

The first kiss

Alexander Campkin

musicalis publishing

Scored for:

Mixed choir and Baroque string orchestra. Duration: c. 9 minutes

Commissioned by the Fourth Choir, conducted by Dominic Peckham. This commission was made possible through the generosity of Francis Nwokedi in loving memory of his brother Victor Nwokedi. First performed on 20 June 2015 by The Fourth Choir and the Meridian Sinfonia conducted by Dominic Peckham, at St Peter's Eaton Square, London

Text:

When the hour drew nigh
at which we say farewell,
My Moeris kissed my lips,
in dream or truth I cannot tell;
But if the kiss divine were real,
then this indeed I know,
My joyous soul no more
on earth can wander in

Thy eyes are sparks, god-like made,
Or rather rays, that send forth flame;
To look thee in the face I cannot claim,
So fierce a fire thy eyes have on me played.

Epigrams by Strato (c.335-c.269 BC)

Translated and privately printed by 'Sydney Oswald', a nom de plume of Sydney Lomer, poet and soldier (1880-1926)

Programme Note:

The first kiss sets two poignant and daring Epigrams by Greek philosopher Strato (c.335-c.269 BC), translated and privately printed by 'Sydney Oswald', a nom de plume of the poet and soldier Sydney Lomer (1880-1926). It was commissioned by the Fourth Choir, conducted by Dominic Peckham. This commission was made possible through the generosity of Francis Nwokedi in loving memory of his brother Victor Nwokedi.

Performance Instructions:

For repeated notes: repeat the written syllable for each note until new text is indicated, and there should be no diphthongs.

Composer Biography:

Described as 'fresh and attractive' by Gramophone, Alexander Campkin's music has attracted the attentions of some of the top ensembles. His work has been performed or broadcast in over thirty countries and features on 15 CDs, one of which was Classic FM Christmas CD of the Year. Alexander has received over fifty commissions from organisations including The Royal Opera House, The London Mozart Players, The Royal Ballet Sinfonia, Aldeburgh Music, The BBC Performing Arts Fund, The Swedish Arts Council, Ampersandance Contemporary Dance Company, New London Children's Choir, The Theatinerkirche Vokalkapelle Munich, The Fulham Camerata Choir and Orchestra and Neresheim Abbey in Germany. He has been elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music for services to music. Alexander is conductor of The Oxbridge Singers, minimaLIST ENsemble and Future Opera. He was born in 1984 and studied at Oxford University, the Royal Academy of Music and the University for Performing Arts in Vienna.

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Commissioned by The Fourth Choir, conducted by Dominic Peckham

The first kiss

Text by Strato (c.335-c.269 BC), translated by Sydney Oswald

Alexander Campkin

Dreamful (♩ = 54)

Vocal staves for Soprano 1, Alto 1, Tenor, Soprano 2, Alto 2, and Bass. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The notes are mostly whole notes with fermatas, indicating a slow, dreamlike tempo.

Dreamful (♩ = 54)

solo
con sord. e poco vib.

senza vib

Instrumental staves for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The Violin 1 part includes dynamics like *pp*, *ppp*, and *p*, and performance instructions such as *senza vib*, *pizz.*, and *senza vib pizz.*. The Contrabass part includes a *p* dynamic and a *senza vib* instruction. The Violoncello part includes a *p* dynamic and a *senza vib pizz.* instruction. The Violin 2 part includes a *p* dynamic and a *senza vib pizz.* instruction. The Viola part includes a *p* dynamic and a *senza vib pizz.* instruction. The Contrabass part includes a *p* dynamic and a *senza vib* instruction. The Violoncello part includes a *p* dynamic and a *senza vib pizz.* instruction. The Violin 2 part includes a *p* dynamic and a *senza vib pizz.* instruction. The Viola part includes a *p* dynamic and a *senza vib pizz.* instruction. The Contrabass part includes a *p* dynamic and a *senza vib* instruction.

9

S. 1 *pp* *f* *pp*
 doo (vowel pronounced 'too') duh (vowel pronounced 'cup')

A. 1 *pp* *f* *pp*
 doo (vowel pronounced 'too') duh (vowel pronounced 'cup')

T. *pp* *f* *pp*
 doo (vowel pronounced 'too') duh (vowel pronounced 'cup')

S. 2 *pp* *f* *pp* *pp*
 noh (vowel pronounced 'got') noo (vowel pronounced 'too') noh

A. 2 *pp* *f* *pp* *pp*
 noh (vowel pronounced 'got') noo (vowel pronounced 'too') noh

B. *pp* *f* *pp* *pp*
 noh (vowel pronounced 'got') noo (vowel pronounced 'too') noh

Vn. 1

Vn. 2

Va.

