Edmund Spenser Amoretti I



Mezzo-Soprano & String Quartet

Peter Dyson 2005

Edmund Spenser

1552 -1599

Amoretti I

For Sally Munro

A Setting of Sonnets I - V For Mezzo Soprano And String Quartet (duration: 21 mins)

Sonnet I Happy Ye Leave

Sonnet II Unquiet Thought

Sonnet III The Sovereign Beauty

Sonnet IV New Year Forth Looking Out

Sonnet V Rudely Though Wrongest

Peter Dyson 2005

Edmund Spenser Amoretti: Sonnets 1 - 5

1.

Happy ye leaves when as those lily hands
Which hold my life in their dead doing might,
Shall handle you and hold in love's soft bands,
Like captives trembling at the Victor's sight.
And happy lines, on which with starry light,
Those lamping eyes will deign sometimes to look
And read the sorrows of my dying spright,
Written with tears in heart's close bleeding book.
And happy rhymes bath'd in the sacred brook
Of Helicon whence she derived is,
When ye behold that |Angel's blessed look,
My soul's long lacked food, my heaven's bliss.
Leaves, lines and rhymes seek her to please alone,
Whom, if you please, I care for other none.

2.

Unquiet thought, whom at the first I bred Of th'inward bale of my love pined heart And sithens have with sighs and sorrows fed, Till greater than my womb thou woxen art, Break forth at length out of the inner part, In which thou lurkest like to viper's brood: And seek some succour both to ease my smart And also to sustain thyself with food. But if in presence of that fairest proud Thou chance to come, fall lowly at her feet: And with meek humbleness and afflicted mood, Pardon for thee, and grace for me entreat. Which if she grant, then live, and my love cherish, If not, die soon, and I with thee will perish.

3.

The sovereign beauty which I do admire,
Witness the world how worthy to be prized:
The light whereof hath kindled heavenly fire
In my frail spirit by her from baseness raised.
That being now with her huge brightness dazed,
Base things I can no more endure to view:
But looking still on her I stand amazed,
At wondrous sight of so celestial hue.
So when my tongue would speak her praises due,
It stopped is with thoughts' astonishment:
And when my pen would write her titles true,
It ravish'd is with fancies' wonderment:
Yet in my heart I then both speak and write
The wonder that my wit cannot indite.

4.

New year forth looking out of Ianus gate,
Doth seem to promise hope of new delight:
And bidding th'old adieu, his passed date
Bids all old thoughts to die in dumpish spright.
And calling forth out of sad Winter's night,
Fresh love, that long hath slept in cheerless bower,
Wills him awake, and soon about him dight
His wanton wings and darts of deadly power.
For lusty spring now in his timely hour,
Is ready to come forth him to receive:
And warns the Earth with diverse coloured flower,
To deck herself and her fair mantle weave.
Then you fair flower, in whom fresh youth doth reign,
Prepare yourself new love to entertain.

5

Rudely though wrongest my dear heart's desire,
In finding fault with her too portly pride:
The thing which I do most in her admire,
Is of the world unworthy most envied.
For in those lofty looks is close implied
Scorn of base things, and sdeigne of foul dishonour:
Threatening rash eyes which gaze on her so wide
That loosely they ne dare to look upon her.
Such pride is praise; such portliness is honour,
That boldned innocence bears in her eyes;
And her fair countenance like a goodly banner
Spreads in defiance of all enemies,
Was never in this world ought worthy tried,
Without some spark of such self-pleasing pride.

Amoretti Sonnet I













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Amoretti Sonnet II







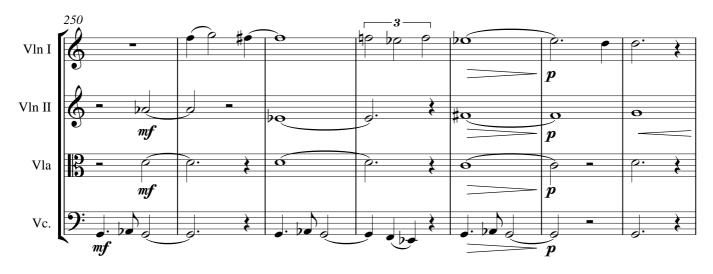




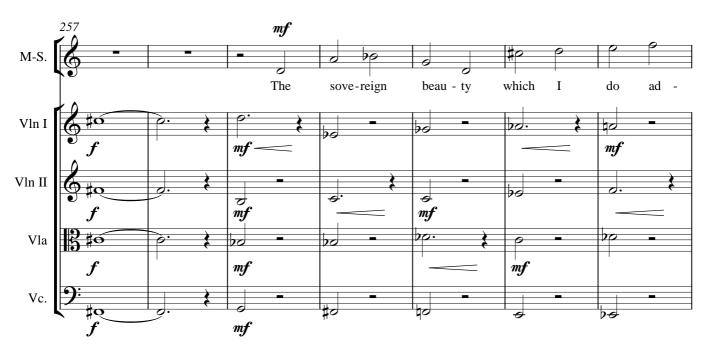
Amoretti Sonnet III



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Edmund Spenser (1552- 1599)

Amoretti Sonnet V















