



R O Y A L
C O L L E G E
O F M U S I C

London

KARL RANKL

NINE SONGS FOR SOPRANO OP. 7

RCM EDITIONS

RCM Editions

RCM Editions are performing editions of works. They have been created to support College performances, recordings and research. They are published to bring the works to a wider public.

MUSIC, MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

This edition has been prepared for the research project 'Music, Migration and Mobility - The Legacy of Migrant Musicians from Nazi Europe in Britain', a performance-led and multi-disciplinary project that aimed to better understand the significance of migration and mobility for music. Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) from 2019-2023, the project brought together an international team of musicians, archival researchers, musicologists and geographers for one of the biggest practice-led research projects at the RCM to date. The project studied the mobile lives, artistic products and impact on British culture of musicians who came from Nazi-ruled Europe during the 1930s and '40s. The project also probed the practical challenges of performing and mediating the largely unknown body of works by these musicians, doing so through a series of open rehearsal workshops, public performances and recordings involving RCM students and staff.

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RCM Editions of Songs Op. 5-10 by Karl Rankl

Created for research and performances at the Royal College of Music, these performing editions are faithful transcriptions of the manuscripts. Digital reproductions of Rankl's manuscripts are available publicly on the website of the KUG Library:

<https://phaidra.kug.ac.at/>

Editorial interventions have been kept to a minimum. Below is a small list of corrections made by editor Louis Stanhope:

Op/No.	Bar	Change
Op. 7/2		Spelling of Sara Teasdale – h removed on Sara.
Op. 7/3	9	B-flat changed to dotted quaver in piano right hand.
Op. 7/3	18	5 th quaver rest changed to dotted quaver in piano left hand.
Op. 7/3	38	Minim changed to dotted minim.
Op. 7/5	26	Spelling of 'being' corrected.
Op. 7/9	70	C changed from crotchet to dotted crotchet in piano left hand.
Op. 7/9	74	Spelling of 'physic' corrected.
Op. 7/9	74	Added staccatos to the whole bar.
Op. 7/9	93	Quaver rest changed to semiquaver.
Op. 8/5		Spelling of Mendez corrected.
Op. 8/5	49	Changed crotchet tied to minim to dotted minim.
Op. 9/6	14	C-sharp changed to semiquaver.
Op. 10/7	4	Added hyphen to 'amaze' to show it is one word.
Op. 10/7	4	Semiquavers changed to demisemiquavers on beat 1 left hand piano.
Op. 10/7	14	The word 'a' changed to 'an'.
Op.10/10	4	B-flat minim changed to dotted minim in baritone

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Karl Rankl's Songs Op. 5-10

by Norbert Meyn

Born near Vienna in 1898, Karl Rankl studied privately with Arnold Schoenberg and Anton Webern from 1918-1921, often together with his close friend Hanns Eisler. From 1922 to 1925 Rankl was repetiteur and chorus master for the Volksoper Vienna. He later worked as conductor and repetiteur at Liberec, Königsberg and finally at the Krolloper Berlin from 1928. In 1931 Rankl became Kappellmeister in Wiesbaden, moving to Graz as Music Director from 1933 to 1937 and finally to Prague from 1937 to 1939.

Rankl was persecuted by the Nazis for political reasons due to his known association with socialist worker choirs during the 1920s. He was forced to emigrate to Britain via Prague in August 1939. Following his escape from the Nazis, Rankl and his wife Adele first settled in Bristol, but like most German, Austrian, and Italian nationals in Britain during this period, he was interned as an "enemy alien" during the summer of 1940. By the time he was released his health had declined, and, unable to accept paid employment because of his refugee status, Rankl turned to composition, in particular to setting English texts by British and American authors. All the English songs in Op. 5-10 date from this period, written in Oxford between 1941 and 1942. The German songs in Opus 6 and 10 were written in Bristol in 1939.¹ Some of the songs were performed in Oxford at the time, and the cycle A Chinese Picture Book was submitted to the BBC in 1944 but rejected.