Vc.

Cb. 12

S. 1 *pp* 3 3 3 3 *f* *pp*
 doo duh

A. 1 *pp* 3 3 3 3 *f* *pp*
 doo duh

T. *pp* 3 3 3 3 *f* *pp*
 doo duh

S. 2 *f* *pp* *pp* 3 3 3
 noo noh (vowel pronounced 'got')

A. 2 *f* *pp* *pp* 3 3 3
 noo noh (vowel pronounced 'got')

B. *f* *pp* *pp* 3 3 3
 noo noh (vowel pronounced 'got')

Vn. 1

Vn. 2

Va. con sord. arco *pp*

Vc. *pp*

Cb. 16 20

21

S. 1 *pp* *f* *pp*
 duh deh (vowel pronounced 'ten')

A. 1 *pp* *f* *pp*
 duh deh (vowel pronounced 'ten')

T. *pp* *f* *pp*
 duh deh (vowel pronounced 'ten')

S. 2 *f* *pp*
 nuh (vowel pronounced 'cup')

A. 2 *f* *pp*
 nuh (vowel pronounced 'cup')

B. *f* *pp*
 nuh (vowel pronounced 'cup')

Vn. 1

Vn. 2 *pp*
 con sord. arco

Va.

Vc.

Cb. 24

27

S. 1 *pp* *mp* *pp* *mf*
 the hour drew nigh we say fare-well

A. 1 *pp* *mp* *pp* *mf*
 the hour drew nigh we say fare-well,

T. *pp* *mp* *pp* *mf*
 the hour drew nigh we say fare-well,

S. 2 *pp* *mp* *mf*
 When the hour at which fare - well,

A. 2 *pp* *mp* *mf*
 When the hour at which fare - well,

B. *pp* *mp* *mf*
 When the hour at which fare - well,

Vn. 1

Vn. 2

Va.

Vc.

Cb. 28 32

Poco più mosso (♩ = 58)

36

S. 1
My Moe-ris my lips,

A. 1
My Moe-ris my lips,

T.
My Moe-ris my lips,

S. 2
My Moe-ris kissed my lips, in dream

A. 2
My Moe-ris kissed my lips, in dream

B.
My Moe-ris kissed my lips, in dream

Poco più mosso (♩ = 58)

Vn. 1
tutti
pp mp

Vn. 2
p pp mp

Va.
p

Vc.
4 8

Cb.
4 8

S. 1 *p < f* *p* *f*
 or truth can - not tell;

A. 1 *p < f* *p* *f*
 or truth can - not tell;

T. *p < f* *p* *f*
 or truth can - not tell;

S. 2 *f* *p* *f*
 or truth I can - not tell;

A. 2 *f* *p* *f*
 or truth I can - not tell;

B. *f* *p* *f*
 or truth I can - not tell;

Vn. 1 *pp < mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Vn. 2 *pp < mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Va. *pp < mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Vc. *pp < mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Cb. *pp < mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Poco più mosso (♩ = 63)

49

S. 1 *pp* *mp* *pp* *mf*
 if the kiss di - vine then this I know,

A. 1 *pp* *mp* *pp* *mf*
 if the kiss di - vine then this I know,

T. *pp* *mp* *pp* *mf*
 if the kiss di - vine then this I know,

S. 2 *pp* *mp* *mf*
 But if the kiss were real, in-deed I know,

A. 2 *pp* *mp* *mf*
 But if the kiss were real, in-deed I know,

B. *pp* *mp* *mf*
 But if the kiss were real, in-deed I know,

Poco più mosso (♩ = 63)

Vn. 1 *mp* *mf*

Vn. 2 *mp* *mf*

Va. *mf*

Vc. *mp* poco vib.

Cb. 4 8 *mp* poco vib.

mp

57

S. 1

My joy - ous,

A. 1

My joy - ous,

T.

My joy - ous,

S. 2

My joy - ous,

A. 2

My joy - ous,

B.

