



**Four Songs**  
**Opus 68**  
**No. 1**

**Too Soon So Fair,**  
**Fair Lilies**

**Arthur Foote**  
**(1853-1937)**

**Arthur William Foote** (1853-1937) was born in Salem, Massachusetts. He began studying music at the age of 12 and, at age 14, enrolled in a harmony class at the New England Conservatory. He entered Harvard, where he studied counterpoint and fugue with John Knowles Paine and led the Harvard Glee Club. Originally intending on a career in law, he decided to pursue music, returning to Harvard and receiving the first M.A. in music to be given by an American university. Residing in Boston, he was primarily a pedagogue, but also was active as composer, organist, and piano recitalist. He was an editor of *Hymns of the Church Universal* (1890), co-authored *Modern Harmony in its Theory and Practice* (1905), and wrote two short manuals, *Some Practical Things in Piano Playing* (1909) and *Modulation and Related Harmonic Questions* (1919). He is known as a member of the "Boston Six." The other five were George Whitefield Chadwick, Amy Beach, Edward MacDowell, John Knowles Paine, and Horatio Parker. He composed a large body of works including orchestral works, chamber music and songs. He died in Boston, Massachusetts.

“Too soon so fair, fair lilies;  
To bloom is then to wane;  
The folded bud has still  
Tomorrow at its will;  
Blown flowers can never blow again.

Too soon so bright, bright noontide;  
The sun that now is high  
Will henceforth only sink  
Towards the western brink;  
Day that’s at prime begins to die.

Too soon so rich, ripe summer,  
For autumn tracks thee fast;  
Lo, death-marks on the leaf!  
Sweet summer, and my grief;  
For summer come is summer past.

Too soon, too soon, lost summer;  
Some hours and thou art o’er.  
Ah! death is part of birth:  
Summer leaves not the earth,  
But last year’s summer lives no more.”

From *Yu-Pe-Ya’s Lute* (1874)  
Augusta Webster (1840-1894)

# Too Soon So Fair, Fair Lilies

COMPOSER'S NOTE: The first three measures, as well as their repetition later, may be omitted, if that is preferred. The piece is to be sung at least as fast as is indicated by the metronome marks.

Arthur Foote

**Grazioso: non troppo allegro** ♩ = 108

*dolce* *rit.* *pp* *a tempo*

S Blown flow - ers can nev - er, nev - er blow a - gain. "Too

A *pp* *a tempo* "Too

T *pp* *a tempo* "Too

B *pp* *a tempo* "Too

4

S soon — so fair, fair li - lies; To bloom — is then to

A soon so fair, fair li - lies; To bloom is then, is

T soon — so fair, fair li - lies; To bloom is then — to

B soon so — fair, fair li - lies; To bloom — is then, is

# Too Soon So Fair, Fair Lilies

7

S wane; The fold - ed bud has still To -

A then to wane; The fold - ed bud has still To -

T wane; The fold - ed bud has

B then to wane; The fold - ed bud has

10

S mor - row at its will; The fold - ed bud has still, has

A mor - row at its will; The fold - ed bud has

T still To - mor - row at its will; The fold - ed bud has still To -

B still To - mor - row at its will; The fold - ed bud has still To -

14

S still To - mor - row at its will; Blown

A still To - mor - row at its will; Blown flow - ers, blown

T mor - row at its will; Blown flow - ers, blown

B mor - row at its will; Blown flow - ers can

## Too Soon So Fair, Fair Lilies

17

S flow - ers can nev - er, nev - er blow a - gain.

A flow - ers can nev - er blow a - gain, blow a - gain.

T flow - ers can nev - er blow a - gain, a - gain. Day

B nev - er blow a - gain, nev - er blow a - gain.

*pp* *ppp* *ppp* *p dolce*

21

S Too

A Too

T that's at prime be - gins, be - gins to die.

B

*p a tempo* *p a tempo* *rit.*

24

S soon so bright, bright noon - tide; The sun that now is

A soon so bright, bright noon - tide; The sun that now is

T Too soon so bright, bright noon; The sun that now is

B Too soon so bright, bright noon; The sun that now is

*poco animato* *cresc.* *poco animato* *cresc.* *poco animato* *cresc.* *poco animato* *cresc.*

# Too Soon So Fair, Fair Lilies

27 *ff* *p* *dolce* *p*

S high Will hence - forth on - ly sink, Will

A high Will hence - forth on - ly sink, Will

T high Will

B high Will hence - forth on - ly

30 *p*

S hence - forth on - ly sink To - wards the west - ern

A hence - forth on - ly, on - ly sink To - wards the west - ern

T hence - forth on - ly, on - ly sink To - wards the west - ern

B sink To - wards To - wards the west - ern

33 *poco rit.*

S brink; Day that's at prime be - gins to die,

A brink; Day that's at prime be - gins to die,

T brink; Day that's at prime be - gins to die,

B brink; Day that's at prime be - gins to die,

## Too Soon So Fair, Fair Lilies

36 *a tempo sempre pp* *a tempo: meno allegro* ♩ = 76 *p*

S Day \_\_\_\_\_ that's \_\_\_\_\_ at prime \_\_\_\_\_ be - gins to die. Too

A Day that's \_\_\_\_\_ at prime \_\_\_\_\_ be - gins to die. Too soon, \_\_\_\_\_ too \_\_\_\_\_

