

*For the American Composers Forum's Schubert Club Songbook;
for Michael.*

Leaves Are My Flowers Now

Michael Dennis Browne

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Soprano

Piano

J = c. 66; espressivo, poco rubato

p

Leaves are my flow-ers now. Bass - wood and

J = c. 66; espressivo, poco rubato

p

Sost. Ped. Ordinary pedal ad lib.

su - mac, their ban-ners and flags, as - pen and

Sost. Ped.



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"Leaves are My Flowers Now," from *Smoke from the Fires* (1985), found in *Selected Poems 1965-1995*,
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Leaves Are My Flowers Now

9 *mp* ♩ = c. 69
 oak, their shreds, their rib-bons,— their rags, flut-ter ____ and rat - tle. ____

13 ♩ = c. 66 *p* — 3 — Leaves — are my flow-ers now. — *pp*

17 *p* — 3 — Now is most fruit—shrunken to husk, pet-al— to small skull;

21 $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 72$

now are most things gone from air,

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 72$

p mp

25 $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 76$

now I see no drag - on - fly out o - ver

p mp

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 76$

p mp

28 $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 80$

wa - ter, nor but-ter-fly, with

mf

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 80$

mf

31 *f*

high _____ sails of yel - low _____ and

33 *mf* *mp* *c. 76* *c. 69*

black, nor wasp, whom frosts _____

c. 76 *c. 69*

35 *c. 72* *poco stringendo*

have sil-bered and slowed.

c. 72 *poco stringendo*

Ped. ad lib. *p mp*

38 $\text{♩} = \text{c. 80}$

p *mp*

Now, now — is light ex - pert a - mong them, — takes first

(L.V.)

41 $\text{♩} = \text{c. 84}$

poco rall. $\text{♩} = \text{c. 76}$

this pulse, — then this one, — now

p

$\text{♩} = \text{c. 84}$

poco rall. $\text{♩} = \text{c. 76}$

Sost. Ped.

45 *poco stringendo* *cresc.*

shines a lit - tle — this sur - face, — now stains, — now pre -

poco stringendo

cresc.

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is for the voice, starting at measure 38 with a tempo of c. 80. It features a mix of eighth and sixteenth-note patterns, dynamic markings like p and mp, and a fermata over the word 'light'. The lyrics 'Now, now — is light ex - pert a - mong them, — takes first' are written below the notes. The bottom staff is for the piano, also starting at c. 80. It includes sustained notes and a dynamic marking of p. Measure 41 begins with a tempo change to c. 84, indicated by a 'poco rall.' instruction above the piano staff. The piano part continues with measure 45, which starts with a 'poco stringendo' instruction above the voice staff. The lyrics 'shines a lit - tle — this sur - face, — now stains, — now pre -' are aligned with the music. Both staves use common time, with occasional changes to 3/4 time. Measure 45 concludes with a dynamic marking of cresc. under the piano staff.

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48 $\text{♩} = \text{c. 84}$ f scribes. $\text{♩} = \text{c. 80}$ Clear-er _____ and

$\text{♩} = \text{c. 84}$ f $\text{♩} = \text{c. 80}$ mp (feather)

51 $\text{♩} = \text{c. 66}$ p clear - er the paths I pick. $rall.$ Bass - wood and

$Ped. ad lib.$

$\text{♩} = \text{c. 66}$ p

54 $\text{♩} = \text{c. 69}$ su-mac, their ban-ners and flags, as - pen and oak, their

$\text{♩} = \text{c. 69}$ mp

$Sost. Ped.$ $Ped. ad lib.$

58

shreds, their rib-bons, their rags, flut-ter and rat - tle.

61

poco rall. $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 66$ $(\text{III } \Delta)$

Sep - tem - ber is al - most o - ver and

poco rall. $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 66$ $(\text{III } \Delta)$

p

beady eyes

64

pp

leaves are my flow - ers now.