My joy - ous,

Vn. 1

Vn. 2

Va.

Vc.

Cb.

12

Perusal Score Not For Performance

63

S. 1
joy - ous soul no more

A. 1
joy - ous soul no more

T.
joy ous soul no more

S. 2
joy - ous soul no more

A. 2
joy - ous soul no more

B.
joy - ous soul no more

Vn. 1
p f p f

Vn. 2
p f p f

Va.
p f p f

Vc.
p f p f

Cb.
16 20

Perusal Score Not For Performance

68

S. 1
on earth can wan -

A. 1
on earth can wan -

T.
on earth can wan -

S. 2
on earth can wan

A. 2
on earth can wan -

B.
on earth can wan -

Vn. 1
3 3 3 p f p f

Vn. 2
3 3 3 p f p f

Va.
3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Vc.
3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Cb.
24

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score, page 11, starting at measure 68. It features vocal parts for Soprano 1 (S. 1), Alto 1 (A. 1), Tenor (T.), Soprano 2 (S. 2), Alto 2 (A. 2), and Bass (B.), along with instrumental parts for Violin 1 (Vn. 1), Violin 2 (Vn. 2), Viola (Va.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The vocal parts have lyrics: "on earth can wan -". The instrumental parts include triplets and dynamic markings such as *p* (piano) and *f* (forte). The score is marked with a large red watermark: "Perusal Score Not For Performance".

Poco più mosso (♩ = 69)

73

S. 1
der, on earth can wan - - der.

A. 1
der, can wan - - der.

T.
8 der.

S. 2
der, on earth.

A. 2
der,

B.
der,

Vn. 1
Poco più mosso (♩ = 69)

Vn. 2

Va.
pp

Vc.
pp

Cb.
mf

28

78

S. 1

pp *f*

doo (vowel pronounced 'too') duh (vowel pronounced 'cup')

A. 1

pp *f*

doo (vowel pronounced 'too') duh (vowel pronounced 'cup')

T.

pp *f*

doo (vowel pronounced 'too') duh (vowel pronounced 'cup')

S. 2

pp *f*

noh (vowel pronounced 'got') noo (vowel pronounced 'too')

A. 2

pp *f*

noh (vowel pronounced 'got') noo (vowel pronounced 'too')

B.

pp *f*

noh (vowel pronounced 'got') noo (vowel pronounced 'too')

Vn. 1

p *f*

Vn. 2

p *f*

Va.

f

Vc.

f

Cb.

32

83

S. 1

doo duh

A. 1

doo duh

T.

doo duh

S. 2

noh noo

A. 2

noh noo

B.

noh noo

Vn. 1

p f

Vn. 2

p f

Va.

p f

Vc.

p f

Cb.

36

Perusal Score Not For Performance

87

S. 1
deh (vowel pronounced 'ten') dee (vowel pronounced 'see')

A. 1
deh (vowel pronounced 'ten') dee (vowel pronounced 'see')

T.
deh (vowel pronounced 'ten') dee (vowel pronounced 'see')

S. 2
nuh (vowel pronounced 'cup') neh (vowel pronounced 'ten')

A. 2
nuh (vowel pronounced 'cup') neh (vowel pronounced 'ten')

B.
nuh (vowel pronounced 'cup') neh (vowel pronounced 'ten')

Vn. 1
p *f*

Vn. 2
p *f*

Va.
p *f*

Vc.
p *f*

Cb.
40

91 *p* *f*

S. 1
dee Thy eyes are sparks,

A. 1
dee Thy eyes are sparks,

T.
dee Thy eyes are sparks,

S. 2
neh Thy eyes are sparks,

A. 2
neh Thy eyes are sparks,

B.
neh Thy eyes are sparks,

Vn. 1

Vn. 2

Va.
p *f* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Vc.
p *f*

Cb.
44 48

f

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score, page 16, starting at measure 91. It features vocal parts for Soprano 1 (S. 1), Alto 1 (A. 1), Tenor (T.), Soprano 2 (S. 2), Alto 2 (A. 2), and Bass (B.), along with instrumental parts for Violin 1 (Vn. 1), Violin 2 (Vn. 2), Viola (Va.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The vocal parts have lyrics: "dee Thy eyes are sparks,". The instrumental parts include dynamic markings (*p* for piano, *f* for forte) and specific rhythmic patterns, such as triplets in the Viola and Cello parts. The page is marked with a large red watermark: "Perusal Score Not For Performance".

