

When You Were Sweet Sixteen



When first I saw the love light in your eye,
And heard thy voice, like sweetest melody,
Speak words of love to my enraptur'd soul,
The world had naught but joy in store for me,
E'en tho' we're drifting down life's stream apart,
Your face I still can see in dream's domain,
I know that it would ease my breaking heart
To hold you in my arms just once again.

I love you as I never loved before,
Since first I met you on the village green;
Come to me, or my dream of love is o'er.
I love you as I loved you
When you were sweet, when you were sweet sixteen.

Last night I dreamt I held your hand in mine,
And once again you were my happy bride,
I kiss'd you as I did in "Auld Lang Syne,"
As to the church we wander'd side by side;
The love I bear for you can never die,
Without you I had rather not been born,
And even tho' we never meet again,
I love you as the sunshine loves the morn.

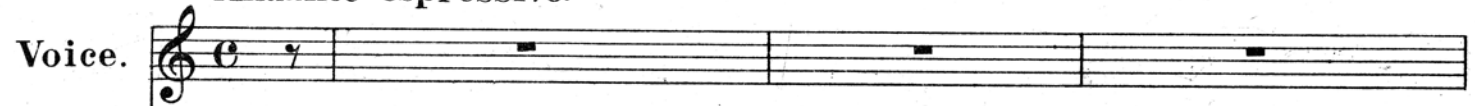
James Thornton

WHEN YOU WERE SWEET SIXTEEN.

Words & Music
By JAMES THORNTON.

Andante espressivo.

Voice.



Piano.



When first I saw the love-light in your eye, ——— And
Last night I dreamt I held your hand in mine, ——— And

heard thy voice, like sweet-est mel-o - dy, ——— Speak words of love to my en-rap-tur'd
once a - gain you were my hap-py bride, ——— I kiss'd you as I did in "Auld Lang

soul, _____ The world had naught but joy in store for me; _____ E'en
 Syne," _____ As to the church we wan-der'd side by side; _____ The

tho' we're drift-ing down life's stream a - part, _____ Your face I still can see in dream's do -
 love I bear for you can nev - er die, _____ With - out you I had rath - er not been

main, _____ I know that it would ease my break - ing
 born, _____ And e - ven tho' we nev - er meet a -

heart _____ To hold you in my arms just once a - gain. _____
 gain, _____ I love you as the sun - shine loves the morn. _____

Chorus. *Slower.*

I love you as I nev - er loved be - fore, _____ Since

The first system of the chorus features a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The music is in common time (C) and begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The vocal line starts with a quarter note 'I', followed by eighth notes 'love you as', a quarter note 'I', eighth notes 'nev - er', a quarter note 'loved', a quarter note 'be - fore,' with a long horizontal line indicating a breath or continuation, and finally a quarter note 'Since'.

first I met you on the vil - lage green; _____ Come

The second system continues the vocal line with a quarter note 'first', eighth notes 'I met you on the vil - lage green;', a long horizontal line, and a quarter note 'Come'. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands.

to me, or my dream of love is o'er, _____ I

The third system continues the vocal line with a quarter note 'to me,', eighth notes 'or my dream of love is o'er,', a long horizontal line, and a quarter note 'I'. The piano accompaniment continues with harmonic accompaniment.

love you as I loved you When you were sweet, when you were sweet six - teen.

The fourth system concludes the chorus with a quarter note 'love you as', eighth notes 'I loved you', and a quarter note 'When you were sweet, when you were sweet six - teen.'. The piano accompaniment features triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over the notes) and tempo changes: *molto rall.* (marked above the first triplet) and *a tempo.* (marked above the second triplet).