

# SUMMUM BONUM

for TTBB Choir

Robert Browning

Caleb M. Brandon  
1995

Lyricaly, with great freedom ♩ = c. 72-90

*mp*

Tenor 1  
All the breath and the bloom of the year in the bag of one bee:

Tenor 2  
*p*  
Oo Ah

Bass 1  
*p*  
Oo Ah

Bass 2  
*p*  
Oo Ah All the

Reduction

6  
*p*  
Oo Ah

*p*  
Oo Ah

*p*  
Oo Ah

won - der and wealth of the mine in the heart of one gem.

11 *mf*

of one pearl all the shade and the shine of the sea:

*mf*

of one pearl all the shade and the shine of the sea:

*mf*

In the core... pearl all the shade and the shine of the sea:

*mf*

In the core... pearl all the shade and the shine of the sea:

15 *a bit slower mp* *mf* *p* *accel.*

and bloom, and shine, won-der, wealth, how far a-bove them

*mp* *mf* *p*

and bloom, and shine, won-der, wealth, how far a-bove them

*mp* *mf* *p*

Breath shade won-der, wealth, and

*mp* *mf* *p*

Breath shade won-der, wealth, and

Faster ♩ = c. 92-100

20 *cresc. poco a poco*

Truth, that's bright-er than gem, Trust, that's pur-er than pearl, Bright-est truth, pur-est trust in the

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23 *rall.* *f* *p* *rall.* Adagio ♩ = . 66

un - i - verse all were for me in the kiss of one girl.

un - i - verse all were for me in the kiss of one girl.

un - i - verse kiss of one girl.

un - i - verse kiss of one girl.

## ABOUT:

This charming, lyrical setting of an intimate Robert Browning poem takes inspiration from the poetry and love letters of Browning and his wife Elizabeth, celebrating the sincerity and trust of an innocent love.

### FROM THE COMPOSER:

I first discovered this charming short poem by Robert Browning when I was in my mid to late teenage years. I initially chose to set the poem because I thought it would suit a male/lower voice choir. Robert and his wife Elizabeth Barrett Browning, a successful poet in her own right, wrote each other many poems and love letters, which led me to imagine that this back-and-forth could be done in a choral setting with each group presenting a song to the other. I enjoyed how the poet brings depth to the simple act of a kiss – in this brief, intimate moment, he hits at sweet tastes and fragrances, rich colors, and wonderful mysteries. I brought these images to life with a lyrical, expressive musical setting. Above all, Browning celebrates the sincerity and trust of an innocent expression of love.

DURATION: ~1'45"



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Additional octavos are available for purchase from the publisher online.



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MUSIC.**