

Music by  
AJ Churchill

# First Love

for SSAATTBB choir

Poem by  
John Clare

# First Love

Poem by John Clare (1793 - 1864)

Music by AJ Churchill (b. 1991)

*dolce* *poco rit.* *a tempo* *poco rit.*

*p poco* *poco*

Soprano I  
I ne'er was struck be-fore that hour

Soprano II  
I ne'er was struck be-fore that hour With love so sud-den and so

Alto I  
I ne'er was struck be-fore that hour With love so sud-den and so

Alto II  
I ne'er was struck be-fore that hour sud-den and so

Tenor I  
sud-den and so

Tenor II  
sud-den and so

Bass I

Bass II

6 **a tempo** **poco rit.** **p poco** **a tempo** **poco rit.** 3

S. Her face it bloomed like a sweet flower

S. sweet, and stole my heart a-way com

A. sweet, Her face it bloomed like a sweet flower heart a-way com

A. sweet, Her face it bloomed like a sweet flower heart a-way com

T. **a tempo** **poco rit.** **p poco** **a tempo** **poco rit.** **p**  
 8 sweet, Her face it bloomed like a sweet flower heart a-way com

T. sweet, heart a-way com

B. heart a-way com

B. heart a-way com

**mosso**

S. *poco*  
My legs re - fused to walk a -

S. plete.

A. *poco*  
plete. fused to walk a -

A. *pp* *poco* *poco*  
plete. My face turned pale as dead-ly pale. fused to walk a -

T. *bring out* *pp poco* *poco*  
plete. pale as dead-ly pale. fused to walk a -

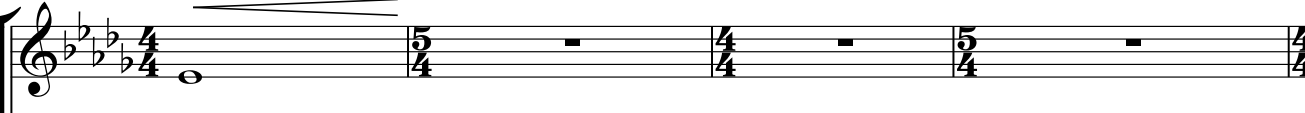
T. *pp poco* *poco*  
plete. pale as dead-ly pale. fused to walk a -

B. *pp poco* *poco*  
plete. pale as dead-ly pale. fused to walk a -

B. *pp poco*  
plete. pale as dead-ly pale.


17

poco rit. . . . .

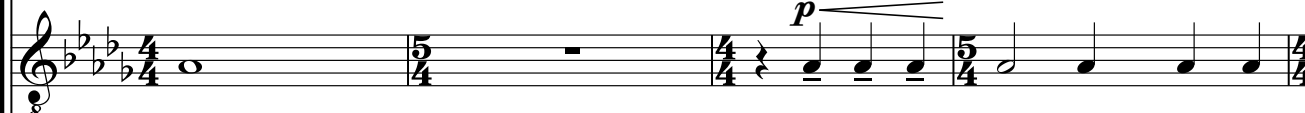
S.  way,

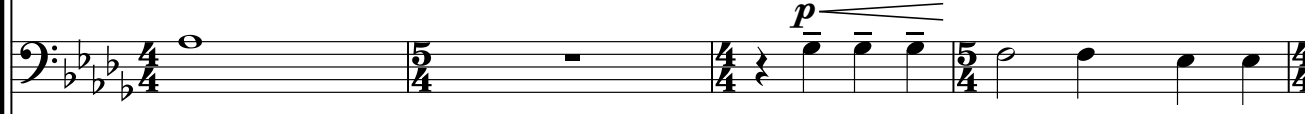
S.  *mp* *subito p* *mp*  
And when she looked, what could I ail?

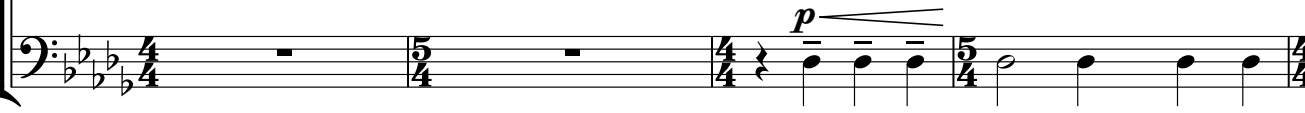
A.  *subito p* *mp*  
way, looked, what could I ail?

