

**THE ROSE OF LIFE:
CANTATA FOR FEMALE
VOICES WITH PIANOFORTE
ACCOMPANIMENT**

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The Rose of Life: Cantata for Female Voices with Pianoforte Accompaniment by Clifton Bingham

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CLIFTON BINGHAM

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VOICES WITH PIANOFORTE
ACCOMPANIMENT**

NOVELLO'S ORIGINAL OCTAVO EDITION.

H.P. 117

THE ROSE OF LIFE

CANTATA FOR FEMALE VOICES

WITH PIANOFORTE ACCOMPANIMENT

THE WORDS WRITTEN BY

CLIFTON BINGHAM

THE MUSIC COMPOSED BY

FREDERIC H. COWEN.

PRICE TWO SHILLINGS.

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THE ROSE OF LIFE.

No. 1.—CHORUS.

Sad of heart and sad of mien,
Every maiden sigheth ;
For our loved and cherished Queen,
Now at Death's gate lieth.
By our tears we count the hours,
Woe is ours, woe is ours !
Naught our depth of grief can tell,
Nor our woe can measure ;
Weep for her we love so well,
Whom to love was pleasure !
Filled with sorrow are the hours—
Woe is ours, woe is ours !

RECIT. AND SOLO (*Soprano*).

Stay, sisters, stay, hear what the Wise Men say,
Gathered in solemn conference to-day !
There is one cure, they say, but one—
For her, beneath the shining sun ;
Bring to her side the loveliest Rose
That in this world of sorrow grows.
Let her but know its perfume rare,
Gaze on its beauty deep and fair,
Death over her shall lose his pow'r,
She shall recover from that hour !
Chorus. Naught our depth, &c.

No. 2.—CHORUS OF MAIDENS.

Far and wide will we seek roses,
In the silence and the strife ;
In the hush of garden-closes,
And where flows the stream of Life !
Haply where sweet peace abideth,
Far from ways of toil and care,
We shall find one wherein hideth
Fragrance healing—perfume rare !

Love will guide us to it surely,
Be it east or be it west—
Blooming tenderly and purely,
Fairer far than all the rest !
Far and wide will we seek roses,
Where the gems of earth abound ;
Searching ever—resting never—
Till the Rose of Life be found !

No. 3.—INTERMEZZO.

THE QUEST OF THE ROSES.

No. 4.—TRIO (*Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, and Contralto*) OR THREE-PART CHORUS.

We bring roses in our hands,
Gathered in far distant lands ;
In the gardens of the west,
Surely they are loveliest.
'Twas the sunshine gave them birth,
Bade them bloom to gladden earth ;
Shall not their pure fragrant breath
Call back Life and mock at Death !

No. 5.—SOLO (*Soprano*) AND CHORUS, SOLO (*Mezzo-Soprano*) AND CHORUS.

FIRST MAIDEN (*Soprano*).

My flow'r is a Rose named Purity,
That blooms in maidens' hearts ;
A flow'r of all most fair to see,
Whose fragrance ne'er departs.
At palace gate, at cottage door,
With equal pride it grows ;
In vain to seek the wide world o'er,
There is no lovelier rose ;
Take it, beloved Queen, and may its breath
Banish the shadow and the hand of Death.

CHORUS.

Alas, naught avails to call her back to Life—
Death hovers at her side, and still she sleeps !

SECOND MAIDEN (*Mezzo-Soprano*).

This flow'r I cull'd at twilight,
When dreams o'er the garden crept,
And a mother, beside the window,
Sat watching her babe as it slept.
A flower in her heart was blooming,
All others far above ;
And I stooped, as I passed, and gathered
The Rose of a Mother's Love !
Take it, beloved Queen, and may its breath
Banish the shadow and the hand of Death.

CHORUS.

Alas, naught avails to call her back to Life—
Death hovers at her side, and still she sleeps !

No. 6.—SOLO (*Contralto*).

THE QUEEN'S DAUGHTER.

There is a Book wherein is told the story
Of One who gave His Life for sinners' sake ;
Not for reward of crowns of fame or glory—
But that He might from us our sorrows take !
Sorrow He bore and suffering and trial,
With but the few who loved Him by His side ;

Men scorned His Name and gave His Love
denial,

Even at last, when for their sins He died !
He is the Rose of Life, the Rose of Sharon,
Fairer than e'er was seen by mortal eye ;
Take thou and herein read,
Rose of the world indeed,
Whoso beholds it, never more shall die !

No. 7.—FINALE. SOLO (*Soprano*) AND
CHORUS.

CHORUS.

See, there is light in those eyes,
A flush on the silent cheek lies ;
That Rose hath the power to restore,
She liveth—she liveth once more !

SOLO (*Soprano*).

'Tis the Rose, the Rose of Sharon,
Loveliest Flower in Earth or Heaven ;
Purest and fairest, richest and rarest
Flower to mortals ever given !
Flower of Love unchanging, unending,
Born on the Cross in days gone by—
Rose of Life is the Rose of Sharon,
Whoso beholds it, shall never die !

CHORUS.

'Tis the Rose, the Rose of Sharon, &c.

CLIFTON BINGHAM.

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THE ROSE OF LIFE.

No. 1.

{ CHORUS.—" SAD OF HEART."
{ SOLO (SOPRANO).—" STAY, SISTERS, STAY."

F. H. COWEN.

Molto lento.

PIANO.
♩ = 48.

The piano introduction consists of two systems of music. The first system features a treble clef with a melodic line and a bass clef with a harmonic accompaniment. The second system continues the accompaniment with a more active bass line. Dynamics include *mf*, *p*, and *pp*.

The second system of piano accompaniment continues the melodic and harmonic themes from the first system, maintaining the *Molto lento* tempo and dynamic range.

SOPRANO.

ALTO.

For our loved and cherished
Sad of heart and sad of mien, Ev'ry maiden sigh-eth; For our loved and cherished

The vocal lines for Soprano and Alto are written on a grand staff. The Soprano part begins with the lyrics "For our loved and cherished" and "Sad of heart and sad of mien, Ev'ry maiden sigh-eth; For our loved and cherished". The Alto part begins with "Sad of heart and sad of mien, Ev'ry maiden sigh-eth; For our loved and cherished". The piano accompaniment continues below, marked with *p* and *Ped.*

poco cresc.

Queen, Now at Death's gate li - eth. By our tears we count the hours, . . .

Queen, Now at Death's gate li - eth. By our tears we count the

The vocal lines continue with the lyrics "Queen, Now at Death's gate li - eth. By our tears we count the hours, . . ." and "Queen, Now at Death's gate li - eth. By our tears we count the". The piano accompaniment is marked with *p*, *poco cresc.*, and *Ped.*

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