

BERGERETTES

2. Mother, Please Explain

for S.S.A. voices and piano

Traditional French Country Song
English translation by SIGMUND SPAETH

From a setting by J.B. WECKERLIN
Arranged by JOHN LEWERS

Moderately (♩ = ca. 112)

SOPRANO I

SOPRANO II

ALTO

PIANO

p

sim.

Moth - er, please ex - plain, what is
Ma - man, di - tes - moi ce qu'on

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A bergerette is a song depicting a life of innocence and simplicity represented in the pastoral world of a shepherd [French, from “berger,” meaning shepherd]. The return to innocence was a popular preoccupation in the 17th and 18th centuries among the French elite, who often disguised themselves as shepherds and peasants. Alsatian-French composer and musicologist J.B. Weckerlin (1821-1910) is perhaps best remembered for his collection of twenty 18th century bergerettes for solo voice and piano. In 1913 this collection was published with delightful English translations by young American Sigmund Spaeth (1885-1965). In this SSA setting, singers become the villagers reflecting on life and love.

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love? Won't you tell me? Does one feel joy, or is it
sent quand on ai - me, Est - ce plai - sir, est - ce tour -

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legato *sim.*

sad? _____ How am I to know what of
ment? _____ Je suis tout le jour dans u - ne

sad? _____ How am I to know what of
ment? _____ Je suis tout le jour dans u - ne

sad? _____ How am I to know what of
ment? _____ Je suis tout le jour dans u - ne

legato *sim.*