96

S. 1
god - - like made, god - - like

A. 1
god - - like made, god - - like

T.
god - like made, god - - like

S. 2
god - - like made, god - - like

A. 2
god - - like made, god - - like

B.
god - like made, god - - like

Vn. 1

Vn. 2

Va.
3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Vc.
52

Cb.
52

Perusal Score
Not For Performance

100

S. 1
made, Or ra - - - ther rays, that

A. 1
made, Or ra - - - ther rays, that

T.
made, Or ra - - - ther rays, that

S. 2
made, Or ra - - - ther rays, that

A. 2
made, Or ra - - - ther rays, that

B.
made, Or ra - - - ther rays, _____

Vn. 1

Vn. 2

Va.
3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Vc.
56

Cb.

Perusal Score
Not For Performance

104

S. 1
send fourth flame;

A. 1
send fourth flame;

T.
send fourth flame;

S. 2
send fourth flame;

A. 2
send fourth flame;

B.
that send fourth flame;

Vn. 1

Vn. 2

Va.
3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Vc.

Cb.
60

Poco più mosso (♩ = 76)

109

S. 1
 teh (vowel pronounced 'ten') tee (vowel pronounced 'see')

A. 1
 teh (vowel pronounced 'ten') tee (vowel pronounced 'see')

T.
 teh (vowel pronounced 'ten') tee (vowel pronounced 'see')

S. 2
 noo (vowel pronounced 'too') nuh (vowel pronounced 'cup')

A. 2
 noo (vowel pronounced 'too') nuh (vowel pronounced 'cup')

B.
 noo (vowel pronounced 'too') nuh (vowel pronounced 'cup')

Poco più mosso (♩ = 76)

Vn. 1
 p f

Vn. 2
 p f

Va.
 p f

Vc.
 p f p

Cb.
 / / /

113

S. 1 *pp* *pp* *f*
 teh tee

A. 1 *pp* *pp* *f*
 teh tee

T. *pp* *pp* *f*
 teh tee

S. 2 *pp* *f*
 noo nuh

A. 2 *pp* *f*
 noo nuh

B. *pp* *f*
 noo nuh

Vn. 1 *p* *p* *f*

Vn. 2 *p* *p* *f*

Va. *p* *f*

Vc. *p* *f*

Cb. *p* *f*

8

117

S. 1 *pp* *pp*
 A. 1 *pp* *pp*
 T. *pp* *pp*
 nuh (vowel pronounced 'cup')

S. 2 *pp* *pp*
 A. 2 *pp* *pp*
 B. *pp* *pp*
 teh (vowel pronounced 'ten')

Vn. 1 *p* *p*
 Vn. 2 *p* *p*
 Va. *p* *p*
 Vc. *p* *p*
 Cb. *p* *p*
 12

121 *f* *pp*

S. 1
nee (vowel pronounced 'see')

A. 1
nee (vowel pronounced 'see')

T.
nee (vowel pronounced 'see') To

S. 2
f *pp*
tee (vowel pronounced 'see') tee

A. 2
f *pp*
tee (vowel pronounced 'see') tee

B.
f *pp* *ff*
tee (vowel pronounced 'see') tee To look thee.

Vn. 1
f *p*

Vn. 2
f *p*

Va.
f *p*

Vc.
f *p* *>* molto vib.

Cb.
f *p* *ff* *>* molto vib.
16 *ff*

125

S. 1

Musical staff for Soprano 1 (S. 1) with a whole rest.

A. 1

Musical staff for Alto 1 (A. 1) with a whole rest.

T.

Musical staff for Tenor (T.) with lyrics: look thee in the face I can - not claim, to look thee in

S. 2

Musical staff for Soprano 2 (S. 2) with a whole rest.

A. 2

Musical staff for Alto 2 (A. 2) with lyrics: To look thee in the face, in the face I can-not, I can-not, claim, and triplets.

B.

Musical staff for Bass (B.) with lyrics: — in the face I can - not claim,

Vn. 1

Musical staff for Violin 1 (Vn. 1) with a whole rest.

Vn. 2

Musical staff for Violin 2 (Vn. 2) with lyrics: molto vib. and dynamic marking ff.

Va.