After that, things started to improve for Rankl as he was offered opportunities to conduct the London Philharmonic Orchestra toward the end of the war. In 1946 he was appointed music director of the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden, one of the most important positions in post-war British musical life. He held this position until 1951 and afterward conducted several other leading orchestras in Britain and Australia. Rankl later orchestrated some of his songs for his oratorio *Der Mensch* (1963/64), but none of these songs were ever published. Eventually, their manuscripts were donated to the Kunsthochschule Graz, where they have been digitized and made available to the public. Rankl's compositions in Britain during and after the war included, in addition to *Der Mensch*, eight symphonies and an opera, *Deirdre of the Sorrows*. Unlike most migrant musicians of his generation, and despite the fact that he spent less than a third of his life in Britain and re-migrated to Austria toward the end of his life, Rankl is characterized as a "British conductor and composer of Austrian birth" in the New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians. This forms a stark contrast with the views of many at the time of his

¹ For a list of all the songs with dates of composition see:
Nicole Ristow, *Karl Rankl*, von Bockel Verlag, Neumünster, 2017, p. 514-522

appointment at Covent Garden who criticized the selection of an Austrian refugee and foreigner rather than a British artist.

Attempts to place the English Songs within a clear national or geographical context can lead to similar tensions. Their style of composition demonstrates clear roots in the Second Viennese School, unsurprisingly since Rankl studied with Arnold Schoenberg and Anton von Webern in Vienna. His treatment of harmony and atonality is associative and rather free, reminiscent sometimes of the earlier works of Schoenberg and of those of Zemlinsky. At other times, the songs feature elements of the more rhetorical style of his friend Hanns Eisler, a representative of the socialist art of Bertolt Brecht's circle in Berlin, where both musicians lived and worked for a number of years. This music arguably sounds more "Austro-German" than "English" to a majority of listeners, yet their English-language texts, consisting of poems by Siegfried Sassoon and Thomas Lisle as well as a number of twentieth-century American authors, locate the songs within an Anglo-American cultural context.

About twenty of these songs were performed during a 2017 student workshop at the Austrian Cultural Forum (with Austrian pianist Joseph Breinl), London and in concerts by Ensemble Émigré in London and Oxford in 2019. Then, in late 2022 and early 2023, 18 songs were recorded by advanced students and recent graduates of the Royal College of Music as part of the Music, Migration and Mobility project. Musicians and audiences found them well-crafted as well as engaging, humorous, and approachable. However, several performers commented on the occasional oddity of the text setting, sometimes felt to be more German than English. A similar observation could apply to Handel's English oratorios and Britten's settings of German and French poetry, which likewise reflect the mobility of these composers, but in the case of a less familiar composer such as Rankl, the discrepancy engenders another obstacle to appreciation of the music. If one maintains the ingrained habit of evaluating music with reference to fixed geographical location, then these songs may easily be regarded as deficient, "not really German" or "not really English," difficult to place exactly. However, if they are regarded as constituted not only by fixity but also by movement, then the path opens toward a favourable assessment of their stylistic hybridity and innovative nature, and to acceptance of Rankl as a positive agent of cultural mobility, rather than dismissal of him as a historical anomaly.

An earlier version of this text and further information about the research of the AHRC project Music, Migration and Mobility can be found in: Meyn, N. and Grosch, N. and Adey, P. (2023) *Foregrounding mobility rather than belonging: a conceptual framework for engaging with music shaped by transnational migration*. Acta Musicologica, 95 (1) pp. 4-20.

Nine Songs for Soprano, Op. 7

No. 1: A Girl's Mood

Lizette Woodworth Reese (1856-1935)

Karl Rankl (1898-1968)

Andantino

Soprano

I love a pray - er-book; I love a

Andantino

Piano

p (delicately)

un poco tranquillo

S.

thorn - tree that blows in the grass as ____

un poco tranquillo

Pno.

espr. (h) #

a tempo

S.

white as can be. ____ I ____ love an old

a tempo

Pno.

pp espr p

11

S. house set down in the sun, and the

Pno.

poco rit.

