

Matthew Whittall

LOVE IS LITTLE

Motet on a Shaker Song

for mixed choir / sekakuorolle

(2009)



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LOVE IS LITTLE – Motet on a Shaker Song (2009)
for mixed choir / sekakuorolle

Text: Traditional Shaker

Love is little, love is low
Love will make my spirit grow
Grow in peace, grow in light
Love will do the thing that's right

Performance directions

1) A fermata above a note or chord indicates that the sound should be held until the next notated figure, or until a fade-out is indicated with a hairpin (diminuendo).

2) For held notes or chords with no text specifically indicated, the sung phoneme is [ə], as elsewhere.

3) Wavy lines after free repeat boxes indicate that the figure should continue until the next notated figure.

4) An "add" arrow indicates that the new figure should be added to the texture for that part. A "segue to" arrow indicates that all singers for that part move to the new figure.

5) Transitions into new figures should not happen suddenly. Rather, individual singers

should move on independently, adding or segueing to new figures in a calm, unhurried manner. (The one exception is the foot-stamp at m. 62, which should be sharp, loud, and rhythmically coordinated.)

6) At m. 34, the conductor may keep time in order for the singers to stay together, but should do so without creating a sense of beat. The aim should be a continuous, uninflected field of pulses, shaped only by the notated dynamic swells.

7) All time durations for free boxes are approximate and may be extended or shortened to meet interpretive needs. However, indicated time durations should generally be considered the minimum time necessary to properly integrate new elements into the texture.

for HOL, on their 80th anniversary

LOVE IS LITTLE

(Motet on a Shaker song)

text trad. Shaker

MATTHEW WHITTALL (2009)

Gentle ♩ = 76-80
*p-mp**

Soprano
Love is lit-tle, love is low Love will make my spi-rit grow Grow in peace,

Alto
Love is lit-tle, love is low Love will make my spi-rit grow Grow in peace,

Tenor
Love is lit-tle, love is low Love will make my spi-rit grow Grow in peace,

Bass
Love is lit-tle, love is low Love will make my spi-rit grow Grow in peace,

Slowing ♩ = 63-66

6

S.
grow in light Love will do the thing that's right Grow in peace, _____

A.
grow in light Love will do the thing that's right Grow in... _____

T.
grow in light Love will do the thing that's right Grow in peace, _____

B.
grow in light Love will do the thing that's right Grow _____

grow in light Love will do the thing that's righ[t]→[m]

*) The general dynamic should remain more or less constant throughout at *p-mp*, except where modified by hairpins. Dynamics may be adjusted for density and balance, (e.g. to bring out the bass line starting at fig. 1), but should never reach truly loud levels until indicated at the end of the piece. The aim should be for all performers to sing at a comfortable, soft dynamic at all times, regardless of register.

12

S. Grow in... Grow in peace → [m]

A. grow in light Grow → [m]

T. grow in... Grow in peace → [m]

B. grow Grow → [m]

[m]

(cue)

1 20" 2 15-20" 3 15-20"

16

S. [m] → [ə**]

A. [m] → [ə**]

T. [m] → [ə**]

B. [m] → [ə**]

[m]u → i → u u → i → u

7-8" (together)

Overtones

(all together) *

*) In repeated boxes, all A, S & T singers perform the figures freely, in their own time. Only Bases and Overtones are to be synchronized.

**) "Schwa" vowel, as in the "u" sound in "sun".