



SSA Voices a cappella (Opt. Piano)

SSA2203A

# The Bouquet

Words and Music by **KARA STACY BEDWELL**

Preview Only  
Excelcia Music Publishing

## About the Composer



Kara Stacy (b. 1998) is an emerging composer based in Central Florida who has graduated with a BA in Music Education from Florida Southern College and is pursuing an MME from Florida State University. Most recently, Kara was the winner of the 2020 Raymond Brock Memorial Student Composer's Competition through the American Choral Director's Association. As a primarily choral composer, she prides herself in writing melodies that are both accessible and exciting to her students, and lyrics from a wide variety of poets.

## The Bouquet

As a chorus student myself, I have grown up singing dainty and lyrical songs about love. This piece is intended to reverse many of the romantic tropes which have been used for centuries, and give someone the opportunity to push back against a suiter's relentless pursuits. The Bouquet utilizes the strophic form commonly found in folksongs and work songs, and is built from several short motifs which repeat throughout. It should be sung with a relaxed and sarcastic tone.

*He loves me, he loves me not!  
He loves me, he loves me not!*

*Jack gave me a daffodil,  
Thought we'd be a Jack and Jill  
Jack said he'd give me the world  
But Jack's said that to other girls!*

*Pluck the petals off one by one,  
Sing until the work is done!  
Sweep the petals up off the floor  
And pray the suitors will call no more!*

*Jack gave me a marigold,  
Offered me his hand to hold,  
But I saw Jack at the dancin' hall  
Cheek-to-cheek with one and all!*

*Lilies, Daisies, Buttercup  
Iris, Peony, Crocus Buds,  
Tulips, Orchids, Violets,  
Name a flower and Jack has tried it!*

*I decided to pay him back,  
And picked a bouquet for darling Jack:  
Oleander and Hemlock,  
Foxglove and Nightshade.  
Maybe now Jack knows to stay away!*



Recordings are available on all major streaming services.

# The Bouquet

for SSA Voices with optional Piano Accompaniment

Words and Music by  
**KARA STACY**

**Alto**

**Piano (opt.)**

**3 Soprano II**

**Alto**

**6**

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**mp**

**mp**

**mp**

**sim.**

He loves me, he loves me not. He

Oh he

loves me, he loves me not! He loves me, he

loves me, oh he loves me not!

loves me not. He loves me, he loves me not! He

## Soprano I

*mp*

9

Jack gave me a daf - fo - dil, thought we'd be a Jack and Jill.

## Soprano II

*sim.*

Oh he loves me, oh — he — loves me not!

## Alto

loves me, he loves me not. He loves — me, he loves me not! He

13

Jack said he'd give me the world, but Jack's said that to o - ther girls!

Oh he loves me, oh — he — loves me not!

loves me, he loves me not. He loves — me, he loves me not!

## Soprano I/II

17 *sub. p* A mischevious whisper

Pluck the pe-tals off one by one, sing un - til the work is done!

Alto  
*sub. p* A mischevious whisper

Pluck the pe-tals off one by one, sing un - til the work is done!

*sub. p*

21

Sweep the pe-tals up off the floor and pray the sui-tors will call no more! —

Sweep the pe-tals up off the floor and pray the sui-tors will call no more! He

25 Soprano I

Soprano II  
*mp*

Oh he loves me, oh he loves me not!

Alto  
*mp*

loves me, he loves me not. He loves me, he loves me not! He

*p*

*mp*

29 *mp*

Jack gave me a Ma - ri - gold, of - fered me his hand to hold.

*p*

Oh he loves me, oh — he — loves me not!