14 win - dy old roads, that there - a - bout run. I

poco rit.

Pno.

a tempo

S. love blue, thin frocks; green stones, one and all; A

a tempo

Pno.

22 **poco** - - - - a - - - - **poco rit.** - - - -

S. sky full of stars, a rose at the

poco - - - - a - - - - **poco rit.** - - - -

Pno. { *mp expr.*

pp expr.

25 - - - - **a tempo**

S. fall. A lov - er I love; Oh,

a tempo

Pno. { *p expr.*

28 **rit.** - - - -

S. had I but one, I would give him these, My -

rit. - - - -

Pno. {

4

32

S. molto a tempo

self, and the sun.

Pno. molto a tempo *p delicately*

35

S. -

Pno. pp

No. 2: Night Song at Amalfi

Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)

Karl Rankl (1898-1968)

Tranquillo

Soprano

Tranquillo

I asked the hea - ven of

Piano

4

S. stars what I should give me love It

Pno.

7

S. an - swered me with si - lence, si - lence a - bove.

Pno.

9

S. - - - - I asked the dark-en ed sea down where the

Pno. { *p esp. sempre*

12 **poco rit.** - - - - , **a tempo**

S. fi - sher-men go It

Pno. { *p esp.*

poco rit. - - - - **a tempo**

14

S. an-swered me with si - lence, si - lence be - low.

Pno. { *pp*

16 **Piu mosso!**

S. - - - - -

Pno. *mf espr. molto* *dim.* - - - - -

Piu mosso!

Oh, I could

18

S. give him wee - ping or I could give him song

Pno. *p espr.* *cresc.*

poco rit. - - - - -

poco rit. - - - - -

21 - - - - - **a tempo**

S. - - - - - But how can I give -

Pno. *f* *p* - - - - -

1.h. - - - - -

23

S. si - lence my whole life long?

Pno.

Pno.

25

S.

Pno.

p espr. molto

dim.

pp

Pno.

No. 3: Laugh, and the World laughs with you

Ella Wheeler Wilcox (1850-1919)

Karl Rankl (1898-1968)

Allegro

Soprano

Piano

Allegro

2

S.

Laugh, and the world laughs with you;

Pno.

4 **poco tranquillo** **a tempo**

S.

Weep, and you weep alone; For this

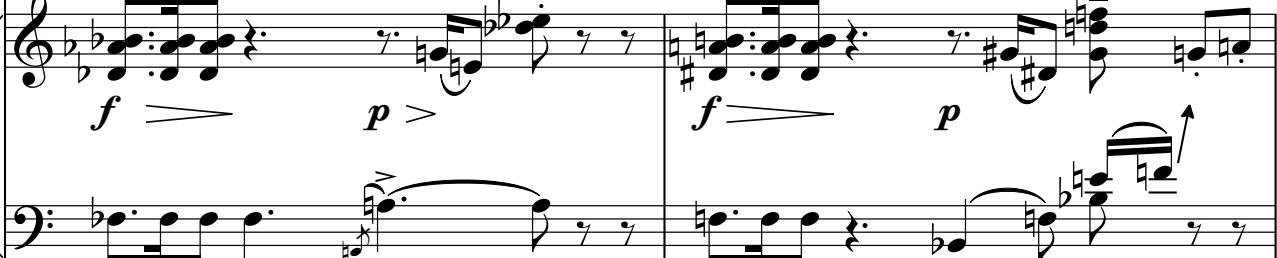
Pno.

poco tranquillo **a tempo**

10

S. 
 brave old Earth must bor - row its mirth, it has

Pno.



8

S. 
 trou - ble e - nough of its own.

Pno.



10

S. 
 Sing, and the hills will

Pno.



11

S. an - sver;

Pno. *p* cresc.

12 **poco tranquillo** *<>* **a tempo**

S. Sigh! it is lost on the air; The

Pno. *f* **poco tranquillo** **a tempo**

14

S. e - choes bound to a joy - ful sound but

Pno. *f*

12

16

S. shrink from voi - cing care.

poco rit.