Musical staff for Viola (Va.) with lyrics: molto vib. and dynamic marking ff.

Vc.

Musical staff for Violoncello (Vc.) with dynamic marking p.

Cb.

Musical staff for Contrabass (Cb.) with a long note.

Perusal Score Not For Performance (watermark)

128

S. 1

A. 1

T.

S. 2

A. 2

B.

Vn. 1

Vn. 2

Va.

Vc.

Cb.

Perusal Score Not For Performance

130

ff

S. 1

To look thee, to look thee in the face I can-not claim, I can-not claim, I can-not claim,

A. 1

to look thee in the face, in the face I can - not, I can - not claim,

T.

in the face I can - not claim,

S. 2

To look thee, to look thee in the face I can-not claim, I can-not claim, I can-not claim.

A. 2

to look thee in the face, in the face I can - not, I can - not, claim,

B.

face I can - not claim,

molto vib.

Vn. 1

ff

Vn. 2

Va.

Vc.

Cb.



132

S. 1

A. 1

So fierce a fire thy eyes have on me played, so fierce a

T.

So fierce a fire thy

S. 2

A. 2

So fierce a fire thy eyes have on me played, so fierce a

B.

So fierce a fire thy

Vn. 1

Vn. 2

Va.

Vc.

Cb.

Perusal Score
Not For Performance

134

S. 1

A. 1

T.

S. 2

A. 2

B.

Vn. 1

Vn. 2

Va.

Vc.

Cb.



136

S. 1
so fierce, so fierce, so fierce a fire a fire a fire a fire thy eyes have on me

A. 1
me played, so fierce a fire thy eyes have on me played,

T.
eyes have on me played, so fierce a fire thy

S. 2
so fierce, so fierce, so fierce a fire a fire a fire a fire thy eyes have on me

A. 2
me played, so fierce a fire thy eyes have on me played,

B.
so fierce a fire thy

Vn. 1

Vn. 2

Va.

Vc.

Cb.

Maestoso (♩ = ♩)

138

S. 1
played, To look thee

A. 1
so fierce a fire To look thee

T.
eyes have on me To look thee

S. 2
played, To look thee

A. 2
so fierce a fire To look thee

B.
eyes have To look thee

Maestoso (♩ = ♩)

Vn. 1

Vn. 2

Va.

Vc.

Cb.

142

S. 1

in the face I can

A. 1

in the face I can

T.

in the face I can

S. 2

in the face I can

A. 2

in the face I can

B.

in the face I can

Vn. 1

Vn. 2

Va.

Vc.

Cb.

Perusal Score
Not For Performance

148

S. 1
fire thy eyes have on me

A. 1
fire thy eyes have on me

T.
fire thy eyes have on me

S. 2
fire thy eyes have on me

A. 2
fire thy eyes have on me

B.
fire thy eyes have on me

Vn. 1
3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Vn. 2
3 3

Va.
3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Vc.
3 3

Cb.
3 3

Tempo primo (♩ = 54)

S. 1
played. *p* Humming hmm

A. 1
played. *p* Humming hmm

T.
played. *p* Humming hmm

S. 2
played. *p* Humming hmm

A. 2
played. *p* Humming hmm

B.
played. *p* Humming hmm

Tempo primo (♩ = 54)

Vn. 1
p III (2.)

Vn. 2
p II

Va.
p senza vib.

Vc.
pp senza vib.

Cb.
pp 4

161

S. 1
A. 1
T.

My Moe-ris my

S. 2
A. 2
B.

My Moe-ris kissed my

solo. poco vib.

Vn. 1
Vn. 2
Va.
Vc.
Cb.

pp tutti. poco vib.
p senza vib.
p senza vib.
p

8

12

170

S. 1
lips, in dream or

A. 1
lips, in dream

T.
lips, in dream

S. 2
lips, in dream, in dream

A. 2
lips, in dream

B.
lips, in dream

Vn. 1

Vn. 2

Va.
mp

Vc.
mp

Cb.
16 20
mp

175

S. 1
truth, or truth.

A. 1
p *f*
or truth.

T.
p *f*
or truth.

S. 2
or truth.

A. 2
p *f*
or truth.

B.
p *f*
or truth.

Vn. 1
p *f*

Vn. 2
p *f*

Va.
Va.

Vc.
Vc.

Cb.
Cb.