*p*

loves me, he loves me not. He loves — me, he loves me not! He

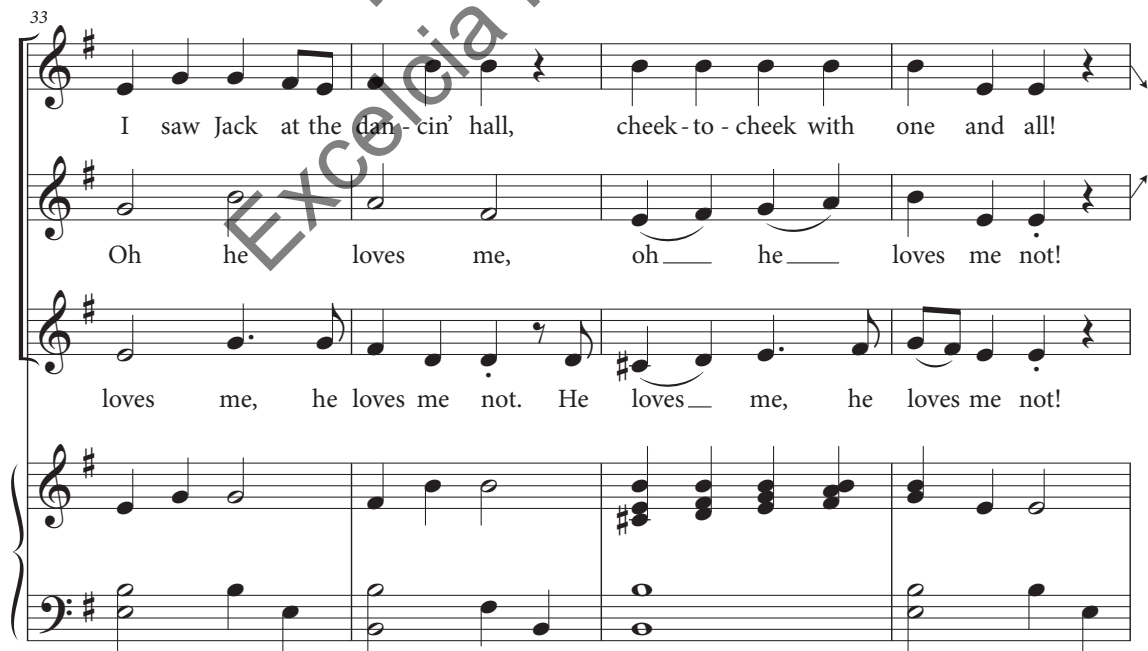


33

I saw Jack at the dan - cin' hall, cheek-to - cheek with one and all!

Oh he loves me, oh — he — loves me not!

loves me, he loves me not. He loves — me, he loves me not!



37 **Soprano I/II**  
*mp unis.*

Pluck the pe-tals off one by one, sing un - til the work is done!

*mp*

Pluck the pe-tals off one, one by one, un - til the work is done!

*mp*

41

Sweep the pe-tals up off the floor and pray the sui-tors will call no more!

Sweep the pe-tals up off the floor and pray the sui-tors will call no more!

45 **Soprano I**  
*mp*

**Soprano II**  
*mp*

**Alto**  
*mf*

Ir - is, Pe-o-ny, Cro-cus Buds,

Lil - lies, Dai - sies, But - ter - cup,

*mp*

49 *mf*

oo \_\_\_\_\_ name a flo-wer and Jack has tried it!

Tu - lips, Or - chids, Vi - o - lets, name a flo-wer and Jack has tried it!

*mf*

Tu - lips, Or - chids, Vi - o - lets, name a flo-wer and Jack has tried it!

53 *mf*

Pluck the pe-tals off one by one, sing un - til the work is done!

*mf*

Pluck the pe-tals off one by one, sing un - til the work is done!

*mf*

Pluck the pe-tals off one, one by one, un - til the work is done!



57 *rit.*

Sweep the pe-tals up off the floor and pray the sui-tors will call no more!

*rit.*

Sweep, sweep the pet-als up off the floor and sui-tors will call no more!

*rit.*

Sweep the pe-tals up off the floor and pray the sui-tors will call no more!