Pno. *p*

mp espr molto

18 a tempo *f*

S. Re joyce,

and men will

a tempo

Pno. *f*

20

S. seek you;

Pno. *p* *f*

21 **poco tranquillo**

S. Grieve, _____

13 **a tempo**

and they turn_ and

22 **poco tranquillo**

Pno. a tempo

23

S. 

go; They___

Pno. 

cresc.

24

S. want full mea - sure of

Pno.

25

S. all your pleasure, But they

Pno. *f* *mf*

26

S. do not want your woe. Be

Pno. *p esp* *f*

28

S. glad, and your friends are

Pno. *p esp*

29

poco tranquillo

S. ma - ny; Be sad, _____ and you lose_ them

Pno. { *mp espr.*

poco tranquillo

p

31

poco rit. . . a tempo

S. all._____ There are none____ to de - cline your

Pno. { *p* *mf* *f*

poco rit. . . a tempo

33

poco rit. . .

S. nec - - - - tared wine, But a -

Pno. {

poco rit. . .

34 **tranquillo**

S. lone you must drink life's

tranquillo

Pno.

35 **a tempo****poco rit.**

S. gall.

a tempo

Pno.

37 **a tempo**

S. Feast, and your halls are crow - ded;

a tempo

Pno.

39 **tranquillo** **a tempo**

S. Fast, _____ and the world goes by. suc -

Pno. **tranquillo** **a tempo**

p cresc.

41

S. - ced _____ and give, _____ and it helps you live, _____ but

Pno. *f* *p* *f* *p*

43

S. no man can help _____ you die. There is

Pno. *f* *pp* *p* cresc.

molto rit.

molto rit.

pesante

S. room in the halls of

pesante

Pno. *f* *p*

46

S. plea - sure for a long and lord - ly

Pno. *f*

48

S. train; But

Pno. *f*

49 **molto tranquillo**

S. one by one we must all file on through the

molto tranquillo

Pno.

51

S. nar - row_ aisles_ of pain.

accelerando & cresc.

Pno.

accelerando & cresc.

53

S.

Pno.

54 **tempo I°**

S.

Pno.

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is for the Soprano (S.) and the bottom staff is for the Piano (Pno.). Measure 54 starts with a rest for the soprano. The piano part begins with a melodic line consisting of eighth-note pairs and grace notes. It includes dynamic markings: 'ff' (fortissimo) and 'fff' (fotississimo). The piano staff also features a bass line with sustained notes and chords.

No. 4: To Daffodils

Robert Herrick (1591-1874)

Karl Rankl (1898-1968)

Soprano

Fair daf - fo - dils, we weep to see you

Piano

3

S.

haste a-way so soon; As yet the ear - ly ri-sing

Pno.

6

S.

sun has not at - tained his noon. Stay, stay,

Pno.

9

S. un - til the has - ting day has run but to the ev - en - song:

Pno.

11

S. And, hav ing prayed to - ge-ther, we will go with you a long.

Pno.

14

poco rit. a tempo

S. We have short time to stay, as you,

Pno.

poco rit. a tempo

mf *espr.* *p* *espr.*

17

S. we have as short a spring; as quick a growth to meet de-cay, as

Pno.

20

S. you, _____ or an - y-thing. We

Pno.

23

S. die, as your hours do, and dry a-way,

poco rit. a tempo

Pno.

poco rit. a tempo

Pno.

26

S. like to the sum - mer's rain,

Pno.

28

S. or as to the pearls of mor - - - ning's

Pno.

30

S. dew, ne'er to be found. a - gain.

Pno.

32

S.

Pno.

