Life Has Loveliness

Stephen Chatman
This work was commissioned by St. Roch Catholic Secondary, Brampton, Ontario, Canada. “Life has loveliness to sell” is the opening line of Sara Teasdale’s poem, *Barter*, from her collection titled *Love Songs* (1917). Chatman’s setting reflects the poem’s optimistic spirit and the beauty or loveliness of life through lines pertaining not only to life’s “value” but also exemplifying nature, music, children, love and peace. Teasdale’s famous words of advice, “Spend all you have for loveliness, Buy it and never count the cost;” inspire a hushed, dramatic statement. Alternating homophonic and contrapuntal sections modulate and evolve, rising to a climactic ending.

*Barter*

Life has loveliness to sell,
All beautiful and splendid things,
Blue waves whitened on a cliff,
Soaring fire that sways and sings,
And children’s faces looking up
Holding wonder like a cup.
Life has loveliness to sell,
Music like a curve of gold,
Scent of pine trees in the rain,
Eyes that love you, arms that hold,
And for your spirit’s still delight,
Holy thoughts that star the night.
Spend all you have for loveliness,
Buy it and never count the cost;
For one white singing hour of peace
Count many a year of strife well lost,
And for a breath of ecstasy
Give all you have been, or could be.

—Sara Teasdale (1884–1933)

**Stephen Chatman (b. 1950)**

For biographical information visit: www.drstephenchatman.com
Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

Smoothly \( \frac{q}{4} = 100 \)

\( \frac{p}{2} \)

\( \frac{p}{2} \)

\( \frac{p}{2} \)

\( \frac{p}{2} \)

Life has love-li-ness to

sell, All beau-ti-ful and splen-did things,

all beau-ti-ful and splen-did things,

\( \text{sim.} \)

\( \text{sim.} \)
Blue waves whitened on a cliff, whitened

Soaring fire that sways and

on a cliff, whitened on a cliff, Soaring
sings, soaring fire, And children's faces looking up
Holding
down
fire that sways and sings, And children's faces looking up
Holding
sings, soaring fire, And children's faces looking up
Holding
fire that sways and sings, And children's faces looking up
Holding
Slightly faster
\( q = 104 \)

wonder like a cup, And children's faces looking up
Holding

\( q = 92–96 \)

rit.

Slightly faster
\( q = 104 \)

wonder like a cup.

\( q = 92–96 \)

rit.

Slower
\( q = 92–96 \)
Life has love-li-ness to sell, Mu-sic like a
curve of gold, a curve of gold, mu-sic like a curve of gold,
Slightly faster $\cdot = 100$

Scent of pine trees in the rain, scent of pine, Eyes that love you, arms that

rain, scent of pine, Eyes that love you, arms that

Slightly faster $\cdot = 100$

Scent of pine trees in the rain, scent of pine.
Slightly faster \( \frac{\text{d}}{\text{d}t} = 104 \)

hold, arms that hold, And for your spirit's-

love you, arms that hold, And for your spirit's-

Slightly faster \( \frac{\text{d}}{\text{d}t} = 104 \)

still delight, Holy thoughts that star the

night, And for your spirit's—
still de-light,
Holy thoughts that star the

Spend
Slower $q = 76$

all you have on love-li-ness,- Buy it, and

* Mm. 59–64: One or more men may sing the alto part.
never count the cost; For one white singing hour of peace,

Faster $q = 80$

never count the cost; For one white singing hour of peace, one

Faster $q = 88$

never count the cost; For one white singing hour of peace,

Faster $q = 96$

hour of peace, For one white singing hour of peace,

Faster $q = 88$

hour of peace, For one white singing hour of peace,

Faster $q = 96$

hour of peace, For one white singing hour of peace,
lost, year of strife well lost, And for a breath of

Slightly faster

poco f

lost, year of strife well lost, And for a breath of

Slightly faster

poco f

Slightly faster

poco f

Slightly faster

poco f

Slightly faster

poco f

ec st ac y

Give all you have been, give

ec st ac y

Give all you have been, give

ec st ac y

Give all you have been, give

ec st ac y

Give all you have been, give
rit. poco a poco al fine

all you have been, give all you have been, give
all you have been, give all you have been, give
all you have been, give all you have been, give

S 1

all, all, give

S 2

all you have been, give all, give

A

all you have been, give all you have been, give

T

all you have been, give all, give

B

all you have been, give all you have been, give

Pno.