A.  *subito p* *mp*  
way, looked, what could I ail?

T.  *subito p* *mp* *poco rit. . . . .*  
way, looked, what could I ail?

T.  *p*  
way, My life and all seemed turned to

B.  *p*  
way, My life and all seemed turned to

B.  *p*  
My life and all seemed turned to

**un poco meno mosso**

6

21

S. *mp* *mf* *p*  
And then my blood rushed to my face, And took my eye - sight

S. *mp* *mf* *p*  
And then my blood rushed to my face, And took my eye - sight

A. *mp* *mf* *p*  
And then my blood rushed to my face, eye - sight

A. *mp* *mf* *p*  
blood rushed to my face, And took my eye - sight

**un poco meno mosso**

T. *p*  
face,

T. >  
clay.

B. >  
clay.

B. >  
clay.

25

S. *mf* *p* *subito p*  
 quite a - way, \_\_\_\_\_ place, -

S. *mf* *p* *subito p*  
 quite a - way, \_\_\_\_\_ place, -

A. *mf* *p* *subito p*  
 quite a - way, \_\_\_\_\_ place, -

A. *mf* *p* *subito p* *mp*  
 quite a - way, \_\_\_\_\_ place, - Seemed mid-night at noon day

T. *mf* *p* *p* *mp*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ place, - Seemed mid-night at noon day

T. *p* *mp*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ place, - Seemed mid-night at noon day

B. *p* *subito p*  
 The trees and bu-shes round the place, -

B. *p* *subito p* *mp*  
 The trees and bu-shes round the place, - Seemed mid-night at noon day

S. *mp* Words from my heart did

S. *mp* I could not see a sin - gle thing, *p* Words from my heart *mp* did

A. —

A. *> pp* thing, *subito pp* Words heart

T. *> pp* thing, *subito pp* Words heart

T. *> pp* thing, *subito pp* Words heart

B. —

B. *> pp* thing,

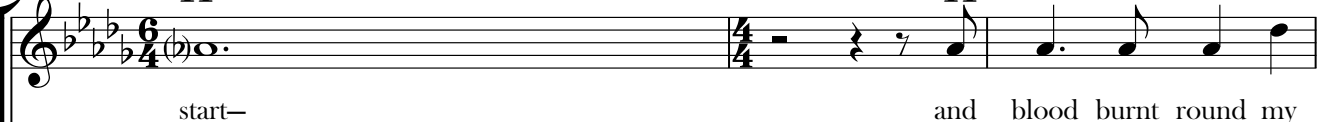


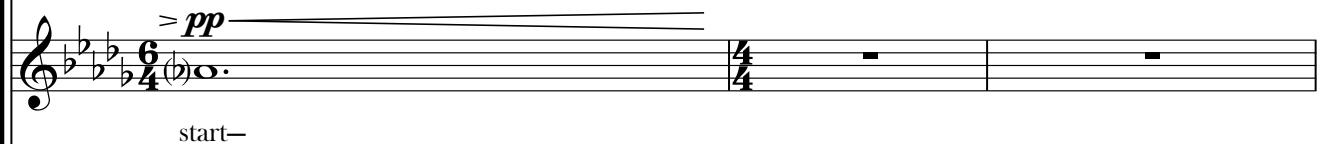
32


*poco rit.*

*pp*

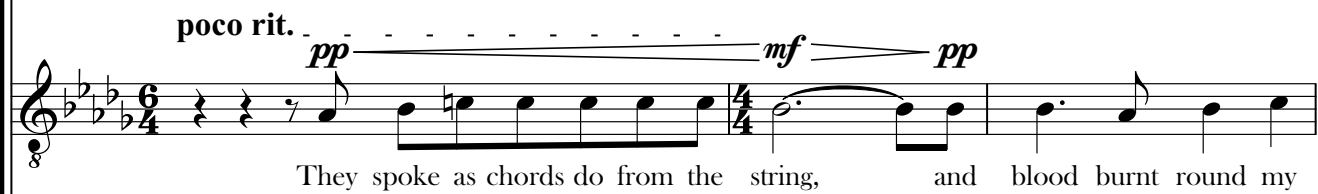
*pp*


S.  *pp* start— and blood burnt round my

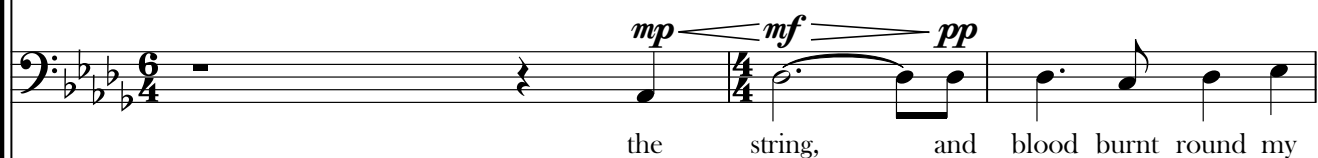
S.  *pp* start—

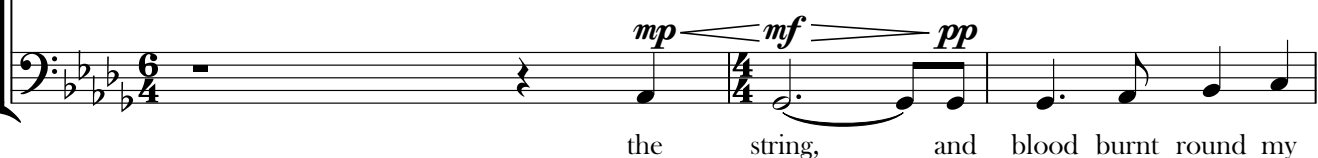
A.  *pp* *mf* *pp* They spoke as chords do from the string, and blood burnt round my

A.  *pp* *mf* *pp* They spoke as chords do from the string, and blood burnt round my

T.  *poco rit.* *pp* *mf* *pp* They spoke as chords do from the string, and blood burnt round my

T.  *pp* *mf* *pp* They spoke as chords do from the string, and blood burnt round my

B.  *mp* *mf* *pp* the string, and blood burnt round my