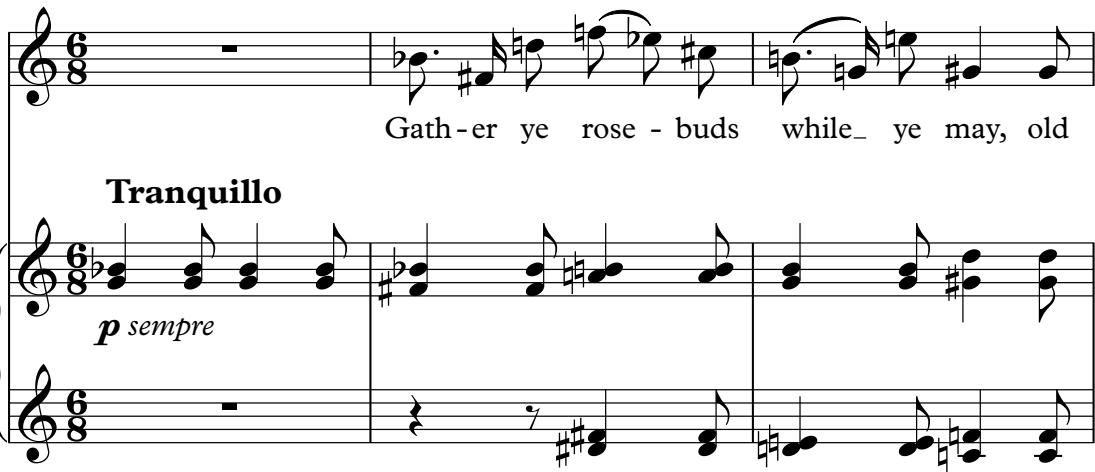
A musical score page showing two staves. The top staff is for the Soprano (S.) and the bottom staff is for the Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp, indicating G major. Measure 32 begins with a rest for the soprano. The piano part features a sustained note with a grace note, followed by eighth-note chords. The soprano enters with a melodic line consisting of eighth and sixteenth notes. The piano accompaniment continues with eighth-note chords. Measure 33 begins with a rest for the soprano, followed by a sustained note with a grace note, and then a melodic line of eighth and sixteenth notes. The piano accompaniment consists of eighth-note chords.

No. 5: Gather ye Rose-buds...

Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

Karl Rankl (1898-1968)

Tranquillo

Soprano 

Tranquillo

Piano { 

S. 

8

S. mor - row will__ be dy - ing.

Pno. *espr*

11 **un poco piu mosso**

S. The glo - ri - ous Lamp of Hea-ven, the sun, the

Pno.

un poco piu mosso

14 **rit.**

S. high - er he's a - get - ting, the soon - er will his race be run, and

Pno. *p* *cresc.* *f* *mf* *p* **rit.**

18

S. nea - rer he's to set - ting.

Pno. *pp*

a tempo

p espr. cresc.

S. That age is best which is the first, when

Pno. *f*

p dolce

S. youth and blood are warm - er; But

Pno. *p semper*

26

S. be - ing spent, the worse, — and worst times,

Pno.

28

S. will suc - ceed the for - mer.

Pno.

poco rit. . . .

30

S. - - - - - Then be not coy, — but

Pno.

tempo I°

tempo I°

30

32

S. use— your time; andwhile ye may, go mar - ry: For ha - ving lost_ but

Pno.

p *espr.*

36

S. once— your prime, you may for e - ver tar - ry.

Pno.

espr.

39

S.

molto rit.

Pno.

molto rit.

espr.

pp

No. 6: On Orpheus Going To Hell For A Wife

Thomas Lisle (1709-1767)

Karl Rankl (1898-1968)

Not too quick

Soprano

Not too quick

Piano

When

3

S.

Or-pheus went down to the re-gions be-low, which

Pno.

5

S.

men are for-bi-den to see,

Pno.

7

S. tuned up his lyre____ as the hi - sto - ries show, to

Pno.

9

S. set his Eu - ry - di-ce free.

poco rit.

Pno.

11 **a tempo**

S. All hell was a-larmed that a

Pno.

13

S. per - son so wise should so rash - ly en - dan - ger his

Pno.

