

# WHEN I WAS ONE- AND-TWENTY

TB, accompanied

Music by  
GLENDA E. FRANKLIN

## ALSO AVAILABLE

Accompaniment Track on BLCD0T23  
Full Version Vocal Demo on BLCD0V23

Range:	T	G - e
	B	A - c

Language: English

Use: General, contest/festival

Time: Approx. 1:25

\*Difficulty: Moderate

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# Performance Notes

Alfred Edward Housman (1859-1936), known as A.E. Housman, was an English Poet and scholar, born in Worcestershire, England. While Housman's career included teaching, editing, and writing, his signature work is a cycle of 63 poems, "*A Shropshire Lad*," published in 1896, including "*When I Was One-and-Twenty*."

Housman's poetry mixes the traditional English ballad and classical verse with recurring themes of fleeting youth, unrequited love, and the regrets and frustrations of young men, especially soldiers. Gentle pessimism is often mingled with the simple diction and lyric beauty of his poems.

The opening monologue of "*When I Was One-and-Twenty*" begins as advice given by a wise person warning the young speaker that being poor is better than suffering the heartbreak of lost love. Notice the remembered warnings throughout the poem are in the form of quotes, thus making the imagery and emotions more immediate.

I loved the poem the first time I read it, however, the sadness that grew from each additional reading was a catalyst to my writing the third verse. While wealth causes life to be a bit easier, it certainly isn't a replacement for sharing a life with someone whom you love deeply. Life's happiness doesn't come from material or worldly goods, but through the daily interactions with family, especially a spouse.

When performing "*When I Was One-and-Twenty*," the text is very important because it is telling a life-lesson story. Be sure to capture and hold the audience by clearly articulating each word carefully. Work toward unanimity of vowel sound.

Each melodic phrase should move forward, concentrating on maintaining breath support. While the accompaniment urges the work forward, don't let it overshadow the voice parts or message of the piece. Sing from the heart!

Although specifically written for TB voicing, the work could also be effectively performed by two part female voices.

Glenda E. Franklin

# WHEN I WAS ONE-AND-TWENTY

TB, accompanied

Words by A. E. HOUSMAN (1859-1936)

Music by GLENDA E. FRANKLIN

Verse Three by GLENDA E. FRANKLIN

(♩ = 80)

*mf*

T

8

When

*mf*

B

When

(♩ = 80)

*mf*

5

8

I was one - and - twen - ty I heard a wise man say, "Give

I was one - and - twen - ty I heard a wise man say, "Give

5

9  
8 crowns and pounds and gui - neas But not your heart a - way; Give\_\_

9 crowns and pounds and gui - neas But not your heart a - way; Give\_\_

13  
8 pearls a - way and ru - bies But keep your fan - cy free." But

13 pearls a - way and ru - bies But keep your fan - cy free." But

17  
8 I was one - and - twen - ty, No use to talk to

17 I was one - and - twen - ty, No use to talk to

21  
8  
me. \_\_\_\_\_ When  
me. \_\_\_\_\_ When

25  
8  
I was one - and - twen - ty I heard him say a - gain, "The  
I was one - and - twen - ty I heard him say a - gain, "The

29  
8  
heart out of the bos - om was nev - er giv'n in vain; 'Tis \_  
heart out of the bos - om was nev - er giv'n in vain; 'Tis \_

33

8

paid with signs a - plen - ty and sold for end - less rue." And

paid with signs a - plen - ty and sold for end - less rue." And

33

37

8

I am two - and - twen - ty, And oh, 'tis true, 'tis

I am two - and - twen - ty, And oh, 'tis true, 'tis

37

41

8

true. \_\_\_\_\_

true. \_\_\_\_\_

41

*ff*

*ff* 47

When I was one - and -

*ff*

When I was one - and -

47

51

twen - ty my heart a - way did give; 'Though to ad - vice I'd

twen - ty my heart a - way did give; 'Though to ad - vice I'd

51

55

lis - ten'd, I ask that you'd for - give. Now\_ that I'm three times

lis - ten'd, I ask that you'd for - give. Now\_ that I'm three times

55

8

twen - ty, a life - time we have shared, For

twen - ty, a life - time we have shared, For

59

8

all the gain of rich - es, to love can - not com -

all the gain of rich - es, to love can - not com -

59

8

pare. \_\_\_\_\_

pare. \_\_\_\_\_

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