

for Alan Greenlees

# What is our life?

## 1. The play of passion

Lyrics: Walter Raleigh (1554-1618)

Music: Ralph Middenway (b. 1932)

♩ = 69 **accelerando**

Cor Anglais (in F)

Sir Walter Raleigh

Piano *p* *crescendo poco a poco*

Note: The metre of this song changes almost every bar. In this first version of the score time signatures are hidden; in the cor anglais part they are shown. In a second version, on p. 58, time signatures are shown.

♩ = 84 **rallentando**

5

♩ = 69

9

*mp* *f* *mp*

*ff* *p* *f*

Music © Ralph Middenway Hobart, Tasmania, 2014

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*mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *f*

*mf*

What is our life? \_\_\_\_\_ The play of pass-ion. \_\_\_\_\_

*p* *mf*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

16

*>mp* *mp* *mf* *mp*

Our mirth? \_\_\_\_\_ The mu-sic \_\_\_\_\_ of di-

*p*

Ped. Ped. Ped.

20

*mf* *f* *mp* **1** *poco rall.*

vi - sion: Our

*mf* *p* *f* *p*

Ped. Ped.

23 ♩ = 63

*mp*

mo-ther's wombs the ti - ring-hou - ses be, **2**

*mf* *mp* *mf*

Ped.

(25) *accelerando*

*mf = p* *mf*

Where we are dressed for this short co-me - dy.

*mp* *f* *mf*

(28) *poco rall.*

$\text{♩} = 69$   $\text{♩} = 63$

*f* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

The earth the stage;

*mp* *mf* *mp*

*Red.*

31

*mp* *mf* *f* *mf*

Hea-ven the spec-ta-tor is — Who sits and marks him — who doth act a - miss. —

*mf* *mp*

34

3

*mp*

*p* *mf* *p*

36

*f* *mp*

The graves that hide us — from the scor- ching

*mf* *mp*

♩ = 63  
4

38

sun\_ Are like drawn cur-tains when the play is done.\_\_\_\_

*p* *pp* *p*

42

♩ = 60

Thus march we, play - ing, to our la - test

*mf* *p* *mf*

Ped. Ped. Ped.

45

rest, On - ly we die in ear - nest,

Ped. Ped. Ped.