T Day \_\_\_\_\_ that's \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ prime \_\_\_\_\_ be - gins to die. Too

B Day \_\_\_\_\_ that's \_\_\_\_\_ at prime \_\_\_\_\_ be - gins to die. Too

39 *pp* *p*

S soon \_\_\_\_\_ so \_\_\_\_\_ rich, ripe sum - mer, Too \_\_\_\_\_ soon, For

A soon so rich, ripe sum - mer, Too \_\_\_\_\_ soon so rich, ripe sum - mer, For

T soon so rich, ripe sum - mer, Too soon so rich, too soon, For

B soon so rich, so rich, ripe sum - mer, For \_\_\_\_\_

41

S au - tumn tracks thee fast; \_\_\_\_\_ Lo, death - marks on the leaf! Sweet

A au - tumn tracks thee, tracks thee fast; Lo, death - marks on the leaf! Sweet

T au - tumn tracks thee fast; \_\_\_\_\_ Lo, death - marks on the \_\_\_\_\_ leaf! Sweet

B au - tumn tracks thee, \_\_\_\_\_ tracks thee fast; Lo, death - marks on the leaf! Sweet

# Too Soon So Fair, Fair Lilies

43

S *f* *pp* *molto dim.* *espress.* *ppp* *pp* *a tempo*  
 sum - mer, and my grief; For sum - mer come is sum - mer past. Too

A *f* *pp* *molto dim.* *espress.* *ppp* *pp* *a tempo*  
 sum - mer, and my grief; For sum - mer come is sum - mer past. Too

T *f* *pp* *molto dim.* *espress.* *ppp* *pp* *a tempo*  
 sum - mer, and my grief; For sum - mer come is sum - mer past. Too

B *f* *pp* *molto dim.* *espress.* *ppp* *pp* *a tempo*  
 sum - - - mer, For sum - mer come is sum - mer past. Too

45

S *p*  
 soon so rich, ripe sum - mer, For au - tumn tracks thee fast; Sweet

A *p*  
 soon so rich, ripe sum - mer, For au - tumn tracks thee, tracks thee fast; Sweet

T *pp* *p*  
 soon so rich, For au - tumn tracks thee fast; Sweet

B *pp* *p*  
 soon so rich, For au - tumn tracks thee fast; Sweet

47

S *pp* *poco rit.* *ppp* **Tempo I** ♩ = 108  
 sum - mer, and my grief; For sum - mer come is sum - mer past. Too

A *pp* *poco rit.* *ppp*  
 sum - mer, and my grief; For sum - mer come is sum - mer, sum - mer past. Too

T *pp* *poco rit.* *ppp*  
 sum - mer, and my grief; For sum - mer come is sum - mer past. Too

B *pp* *poco rit.* *ppp*  
 sum - mer, and my grief; For sum - mer come is sum - mer past. Too

## Too Soon So Fair, Fair Lilies

49

S soon, — too soon, lost sum - mer; — Some hours — and thou art

A soon, too soon, lost sum - mer; Some hours and thou, and

T soon, — too soon, lost sum - mer; — Some hours and thou — art

B soon, too — soon, lost sum - mer; Some hours — and thou, and

52

S o'er. — Ah! death — is — part — of birth: — And

A thou art o'er. Ah! death — is — part of birth: And

T o'er. — Ah! death is — part of birth: — And

B thou art o'er. Ah! death — is — part of birth: And

*sempre pp*

55

S sum - mer, sum - mer leaves not the earth, — But —

A sum - mer leaves not — the earth, But last — year's, but

T sum - mer leaves not the earth, But last — year's, but

B sum - mer leaves not — the earth, But last year's —

*pp*

# Too Soon So Fair, Fair Lilies

58 *morendo*

S last year's sum - mer lives no more, But *morendo*

A last year's sum - mer lives no more, But *morendo*

T last year's sum - mer lives no more, But *morendo*

B sum - mer lives no more, no more, But

61 *ppp rit. molto*

S last year's sum - mer lives no more." *ppp rit. molto*

A last year's sum - - mer lives no more." *ppp rit. molto*

T last year's sum - mer lives no more." *ppp rit. molto*

B last year's sum - mer lives no more." *ppp rit. molto*

Arthur P. Schmidt  
(1908)

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