

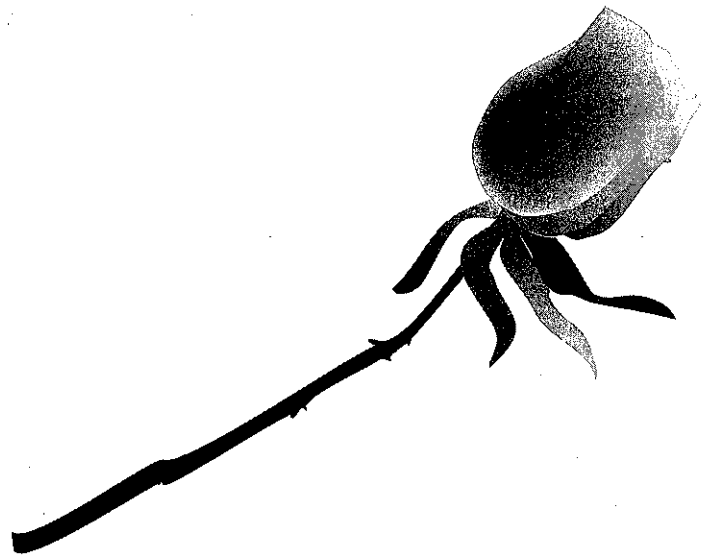
Dirait-on

(*Rilke*)

for Treble Chorus and Piano

from

"Les Chansons des Roses"



Morten Lauridsen

DISTRIBUTED BY 00228873
HAL LEONARD U.S. \$1.90
CORPORATION MILWAUKEE, WI 53213

Dirait-on

Abandon entouré d'abandon,
tendresse touchant aux tendresses...
C'est ton intérieur qui sans cesse
se caresse, dirait-on;

se caress en soi-même,
par son proper reflet éclairé.
Ainsi tu inventes le thème
du Narcisse exaucé.

Rainer Maria Rilke, from *Les Roses*

*Abandon surrounding abandon,
tenderness touching tenderness...
Your oneness endlessly
caresses itself, so they say;*

*self-caressing
through its own clear reflection.
Thus you invent the theme
of Narcissus fulfilled.*

English translation by Barbara and Erica Muhl

In addition to his vast output of German poetry, Rilke (1875–1926) wrote nearly 400 poems in French. His poems on roses struck me as especially charming, filled with gorgeous lyricism, deftly crafted and elegant in their imagery. These exquisite poems are primarily light, joyous and playful, and the musical settings are designed to enhance these characteristics and capture their delicate beauty and sensuousness. Distinct melodic and harmonic materials recur throughout the cycle, especially between Rilke's poignant *Contre Qui, Rose* (set as a wistful nocturne) and his moving *La Rose Complète*. The final piece, *Dirait-on*, is composed as a tuneful *chanson populaire*, or folksong, that weaves together two melodic ideas first heard in fragmentary form in preceding movements.

Les Chansons des Roses was composed for Portland, Oregon's superb professional chamber chorus, *Choral Cross-Ties*, conducted by Bruce Browne, who gave the premiere on April 23, 1993.

Dirait-on is published in versions for mixed chorus (SATB), men's chorus (TTBB) and treble chorus. It also exists as a song for high or medium voice and piano, high voice and guitar, and as a duet for mixed high or medium voices and piano.

—Morten Lauridsen
Los Angeles

The music of Morten Lauridsen, Distinguished Professor of Composition at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, occupies a permanent place in the standard vocal repertoire of the Twenty-First Century. His works, including seven vocal cycles and a series of sacred motets, are regularly performed throughout the world and have been recorded on over 150 CDs, several of which have received Grammy nominations.

Named an "American Choral Master" by the National Endowment for the Arts in 2005, he was awarded the 2007 National Medal of Arts, the highest artistic award in the United States, by the President in a White House ceremony "for his composition of radiant choral works combining musical beauty, power, and spiritual depth."

For more about Morten Lauridsen: www.peermusicClassical.com and www.mortenlauridsen.com

Dirait-on

Rainer Maria Rilke

Morten Lauridsen

Tempo rubato, flowing
(♩ = ca. 108)

rit. ----- **A tempo**

Treble 1

Treble 2

Piano

freely, caressingly

p

And.

rit. ----- **A tempo**

mp

A - ban - don en - tou - ré d'a - ban - don, ten -

rit. ----- **A tempo**

p

7

dresse tou - chant aux ten - dres - ses... C'est ton in - té - ri - eur qui

© Copyright 1998 by Songs of Peer, Ltd.
All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured. Printed in U.S.A.
Warning: any reproduction or arrangement of this composition without
permission of the publisher is an infringement of copyright.

rit. *molto rit.* **A tempo**
11 *mp*
sans — cesse se — ca — resse, dir — ait, dir — ait — on, dir — ait — on,

rit. *molto rit.* **A tempo**
mp

poco rit. **A tempo**
15 dir — — — ait — on, dir — ait, dir — ait,

poco rit. **A tempo**

poco rit. **A tempo**
18 dir — ait — on, dir — ait, dir — ait, dir — ait — on.

poco rit. **A tempo**

21 *rit.*

mp Se ca -

rit.

