

How Do I Love Thee?

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
For the ends of being, and ideal grace.
I love thee to the level of every day's
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.
I love thee freely, as men strive for right.
I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.
I love thee with a passion put to use
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints. I love thee with the breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose,
I shall but love thee better after death.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning
(1806 - 1861)

In the early 1970's I was a pupil at the Rudolf Steiner School, Michael Hall, in Forest Row, Sussex, where my first music teacher was Rhyll Godber, who instilled in me a love of choir singing through her class music lessons, in which we sang part-songs, as well as larger choral classics, such as the Vivaldi Gloria, listened to her playing the piano (Chopin was a favourite) and participated in school concerts. I also played the bassoon in the school orchestra which she conducted; and through the wonder of Facebook we've reconnected some 50 years later, so I've dedicated this song to Rhyll in thanks for the inspiration she brought to my early years as a student at Michael Hall.

Paul Carr

Duration about 4 minutes

HOW DO I LOVE THEE?

Words by
ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING

Music by
PAUL CARR

With passionate simplicity ♩=74

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

pp

mp

p

7

S

A

T

B

p

mp

p

I love thee to the depth and

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways. I love thee to the depth and

13

S

A

T *mp* *mf*
breadth and height my soul can reach, with - ing out of

B *mf*
breadth and height my soul can reach, with feel - ing out of

mp

18

S

A

T *f* *mp* *f*
height, out of sight for the ends, for the ends of be - ing,

B *f*
sight for the ends, for the ends of be - ing,

f *mp* *f* *rit.*

23 **a tempo**

S *mp* out of sight for the ends of be - *mf* *mp*

A out of sight for the ends of be ing and *p*

a tempo

p *mp*

S *mp* How do I love thee? How do I *mf*

A *p* How, how do I love thee? How do I *mf*

T *p* i - de - al grace.

B *p* i - de - al grace.

p *mp* *mf*

34 **rit.** **a tempo** *p* *mp* *mf*

S love thee? I love thee, I love thee to the lev - el of

A love thee? I love thee to the lev - el of

T

B

rit. **a tempo** *p* *mp* *mf*

40 *mf* *f*

S eve - ry day's most qui - et need, most qui-et need, by sun and can-dle

A e - ry day's most qui - et need, by sun and can-dle

T ...by sun and can-dle

B ...by sun and can-dle

mp *mf* *f*

46 *mp* *mp* *rit. mf* 7

S light, by sun and can-dle - light. I love thee free - ly, as men

A light, by sun and can-dle - light. I love thee free - ly, as men

T light, by sun and can-dle - light.

B light, by sun and can-dle - light.

mp *mp* *mf*

52 *a tempo p* *rit.*

S strive for right.

A strive for right.

T ...as men strive for right.

B ...as men strive for right.

mp *mp*

a tempo *rit.*

Tempo primo

57 *f*

S I love thee pure - ly, as they turn from praise. I love, love thee with a

A I love thee pure - ly, as they turn from priase. I love, love thee with a

T I love thee pure - ly, as they turn from praise. I love, love thee with a

B I love thee pure - ly, as they turn from praise. I love, love thee with a

Tempo primo

f

63 *rit. ff*

S pas - sion put in my old griefs, and with my child - hood's

A pas - sion put to use in my, in my old griefs, and with my child - hood's *ff*

T pa - sion put to use in my old griefs, and with my child - hood's *ff*

B pas - sion put to use in my old griefs, and with my child - hood's *ff*

rit. ff

a tempo
mp *p*

68
S faith. I love thee with a love I seemed to lose,
A faith. I love thee with a love I seemed to lose, I seemed to
T faith. I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
B faith. I love thee with a love seemed to lose

a tempo
mp *p*

73
S a love I seemed to lose with my lost saints.
A I love thee with my lost saints.
T with my lost saints. I love thee with the
B with my lost saints. I love thee with the

rit. **Slower (♩=54)**

mp *p* *pp*

Goodmusic

78 *rit.* *f* *p* *Poco più mosso* ($\text{♩}=60$) *p*

S ...tears, of all my life; and, if God choose, I shall but

A ...smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose, I shall but

T breath, smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose, I shall but

B breath, smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose, I shall but

f *p* *p*

83 *p* *Slower* ($\text{♩}=54$) *mp*

S love thee, love thee bet - ter af - ter death,

A love thee, love thee bet - ter af - ter death,

T love thee, love thee bet - ter af - ter death,

B love thee, love thee bet - ter af - ter death,

p *mp* *mp*

Slower ($\text{♩}=54$) *p* *mp*

88 *pp* *p* *molto rit.* *ppp*

S af - ter death, af - ter death.

A af - ter death, af - ter death.

T af - ter death, af - ter death.

B af - ter death, af - ter death.

pp *p* *molto rit.* *ppp*

It is illegal to copy this music or to use it for rehearsal or performance

death, 23rd April 2021

Red.