B.  *mp* *mf* *pp* the string, and blood burnt round my

35

**a tempo**

S. heart. — *p* *poco* Is love's bed al-ways

S. heart. —

A. heart. *pp* *poco* Is love's bed al-ways

A. heart. — *pp* *poco* Are flowers the win-ter's choice? *pp* *poco* love's bed al-ways

T. heart. — **a tempo** *p* *poco* *bring out* Are flowers the win-ter's choice? *pp* *poco* love's bed al-ways

T. heart. — *pp* *poco* flowers the win-ter's choice? *pp* *poco* love's bed al-ways

B. heart. — *pp* *poco* flowers the win-ter's choice? *pp* *poco* love's bed al-ways

B. heart. — *pp* *poco* flowers the win-ter's choice?

40

S. *mp* snow? hear my si-lent voice, *p*

S. *mp* She seemed to hear my si-lent voice, *p*

A. *mp* snow? hear my si-lent voice, *p*

A. snow?

T. *mp* snow? Not love's ap-peat to know...

T. *mp* snow? Not love's ap-peat to know...

B. *mp* snow? Not love's ap-peat to know...

B.

44

S. *mp* I ne-ver saw so sweet a face. *p*

S. *mp* I ne-ver saw so sweet a face. *p*

A. *mp* I ne-ver saw so sweet a face. *p*

A. *mp* I ne-ver saw so sweet a face. *p*

T. *p* As that I stood be - fore. *mp*

T. *p* As that I stood be - fore. *mp*

B. *p* As that I stood be - fore. *mp*

B. *mp* As that I stood be - fore.

48

*poco rit.*

S. *mp* *mf*  
 My heart has left its dwell-ling place And can\_\_\_\_\_

S. *mp* *mf*  
 My heart has left its dwell-ling place And can re-turn no more

A. *mp* *mf*  
 My heart has left its dwell-ling place And can re-turn no more\_\_\_\_\_ no\_

A. *mp* *mf*  
 My heart has left its dwell-ling place And can re-turn no more\_\_\_\_\_ no\_

T. *poco rit.* *p* *mf*  
 place And can re-turn no more no\_ more

T. *p* *mf*  
 place And can re-turn no more. no\_ more\_\_\_\_\_

B. *p* *mf*  
 place And can re-turn no more.\_\_\_\_\_

B. *p* *mf*  
 place And can re-turn no more.\_\_\_\_\_

S. *mf f swell < mp rit. morendo pp*  
 no more no more no more.

S. *mf f swell < mp morendo pp*  
 no more no more no more.

A. *mf f swell < mp morendo pp*  
 more no more no more.

A. *mf f swell < mp morendo pp*  
 more no more no more.

T. *mf f swell < mp rit. morendo pp*  
 no more no more.

T. *mf f swell < mp morendo pp*  
 no more no more.

B. *mf f swell < mp morendo pp*  
 no more no more.

B. *mf f swell < mp morendo pp*  
 no more no more.