

PROGRAM-NOTE

JOHN DOWLAND was born, of Irish stock and probably in Ireland, in 1562, and died around 1626. In addition to being one of the greatest song-writers of all time, he was famous in his life-time as a singer and lute-player, and as such was attached for some years to the court of Christian IV, King of Denmark.

My piano piece is based on a transcription by Mr. Sidney Beck of "Now, O now I needs must part" as it appears in a copy of the 1597[?] edition of John Dowland's "The First Booke Of Songs Or Ayres Of foure parts with Tableture for the Lute" in the possession of the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, San Marino, California, from which library, and from Mr. Sidney Beck, kind permission to use this material has been obtained.

In my setting the Dowland melody is heard twice: the first time with harmonies almost identical with those of Dowland's lute accompaniment (but adapted to pianistic technic), and the second time with free harmonies and a tail-piece of my own.

The first verse of the text, that here follows in modern spelling, is typical of the three verses in Dowland's original:

Now, O now I needs must part,
Parting though I absent mourn,
Absence can no joy impart,
Joy once fled can not return.
While I live I needs must love,
Love lives not when life is gone,
Now at last despair doth prove,
Love divided loveth none.

(Chorus) Sad despair doth drive me hence,
This despair unkindness sends,
If that parting be offence,
It is she which then offends.

In Dowland's publication the song appeared at once as a song for voice with lute accompaniment and as a part-song for four mixed voices. As a song (for voice with lute or pianoforte accompaniment) it is published in the first volume of *The English School of Lutenist Song Writers*, transcribed, scored, and edited from the original editions by Edmund Horace Fellowes, M.A., Mus.Doc. (Winthrop Rogers, Ltd., London, 1920) and as a part-song for four mixed voices it may be consulted as No. 146 in *Geschichte der Musik in Beispielen* by Arnold Schering (Breitkopf & Haertel, Leipzig, 1931).

PERCY ALDRIDGE GRAINGER

For my darling
Aunty Clara,
with fond love.

Nr 6. Now, O now, I needs must part

Song for voice and lute
by

John Dowland (Irish, born about 1562,
died about 1625)

CONCERT VERSION

Freely set for Piano by
Percy Grainger

Concert version, Jan. 28-Feb. 2, 1935.
"Claremont," N. Kensington, Adelaide, South Australia.
Easy version, Nov. 17-18, 1936, "Furudal"
Segeltorp, Sweden.

Playing time:
3 min., 40 sec.

FAIRLY SLOWLY FLOWING ♩ = 80 and very waywardly
First verse

Piano

mp The larger notes well to the fore

p

slacken slightly **IN TIME** ♩ = 66 *slow off*
(*slower*)

sweetly

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slacken slightly

IN TIME (*livelier*)

Echo

mf ♩ = 84

mf *pp* *pp*

7 5 1 3 4 2

Red. *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.*

IN TIME (*slightly slower*)

IN TIME ♩ = 66

mp ♩ = 72

p *feelingly* *mf* *3* *P* *sweetly* *slow off*

slacken *(slower)*

p *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.*

1st speed ♩ = 80

p *mp*

p *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.*

slacken slightly

♩ = 68 *slow off still more*

sweetly *PPP*

Red. *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.*

