

CABARET SONGS (1937-39)

W. H. AUDEN
(1907-1973)

BENJAMIN BRITTEN
(1913-1976)

1. Tell me the truth about love

spoken

Voice

Liebe l'amour amor amoris

1. Some
2. I
3. you

Piano

Tempo rubato

colla voce

I say that Love's a lit - tle boy And some say it's a bird, Some
I looked in - side the sum - mer - house, It was - n't e - ver there, I've
feel - ings when you meet it, I Am told you can't for - get, I've

say it makes the world go round And some say that's ab - surd: But
tried the Thames at Mai - den - head And Bright - on's bra - cing air; I
sought it since I was a child But have - n't found it yet; I'm

when I asked the man next door Who looked as if he knew, His
 don't know what the black-bird sang Or what the ro-ses said, But it
 get-ting on for thir-ty-five, And still I do not know What

wife was ve-ry cross in-deed And said it would-n't do.
 was-n't in the chick-en run Or un-der-neath the bed.
 kind of crea-ture it can be That bo-thers peo-ple so.

(♩ = 58) (Very much $\frac{3}{2}$)

Does it look _____ like a
 Can it pull _____ ex - tra -
 When it comes, _____ will it

fz * *fz* * *sim.*

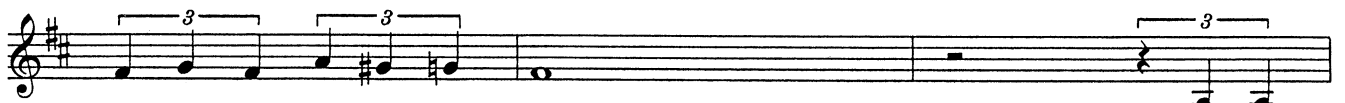
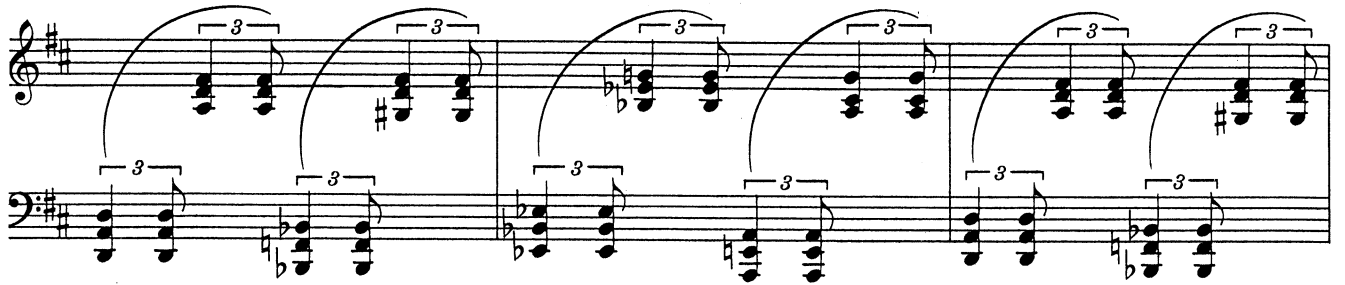
pair of py - ja - mas Or the ham in a temp'rance ho -
 - or - din - 'ry fa - ces, Is it u - sual - ly sick on a
 come with - out warn - ing Just as I'm pick - ing my

- tel,
 swing,
 nose, } O tell me the truth a - bout love.

Does its o - - dour re - mind one of
 Does it spend all its time at the
 Will it knock on my door in the

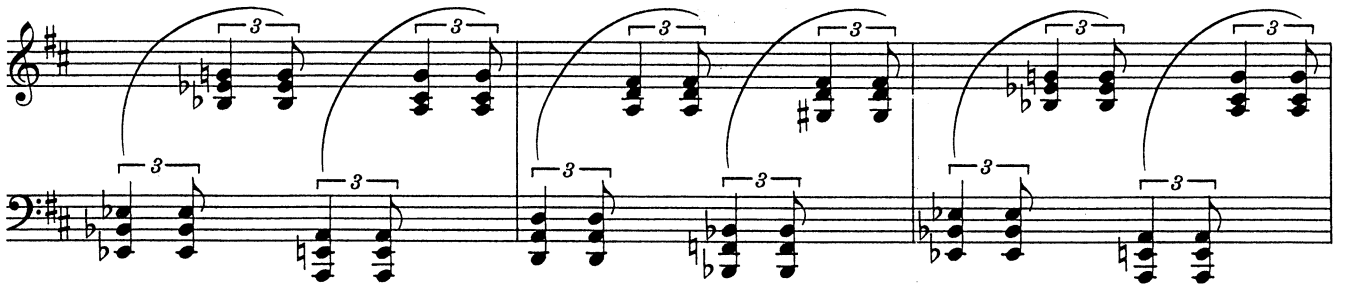


lla - mas Or has it a com-fort - ing smell? }
ra - ces Or fid - dling with pie - ces of string, } 0
morn - ing Or tread in the bus on my toes, }

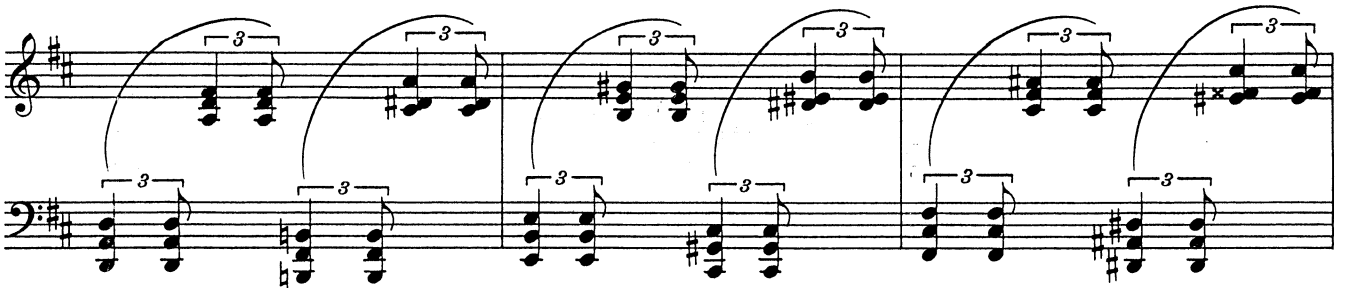


tell me the truth a - bout love.

Is it
Has it
Will it



prick-ly to touch as a hedge is Or soft as ei - der-down
views of its own a - bout mon - ey, Does it think Pat-riot - is - m e -
come like a change in the wea - ther, Will its greet-ing be courteous or



fluff, _____ Is it sharp or quite smooth at the ed - ges? - }
 -nough, _____ Are its sto - ries vul - gar but fun - ny? - } 0
 bluff, _____ Will it al - ter my life al - to -

tell me the truth a - bout love _____ O tell me the truth a - bout love. _____ 2. I
 3. Your

-ge - ther? - O tell me the truth a - bout love, _____ O

tell me the truth a - bout love, _____ O tell me the truth a - bout love.