

# 2. The Succession of the Four Sweet Months

Words by Robert Herrick

Op.47, No.2

Music by Benjamin Britten

Andante legato

SOPRANO *pp*  
First, A-pril, she with mel-low showers O-pens the way for ear-ly

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

PIANO (rehearsal only) *pp*

flowers, for ear-ly flowers, First, A - pril, she.....

Then af-ter her..... comes smil - ing....

*pp*

..... with mel-low showers *mf* O-pens the way for ear-ly

May *mf* In a more rich and sweet ar-ray, In a

*dim.* flowers,... for flowers,... *pp* First, A-pril, she with

*dim.* more rich and sweet ar-ray,..... more sweet ar-ray,..... *pp*

*p* Next en-ters June and brings

*dim.* *p* *pp*

mel - low showers O - pens the way for ear - ly flowers,.....  
..... Then af - ter her..... comes smil - ing.....  
us more Gems than... those two that went be -

The first system of the musical score consists of four staves. The top three staves are vocal lines in treble clef, and the bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The music is in G major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "mel - low showers O - pens the way for ear - ly flowers,.....", "..... Then af - ter her..... comes smil - ing.....", and "us more Gems than... those two that went be -". There are triplets in the vocal lines.

..... for ear - ly flowers, First, A - pril, she..... with mel - low  
May, In a more rich and sweet ar - ray.....  
- fore, Next en - ters June, and brings us more Gems.....  
Then (last - ly,) Ju - ly.... comes..... and she... more

The second system of the musical score consists of five staves. The top four staves are vocal lines in treble clef, and the bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The music is in G major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "..... for ear - ly flowers, First, A - pril, she..... with mel - low", "May, In a more rich and sweet ar - ray.....", "- fore, Next en - ters June, and brings us more Gems.....", and "Then (last - ly,) Ju - ly.... comes..... and she... more". Dynamic markings include *cresc.*, *mf*, and *p*.

showers                      *cresc.*                      O - pens the way for flowers,.....

*mf*                      *cresc.*                      In a more rich ar - ray.....                      In a more sweet ar -

.....                      than those two, those two that went                      be -

wealth                      brings in.....                      *cresc.*                      than all.....                      those....

*mf*                      *cresc.*                      *cresc.*

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First, A - pril, she.....                      with mel - low showers,

- ray,                      Then af - ter her                      comes

- fore,                      Next en - ters June,                      brings us more

three.....                      Then, (last - ly,) Ju -

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*sempre f*  
 First, A - pril, she..... with mel - low showers,  
*sempre f*  
 smil - ing May, Then af - ter her comes  
*sempre f*  
 Gems, Next en - ters June, brings us more  
*sempre f*  
 ly,..... Then, (last - ly,) Ju - -

*dim.*  
 First, A - pril, she..... O - pens the way for ear - - ly  
*dim.*  
 smil - ing May, Then af - ter her, in a more rich and sweet ar -  
*dim.*  
 Gems, Next en - ters June..... and brings us more Gems.....  
*dim.*  
 - ly comes..... and..... she more

*dim sempre*

rall. -

flowers;.....

- ray;.....

..... than those two that went be - fore;

wealth brings in..... than all..... those three;

rall. -

a tempo

*ppp* A - pril!.....

*ppp* May!.....

*ppp* June!.....

*ppp* Ju - ly!

a tempo

*ppp*

*ppp*

*ppp*