24 **[B] A tempo**

mp res - se en soi - mê - me, par son pro - pre re - flet -

[B] A tempo

27 *mp*

mp du

é - clai - ré. Ain - si tu in - ventes le thè - me du

30 *rit.* *A tempo*

Nar - cisse ex - au - cé. Dir - ait, dir - ait - on, dir - ait - on,
Nar - cisse ex - au - cé. Dir - ait, dir - ait - on, dir - ait - on,

rit. *A tempo*

34 *poco rit.* *A tempo*

dir - ait - on, dir - ait, dir - ait,
dir - ait - on, dir - ait, dir - ait,

poco rit. *A tempo*

37

dir - ait - on, dir - ait, dir - ait, dir - ait - on,
dir - ait - on, dir - ait, dir - ait, dir - ait - on,

40

dir - ait, dir - ait - on, dir - ait - on, dir - - - ait -

dir - ait, dir - ait - on dir - ait - on, - - - dir - - -

43

mf *mp* *mp* *mp*

on, dir - ait, dir - ait - on, dir - ait - on, ,

ait - on, dir - ait, dir - ait - on, dir - ait - on, ,

46

molto rit. *A tempo*

dir - ait, dir - ait - on, dir - ait, dir - ait, dir - ait - on.

dir - - - ait - on, dir - - - ait - on.

molto rit. *A tempo*

49 *rit.*

mf A - ban -

rit.

52 **C** A tempo *mf*

Dir - - - - - ait - on, -

don en - tou - ré d'a - ban - don, ten - dresse tou - chant aux ten -

C A tempo *mf* *mp* *mf*

55

dir - - - - -

dres - ses... C'est ton in - té - ri - eur qui

mp *mf* *mp*

58 *poco rit.* *A tempo*

mp Dir-ait, dir-ait-on,
mp Dir-ait, dir-ait-
 ait-on.
mf
 sans cesse se ca-resse, Se ca-res-se en soi-mê-me par son

poco rit. *A tempo*

mf *mp*

62

on, dir-ait-on,
 on, dir-ait-on,
 pro-pre re-flet é-clai-ré. Ain-si tu in-ventes le

mf *mp* *mf*

65 *mp* *mf* *molto rit.*

dir-ait-on.
 dir-ait-on.
 thè-me du Nar-cisse ex-au-cé.

mp *mf* *molto rit.*

[D] Molto meno mosso, deliberamente

68 *sub. p* dir - ait, dir - ait - on, dir - ait - on, dir - ait -

sub. p dir - - - ait - on, dir - - - ait - on, dir - - - ait -

dir - - - ait - on, dir - - - ait - on, dir - - - ait -

[D] Molto meno mosso, deliberamente

sub. p

rit. on, *poco a poco accel. e cresc.* dir - ait, dir - ait - on, dir - ait - on,

mp on, *mp* dir - - - ait - on, dir on, - - - ait - on,

rit. on, *poco a poco accel. e cresc.* dir - - - ait - on, dir - - - ait - on,

mp

74 *(accel. e cresc.)* dir - ait, dir - ait, dir - ait - on, **[E] Tempo primo** *mf* dir - ait, dir - ait - on,

dir - - - ait - on, *mf* dir - - - ait - on,

dir - - - ait - on, *(accel. e cresc.)* **[E] Tempo primo** *mf*

77 *f*

dir - ait - on, dir - - - ait - on, *f*

on, dir - ait - on, dir - - - ait - on, dir - ait, *f*

80 *mf* dir - ait, dir - ait - on, dir - ait - on, *rit.*

mf dir - ait, dir - ait - on, dir - ait, dir - ait - on,

dir - ait - on, dir - ait - on, dir - - - ait - on, *rit.*

83 *molto rit.* A tempo

dir - ait, dir - ait, dir - ait - on.

dir ait - on.

molto rit. A tempo *mf*

*rit.**molto rit.***F** **Meno mosso**

86 *mp* On dir - ait, dir - ait - on, *mp* dir *pp* dir

rit. *molto rit.* **F** **Meno mosso**

*rit.***Tempo primo**

89 dir - ait, dir - - , ait - on. ait - on. ait - on.

rit. **Tempo primo**

mp

Meno mosso

92 **Meno mosso** *rit.* *molto rit.* *pp*

p

(to Diana Rand Fairclough)