*rit.*

Beautiful and light ♩ = 120  
Soprano I/II  
*mp unis.*

61 I de - ci - ded to pay him back, and

Alto  
*mp*

I de - ci - ded to pay him back, and

Beautiful and light ♩ = 120  
*mp*

65

picked a bou - quet for dar - ling Jack: O - le -

picked a bou - quet for dar - ling Jack: O - le -

69

*rit.*

*f*

an - der and Hem-lock, Fox - glove and Night - shade, may - be

an - der and Hem-lock, Fox - glove and Night - shade, may - be

*rit.*

*f*

*Tempo primo* ♩ = 90

73

*unis.*

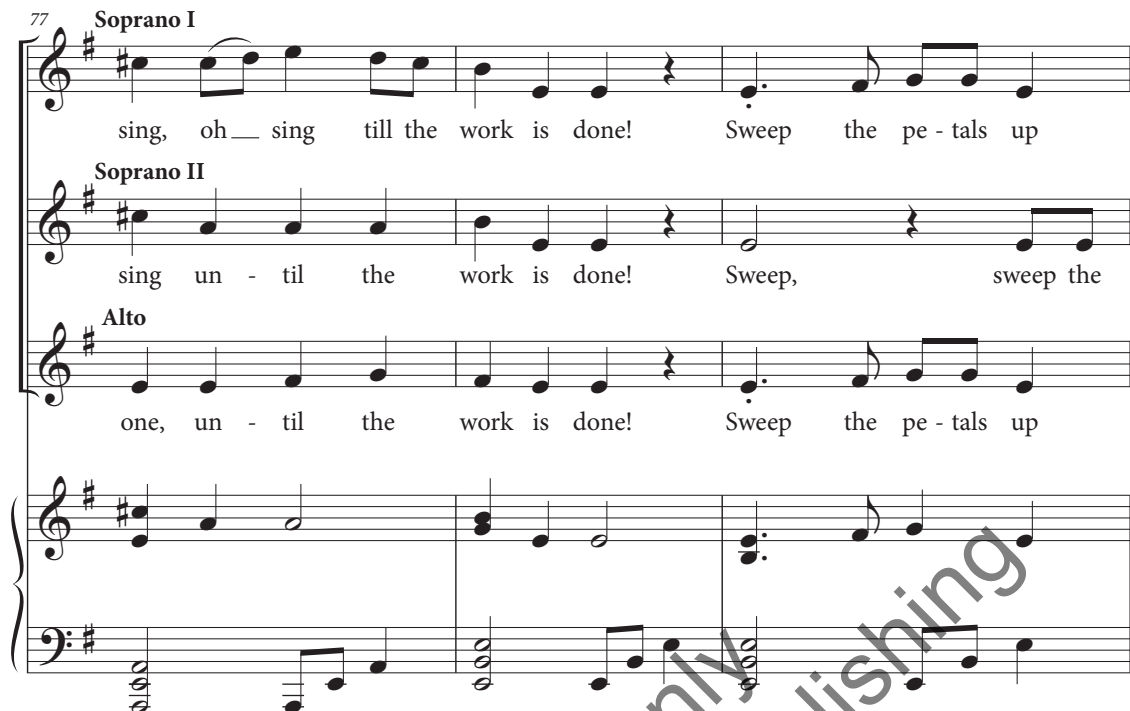
now Jack knows to stay a - way! Pluck the pe - tals off one by one,

now Jack knows to stay a - way! Pluck the pe - tals off one, one by

77 **Soprano I**  
sing, oh — sing till the work is done! Sweep the pe - tals up

**Soprano II**  
sing un - til the work is done! Sweep, sweep the

**Alto**  
one, un - til the work is done! Sweep the pe - tals up



80  
off the floor and pray the sui - tors will call no more!

pet - als up off the floor and sui - tors will call no more!

off the floor and pray the sui - tors will call no more!



Pluck the pe-tals off one by one, sing, oh sing till the work is done!

Pluck the pe-tals off one by one, sing un - til the work is done!

Pluck the pe-tals off one, one by one, un - til the work is done!

The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a melody of eighth and quarter notes in the right hand, with a key signature of one sharp (F#).

Sweep the pe-tals up off the floor and pray the sui-tors will call no more!

Sweep, sweep the pet-als up off the floor and sui-tors will call no more!

Sweep the pe-tals up off the floor and pray the sui-tors will call no more!

The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern, but includes a *rit.* (ritardando) marking in measures 89 and 90, indicated by a wedge-shaped line above the staff.

