Six Serious Songs
(To words of various poets)

By

Anthony J. Taffs

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Author Biography:

- Professor Emeritus, Albion College (Piano)
- B.A., 1939, College of City of New York
- M.A., 1943, Teacher's College Columbia (in English)
- M.A., 1952, Eastman School of Music, The University of Rochester (in musical composition)
- Mus. D., 1992, Albion College

Vocal Range:  Middle C to A2

Orchestration:  Piano Accompaniment

Playing Time:

Contents:

Planned to be sung as a group
- Flower in the Crannied Wall – Tennyson
- Sudden Light – D. G. Rossetti
- The Falconer – Carmel Haley
- Peace – Henry Vaughan
- Stanzas from “Wonder” – Traherne
- The Rapture – Traherne

Comments:
Andante grazioso

Flower in the creviced wall,

I hold you here, root and stem,

Flower out of the crannies,

I hold you here, root and stem,

All in my hand.

Little flower, but if I could
understand what you are, root and all

and all in all, I should know what God and

man is.

pp rall al fine
3. Sudden Light

Andante grazioso

I have been here before, but when or how I cannot tell. I know the grass beyond the door,

the sweet, keen smell, the sighing sound, the lights around the shore.
You have been mine before, how long a-

gone, I may not know, but just when at that swallow's soar your neck turned so,

Some veil did fall; I knew it all of yore.
Has this been thus before and

shall not thus time's eddying flight
still with our lives our lives restore

in death's despite and day and night yield one delight once
The Falconer

Andante

Though far behind Thy falcon

stops semplice

flies with swiftest winging to the skies, call Thou to me still

Val... legs sing and mountains echo... to Thy ring

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mountains echo to Thy ring.

My resting place is on Thy fist, make tight my jesses to Thy wrist, in darkest loneliness confine should I not heed that voice of Thine.
should I not heed that voice of Time,

bowed my sight that I may view the distant flight Thou pointest to,

perched at last, I'll make no stir, but rest on Thee, my Ful... co-
5. Peace

Henry Vaughan

Andante sostenuto

My soul, there is a country far beyond the stars where stands a winged sentry, all skillful in the ways. There above noise and danger, sweet peace is crowned with smiles, and One born in a manger com-
mands the beauteous files. He is thy gracious friend and (O my soul awake!) did
in pure love descend to die here for thy sake.

they cannot but thither, there grows the flower of peace. He rose that cannot wither, thy
6. Stanzas from "Wander"

Vienna, 1879

How like an angel came I down! How bright are all things here! When first among His works I did appear, Oh, how their glory did me crown!

The world resembled His eternity in which my soul
did walk and everything that I did see did with me talk!

The skies in their magnificence, the lovely, lively air, oh how divine, how soft, how sweet, how fair! the stars did entertain my sense, and all the works of God, so bright and pure.
rich and great did seem as if they ever must endure in my esteem.

con calore

disco piu movendo

Hush, ragged objects were concealed, oppressions, tears and

cries, sins, griefs, complaints, dissensions, weeping eyes were hid and only things re-
men, all holy ones in joy and beauty they then appeared to

crescendo poco a poco

allegro, grandioso

me, and everything I found, while like an an

allegro

motto rall. ad fine

see, adorned the ground. Largo
7. The Rapture

Allegro giocoso

Sweet infancy! O fire of heaven,

Sacred light! How fair and bright! How great am

I whom all the world doth magnify!

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O heavenly joy! O great and sacred blessedness which I possess!

So great a joy who did unto my arms con-
From God a...bore being sent, the heavens me en-

to praise His name, the stars do
move! the burning sun doth show his love... rall... a tempo o how di-

vive am I! to all this sacred wealth, this life and health, who cresc... a poco