeats

Frank Bridge

Andante moderato

The musical score is set in 4/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The tempo is marked "Andante moderato". The piano accompaniment features a prominent triplet pattern in the right hand, starting with a *p* (piano) dynamic and transitioning to *espress.* (espressivo) later. The vocal line begins with a *dolce* (sweetly) marking and includes the lyrics: "When you are old and grey and". The score is divided into three systems, with measure numbers 3 and 5 indicated at the beginning of the second and third systems respectively. The piano part includes markings for *Red.* (Reduction) and *mp* (mezzo-piano) dynamics.

7

full of sleep, And nod - ding by the

p

Red.

10

fire, take down this book, And

p

13

slow - - ly read, and dream of the

mp

dim.

16 *pp*

soft look your eyes had once,

mf *dim.*

19 *p*

and of their shadows

p

21 *p*

deep;

p

23

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

25 *animato*

How man - y loved _____ your mo - ments of glad

f

3

28

grace, And loved your beau - ty with_

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

31 *f*

false love or true;

33 *f* **Tempo I**

But one man

35 *dim.* *p*

loved the pilgrim soul in

38 *pp* *p*

you _____ And loved the

pp *p*

Red.

41 *p* *rit.* *pp* *a tempo ma tranquillo*

sor - - rows _____ of your chang - ing face. _____

pp *pp*

Red.

44 *Tempo I*

Red. *Red.* *p dolce*

47 *pp* *express.*

When you are

pp

Dec.

49

old and grey and

pp

Dec.

51 *rit.*..... *a tempo*

full of sleep

pp

Dec.

53

The musical score for 'When You Are Old' begins at measure 53. It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 3/4. The vocal line starts with a half note G5, followed by a quarter rest, and then a half note G5. The piano accompaniment is divided into two systems. The first system has a right-hand part with a melodic line and a left-hand part with a complex texture of triplets. The second system continues the left-hand texture and includes a 'ppp' dynamic marking. The score concludes with a double bar line and a fermata over the final note.

L.H.

ppp

L.H.

(Ad.)



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Catalog Number

19.2/02