

BENJAMIN BRITTEN

*Quatre Chansons
Françaises*

FOUR FRENCH SONGS

for high voice and orchestra

(1928)

Vocal score by

COLIN MATTHEWS

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The first broadcast performance of *Quatre Chansons Françaises*
was given by Heather Harper and the English Chamber Orchestra
conducted by Steuart Bedford, on 30th March 1980
The first concert performance was given by the same
artists at the Maltings, Snape, as part of the 33rd
Aldeburgh Festival on 10th June 1980

Duration: c.15 minutes

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QUATRE CHANSONS FRANÇAISES

(1928)

BENJAMIN BRITTEN

(1913-76)

I. Nuits de Juin

(Victor Hugo)

The image displays a musical score for a vocal and piano piece. The score is written in French and consists of three systems of music. The first system is marked 'Lento e molto rubato' and 'sempre un poch. ad lib.' The second system is marked 'a tempo' and 'colla voce'. The third system is marked 'poco rf' and 'rall.'.

System 1: The vocal line begins with a whole rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The piano accompaniment starts with a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand. The tempo is 'Lento e molto rubato' and the dynamics are 'ppp poss.' and 'sempre colla voce'.

System 2: The vocal line continues with a half note C5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note F5. The piano accompaniment features a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand. The tempo is 'a tempo' and the dynamics are 'colla voce' and 'pp'.

System 3: The vocal line begins with a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The piano accompaniment starts with a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand. The tempo is 'poco rf' and the dynamics are 'pp'.

Lyrics: L'é-té, lors-que le jour a fui, de fleurs cou-ver-te La plai-ne ver-se au loin un par-fum e-ni-vrant;