

A Spotless Rose

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

arr. Lothar Bandermann

With easeful movement

8' strg. & flts. cel. *p*

soft 16' 8'

4

mp *mf*

8

p

12

pp *pp*

4' reed *mf*

The musical score is written for piano, strings, and a reed. It consists of four systems of music. The first system (measures 1-3) is in 3/4 time and features a piano (p) dynamic. The second system (measures 4-6) is in 4/4 time and features mezzo-piano (mp) and mezzo-forte (mf) dynamics. The third system (measures 7-9) is in 4/4 time and features piano (p) dynamics. The fourth system (measures 10-12) is in 7/8 time and features pianissimo (pp) dynamics. The reed part enters in the fourth system with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic.

18

Musical score for measures 18-21. The piece is in A major (three sharps) and features a complex, changing time signature: 7/8, 4/4, 5/4, 6/8, and 3/4. The score is written for three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Bass staff. The music consists of chords and moving lines in all three parts.

22

Musical score for measures 22-26. The time signature changes to 3/4, then 4/4, and back to 3/4. The score is written for three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Bass staff. The music features sustained chords in the upper staves and moving lines in the lower staves.

27

Musical score for measures 27-32. The time signature changes to 3/4, then 4/4, and back to 3/4. The score is written for three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Bass staff. Dynamic markings include *pp* (pianissimo) and *f* (forte). A performance instruction *soft 16' 8'* is present in the lower Bass staff. The music includes sustained chords and moving lines.

33

Musical score for measures 33-36. The time signature changes to 7/8, 4/4, 5/4, 6/8, and 3/4. The score is written for three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Bass staff. The music features chords and moving lines in all three parts.

37

41

The original song "A Spotless Rose" by Herbert Howell is for a capella mixed choir and male solo. Its text is of 14th century origin. The slurs in this transcription indicate melismas in the voices, not necessarily carried out here.

A spotless Rose is blowing, sprung from a tender root,
of ancient seers' foreshowing, of Jesse promis'd fruit.
Its fairest bud unfolds to light amid the cold, cold winter,
And in the dark midnight.
The Rose which I am singing, whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing in Mary, purest Maid.
For through our God's great love and might,
The Blessed Babe she bare us in a cold, cold winter's night.