

# To the First of My Lovers

For Treble and Tenor Soloists, SATB Chorus and Piano with Recorder\* and Handbells

Duration: ca. 2:40

Arranged by  
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Words and Music by  
SYDNEY CARTER (1915-2004)

Warmly, simply (♩ = ca. 86)

Soprano Recorder

*mp*

Piano

*mf* *mp*

Treble Soloist

*mp*

To the first..

\* Recorder part found on page 12.



10

Handbells

Musical staff for Handbells, starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The staff contains three measures of music, each with a single half note.

Solo

Musical staff for Solo voice, featuring a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes.

of my lov-ers on a high\_ and ho-ly hill\_ And the last\_ of my lov-ers\_ I

Tenor/Bass  
Unis. *pp*

Musical staff for Tenor/Bass, featuring a sustained half note in each of the three measures.

Hum

10

Piano accompaniment for the first system, showing chords in both the right and left hands.

10

*Continue Handbell sim. to m. 42*

Musical staff for Handbells, continuing with three measures of single half notes.

Musical staff for Solo voice, continuing the melodic line.

light a can-dle still, And the bells will be ring-ing on a high\_ and ho-ly hill\_ For the first\_

Musical staff for Tenor/Bass, continuing with sustained half notes.

Piano accompaniment for the second system, showing chords in both the right and left hands.

13

Treble and Tenor Soloists

*Unis. mp*

— of my lov - ers and the last. On the hill—

16

18

— that was ho - ly for the pa - gan long a - go, — In the house—

*pp*

*Hum*—

18

18

— of Our La - dy now I praise the name I know. And the

20

bells will be ring-ing on a high\_ and ho - ly hill\_ For the first\_

22

— of my lov - ers and the last. Oh my

Tenor Soloist *mf*

24

26

Sop. *mp*

Alto

Oo

Tenor *mp*

Bass

loves have been man - y but the lov - ing was for One,\_ For the same\_

26

*mf*

light can shine in a can - dle or the sun, And the

28

This system contains measures 28 through 31. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment, and a three-part vocal setting. The piano accompaniment includes a treble and bass clef staff. The three-part vocal setting consists of a soprano, alto, and bass line.

bells will be ring - ing on a high and ho - ly hill For the first

30

This system contains measures 32 through 35. It continues the vocal line with lyrics, piano accompaniment, and three-part vocal setting. The piano accompaniment includes a treble and bass clef staff. The three-part vocal setting consists of a soprano, alto, and bass line.

— of my lov - ers and the last. To the end\_

32

Detailed description: This system contains a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is on a single staff with lyrics: "of my lov - ers and the last. To the end\_". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with chords and moving lines. A measure number "32" is located at the bottom left of the piano part.

34 Recorder  
*mp*

— and be - gin - ning of the lov - ing that I know, - To the end\_

34

Oo

34

34

Detailed description: This system contains a Recorder part, a vocal line, and piano accompaniment. The Recorder part is on a single staff with a measure number "34" in a box and the dynamic marking "mp". The vocal line has lyrics: "and be - gin - ning of the lov - ing that I know, - To the end\_". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves (treble and bass clef). There are three measure numbers "34" in boxes: one above the Recorder staff, one above the vocal staff, and one above the piano treble staff. The word "Oo" is written below the piano treble staff.

and the be - gin - ning — my can - dle - light will go. And the

36

bells will be ring - ing on a high — and ho - ly hill — For the first —

38

of my lov - ers and the last. To the first\_ Oh

*mf*

Descant\* *mf*

Sopranos sing Descant  
All Altos join melody

All Tenors and Basses join melody

40

Recorder

Handbells  
As full a chord as desired and available

*mp*

42 Solo

of my lov - ers on a high\_ and ho - ly hill\_ And the last\_

Descant

how shall I re - ceive you, how

42

42

\* Note: The melody for the descant is from ST. THEODULPH by Melchior Teschner (1584-1635) and the words are the first four lines of the hymn by Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676) translated by Arthur Russell (1806-1874).



— of my lov - ers — I light a can - dle still, And the  
greet you Lord a - right? All

44

bells will be ring - ing on a high — and ho - ly hill — For the first  
na - tions long to greet you, my

46

50

mf

*Tutti Unison f* 50

— of my lov-ers and the last. And the bells will be ring-ing on a high-hope, my heart's de - light!

48

f

poco rit.

poco rit.

poco rit.

— and ho - ly hill — For the first — of my lov-ers and the last.

poco rit.

51