15

S. life, to ven - ture so far: **poco rit.**

Pno. **f**

Poco Tranquillo **rit.** . . . **a tempo**

S. But how great the sur - prise, _____ when they_

Pno. **p** **mf**

Poco Tranquillo **rit.** . . . **a tempo**

19

S. found that he came_ for his wife! To

Pno.

22

S. find out a pu-nish-ment due to the fault,_ old

Pno.

24

S. Plu - to had puzz - led his brain; But

Pno.

26

S. hell had not tor - ments su - ffi - cient, he thought, so he

Pno.

28

S. gave him his wife back a - gain.

Pno.

30

S. rit. But

Pno.

32

S. pi - ty succ - eed - ing en - ga - gëd his heart, — and,

Pno. { *p esp.*

34 rit. (f)

S. pleased with his play - ing so well, He

Pno. { *cresc.* ----- *f*

a tempo, Tempo I

36

S. took her a - gain in re - gard of his art;

Pno. { *8va* ----- *f* *p*

38

S.

Pno. *f*

Such

40

S. me - rit has mu - - - sic in hell,

Pno. *p sub.*

poco rit. **a tempo**

42

S. such me - - - rit has

poco rit. **a tempo**

Pno. *f*

p

44

S. mu - - sic in hell, has

Pno.

46 rit. mu - sic in hell!! a tempo

S.

Pno.

rit. a tempo

v.

48 Vivace

S.

Vivace

Pno.

f

ff

No. 7: Coming and Going

Grace Hyde Trine

Karl Rankl (1898-1968)

Allegro moderato

Soprano

They stood re - joi - cing at his

Allegro moderato

Piano

S.

birth,

Pno.

poco rit. a tempo

S.

They o - pened doors of ri - ches

poco rit. a tempo

Pno.

14

S. wide:— They of - fered him the best

Pno.

18 rit.

S. of earth and the

Pno.

molto rit. Andante cantabile

S. in - fant cried.

Pno.

28

S. They stood a - round his bed of

Pno.

poco rit.

p dolce

poco rit.

33 - - - a tempo

S. death, the old, the young, the lit - tle child: They

Pno.

pp

p expr.

a tempo

38

S. wept, as passed his par - ting breath:

Pno.

Molto tranquillo

pp dolce expr.

allargando

43

S.

The ti - red old man...

Pno.

allargando

p *espr. molto*

48

molto rit.

S.

smiled

Pno.

molto rit.

pp

No. 8: Little Fruit-Tree in November

Anne Runcie

Karl Rankl (1898-1968)

Adagio

Soprano

Na - ked, rain-wet, brown, once

Adagio

Piano

4

S.

so green and sweet, her last gol - den

Pno.

7

S.

gown ly - ing at her feet;

Pno.

10

S. shamed _____ and shiv - - - ering,

Pno. { *pp*

12

S. how then could she guess on the

Pno. {

Pno. {

14

S. looms of spring hangs her

molto rit.

Pno. {

molto rit.

Pno. {

16 **quasi a tempo**

S. blos - som dress?

quasi a tempo

Pno.

poco rit.

This musical score page contains two staves. The top staff is for the Soprano (S.) and the bottom staff is for the Piano (Pno.). The key signature changes from C major to G major at the beginning of the first measure. Measure 16 starts with the soprano singing 'blos - som dress?' followed by a fermata. The piano part has a sustained note with a fermata. The soprano then continues with 'quasi a tempo' and the piano part follows with 'poco rit.'.

No. 9: The Jackdaw

Vincent Bourne (1695-1747)
Translated by William Cowper

Karl Rankl (1898-1968)

Allegro

Soprano

Piano

4

S.

There is a bird who by his coat, and by the hoarse - ness

Pno.

7

S.

of his note, might be sup-posed a crow; A

Pno.

10

S. great fre- quen - ter of the church, where, bi - shop - like, he

Pno.

espr.

13

S. finds a perch, and dor mi - to - ry

Pno.

f *p* *f*

16

S. too.

Pno.

f sempre

19

S.

Pno.

A - bove_____ the

22

S.

