

To Edmund Rubbra

# TWO SONNETS

op. 12

Words by JOHN MILTON  
(1608–1674)

GERALD FINZI  
(1901–1956)

## 1. When I consider

Slow ♩ = about 58

Pianoforte (Orchestra)

6

13

19

When I con-sider how my light is spent, Ere

half my days, in this dark world and wide,— And that one tal-ent which is

poco accel.

23

poco rall.

poco accel.

death to hide, Lodg'd with me use-less, though my soul more

26

poco rall.

bent To servethere with my Ma - ker, and present My true ac - count, lest He re - turning

29

▢ a tempo

chide; 'Doth God - ex - act day - labour, light denied?' I

32

fond - ly ask. - But pa - tience, to prevent That mur - mur, - soon re - plies, -

35

*ritenuto*

'God doth not need either man's work or his own gifts;

pp mp

38

*Più mosso* ♩ = about 92

who best Bear His mild yoke,

pp

40

*Allargando*

they serve Him best; His state is

mp mf

43

*Maestoso*

King - ly. — Thous - ands at His bid-ding speed And post o'er

mp crescendo poco

46

*allargando*

**D** *a tempo*

land and ocean without rest:

*poco* *ff*

48

*smorzando*

51

*rit.*

**E**

*a tempo*

*poco meno mosso*

They also

*mf* *mp* *p* *pp*

56

serve who only stand and wait.

*ppp*

## 2. How soon hath time

Slow (♩ = about 50)

Pianoforte  
(Orchestra)

*p* sostenuto

3

How soon hath Time, the

crescendo *mf* *p*

6

sub-tle thief of youth, — Stol'n on his wing my three and

8 [A] Rit. - - - Poco più mosso (♩ = about 66)

twenti'th year! — My hast-ing days fly on —

11

— with full ca-reer, But my late spring no bud or blossom shew'th.

14

Per - haps my sem-blance might de-ceive the truth, —

16 Poco ritenuto

— That I to man - hood — am ar - riv'd so near,

18

a tempo

And in-ward ripe-ness doth much less ap-pear, That

*p*

20

Allargando - - -

some more time - ly happy spirits in - dueth.

*mf* *cresc.*

23

**B** Ancor più mosso (♩ = about 96)  
con dignita

Yet be it less or more, or soon or

*f* *mp*

26

slow, It shall be still in strict - est mea - sure ev'n, To

30

that same lot, how - ev - er mean, or high, Toward which

34

Time leads me, and the will of Heav'n;

*Allargando*

**C**

37

All is, if I have grace to use it so, As ev - er in my

*Meno mosso*

42

great task-master's eye.