Pno.

stee - - ple shines a plate, that turns and

25

S.

Pno.

turns,_____ to in - di-cate from what point blows the

cresc.

28

S. wea- ther.

Pno. *f*

Look up, your

31

S. brains be - gin to swim, 'tis in the clouds that plea - ses

Pno.

Pno.

34

S. him,

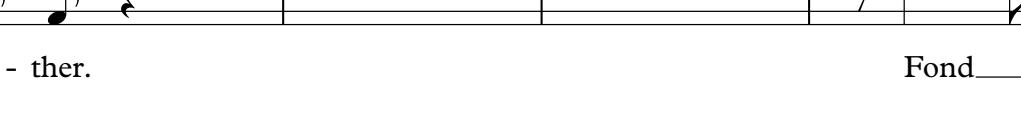
Pno. *p*

poco rit... he choo - ses it the

poco rit... *poco pesante.*

Pno. *mf* *f*

37 - a tempo

S. 

ra - ther. Fond of the

a tempo

Pno. 

41

S. spe - cu - la - tive height, thi-ther he wings his

Pno.

rit.

f **p**

44

S.

A tempo
(♩ = a little slower than ♩. before)

ai - ry flight,
and thence se- cure -

Pno.

mf

p

mp esp.

2

A tempo
(♩ = a little slower than ♩. before)

47

S. - ly sees the bus tle and the ra - ree-show that oc - cu py man kind be -

Pno.

50

S. poco rit. - - - - -
-low, se - cure and at his ease. - - - - -

Pno.

52 a tempo (Tempo I°) rit. - - - - -

S. You think, no doubt, rit. - - - - -

Pno. p - - - - - mf

a tempo

S. he sits__ and mu-ses on fu - ture bro - ken

a tempo

Pno.

58

S. bones and brui - ses, if he should chance to fall. No.,

Pno.

61

S. — not a sin - gle thought like that em - ploys his phi - lo -

Pno.

64

S. so - phic pate, or troub - - - - - les__ it at

Pno.

67

S. all.

Pno.

70

S. He sees that this great

Pno.

72

S. round - a - bout the world, with all its mot - ley rout,

Pno.

74 **molto rit.** , - - - , **a tempo**

S. church, ar - my, phy - sic, law, its cus - toms, and its bus - ines

Pno.

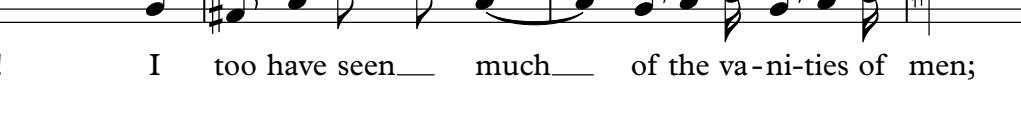
76

S. ses is no con-cern at all of his, and says what says he?

Pno.

Musical score for piano and soprano. The soprano part starts with a rest, followed by a grace note, a sharp sign, and a wavy line indicating a glissando. The piano part begins with a dynamic *p*, featuring eighth-note chords and a sustained bass note. The soprano part continues with a grace note, a sharp sign, and a wavy line. The piano part includes dynamics *p dolce* and *p*, with sustained notes and eighth-note chords. The soprano part ends with a grace note, a sharp sign, and a wavy line.

83

S. 

bird! I too have seen much of the va-ni-ties of men;

a tempo (Tempo I°)

S.

and, sick of hav - ing seen 'em would cheer - ful - ly these

a tempo (Tempo I°) $\text{J}=\text{J}.$ as before

Pno.

p f p

S.

limbs re - sign , for such a pair of wings as thine,

Pno.

f p f

S.

— and such a head bet - tween 'em.

Pno.

p p f

98 rit. - - - A tempo, poco vivace

S. And such a head bet - ween 'em.

Pno. rit. - - - A tempo, poco vivace

101 poco vivace

S. - - -

Pno. poco vivace

mf - - - *f* - - - *ff*

104

S. - - -

Pno. - - -

f - - - *fff*