

Twain Songs

Song Cycle for Tenor and Piano

Mark Twain
(Samuel Clemens)
(1835–1910)

Stanley M. Hoffman
(BMI)
(b. 1959)

1. Love came at dawn

$\text{♩} = 69$ *mf* *expressively*

Love came at dawn, when crim-son glo-ries'

$\text{♩} = 69$ *mf* *mp*

bloom and sun were rife; Love came at dawn, when hope's wings fanned the

rit. *p* *a tempo*

air, and mur-murred, "I am life."

rit. *pp* *mp*

a tempo

Red.

Words: Public Domain.

Music: © Copyright 2025 by Stanley M. Hoffman. www.stanleyhoffman.com All rights reserved.

16 *rit.* *pp*

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

20 *a tempo* *mf* *a tempo* *mp*

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

25 *mp* *p*

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

30 *rit.* *p* *rit.* *pp* *ppp*

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

2. Genius

Mark Twain
(Samuel Clemens)
(1835–1910)

Stanley M. Hoffman
(BMI)
(b. 1959)

♩ = 76

mf confidently

Gen-ius, like

mf

mp

5 gold — and pre - cious stones, is chief-ly prized be - cause of its

9 *senza rit. in tempo f*

rar-i-ty. Gen - ius - es are peo - ple who dash — off — weird,

senza rit. in tempo mf

Red. Red. Red. Red. Red.

Words: Public Domain.

Music: © Copyright 2025 by Stanley M. Hoffman. www.stanleymhoffman.com All rights reserved.

13
8 wild, in-com-pre-hens - - i - ble po-ems, with as-ton - ish - ing fa -

17
8 cil - i - ty, — and get boom-ing drunk and sleep — in a gut-ter.

21
8 *mf* Gen - ius el - e - vates its pos - ses-sor to in - ef - fa - ble spheres

25
8 far a - bove the vul - gar world and fills his soul with

ff *senza rit.* *in tempo*
f *senza rit.* *in tempo*
mp
f *mf*
mf *mp*

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

29

re - gal con - tempt for the gross and sor - did things of the earth.

33

mf

It is prob - a - bly on ac - count of this that peo - ple who have

mp

37

f

gen - ius do not pay their board, — as a gen - er - al

mf

40

mf

thing. Gen - ius - es are ver - - y

mf *mp*

44 *rit.* *mp* *a tempo* *mf*

sin-gu-lar. If you see a young man who has frows-y hair and dis-traught look, and af-

rit. *a tempo*

p *mp*

48 *senza rit.* *in tempo* *senza rit.* *in tempo* *mf*

fects ec-cen tri-ci-ty in dress, you may set him down for a gen-ius. If he

senza rit. *in tempo* *senza rit.* *in tempo*

mp

52 *f*

sings a-bout the de-gen-er-a-cy of a world which courts vul-gar

mp *mf*

Ped. *Ped.*

56 *mf* *mp*

op-u-lence and ne-glects brains, brains,

mp *p*

Ped. *Ped.*

60 *mf* *senza rit.* *in tempo* *f*

he is un - doubt - ed - ly a gen - ius. If he is too proud - to ac -

mp *senza rit.* *in tempo* *mf*

64 *ff* *f*

cept as - sis - tance, and spurns it with a lord - ly air at the

f *mf*

68 *senza rit.* *in tempo* *mf*

ver - y same time that he knows he can't make a liv - ing to save his life, he

senza rit. *in tempo* *mp*

71 *senza rit.* *in tempo* *mp*

is most cer - tain - ly a gen - ius. If he hangs on and sticks to

senza rit. *in tempo* *p*

74 *senza rit.* *in tempo*
po - et - ry, not - with - stand - ing saw - ing wood comes hand - i - er to him, he

78 *senza rit.* *in tempo* *mf*
is a true — gen - ius. If he throws a - way ev - ery op - por -

81 *f*
tu - ni - ty in life and crush - es the af - fec - tion and the pa - tience of his friends and then pro -

84 *ff*
tests in sick - ly rhymes of his hard — lot, and fi - nal - ly per -

f *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

89 *mf* *3*
 sists, in spite of the sound ad-vice of per-sons who have got
mf *mp*
 Ped. Ped. Ped.

93 *3*
 sense but not an-y gen-ius, per-sists in go-ing up some in-fam-ous back-
3
 Ped. Ped. Ped.

97 *f* *mf* *mf*
 al-ley dy-ing in rags and dirt, he
mf *mp*
 Ped. Ped. Ped.

100 *rit.* *a tempo* *mf*
 is be-yond all ques-tion a gen-ius. But a -
rit. *a tempo*
mp
 Ped. Ped.

104

bove all things to deft - ly throw the in - co - her - ent rav - ings of in - san - i - ty —

mp *f* *mf*

108

in - - to — verse, — and then rush off and get

111

ff *mf* *Allargando*

boom - ing drunk, get boom - ing drunk, is the sur - est of all the dif - f'rent kinds of

f *ff* *mp* *Allargando*

115

gen - ius.

a tempo racing to the ending *ff* *fff*

Ped.

3. O Lord, Our Father

Mark Twain *from* "The War Prayer"

(Samuel Clemens) (1835–1910)

Redacted by Stanley M. Hoffman *

Stanley M. Hoffman

(BMI)

(b. 1959)

♩ = 60 *mp* prayerfully *mf*

O Lord, our _____ fa - ther, Our young pa - tri - ots,

4 *mp* *mf* *f*

i - dols of our hearts, Go forth to bat - tle - be thou

7 *mf* *mp*

near them! With them, in _____ spir - it, we

* Written during America's military interventions of 1904–05, "The War Prayer" is a dark, satirical text filled with graphic, violent, anti-war imagery. It is greatly redacted here as to be a less sardonic, more prayerful poem. This would likely have angered its author, but he is long dead, so too bad for him. Words: Public Domain. Music: © Copyright 2025 by Stanley M. Hoffman. www.stanleymhoffman.com All rights reserved.

11

al-so go forth From the sweet peace of our be-lov-ed fire-sides To

Ped.

14

ritenuto molto *f* *mp* *a tempo*

smite the foe. We ask it in the spir-it of love- Of

ritenuto molto *a tempo*

mf *p*

Ped.

17

mf *mp* *mf*

Him who is the source of love, And Who is the ev-er-faith-ful

mp *p* *mp*

Ped.

20 *f*

Ref - uge and Friend of — all that are sore be - set And — seek His aid

mf

Ped.

23 *mp*

with hum - ble and con - trite — hearts.

p *mp* *mf*

Ped.

26 *f* *p sub.* *mp* *mf*

Ped.

30 *rit. molto* *mp* *p*

rit. molto A - - men.

f *p sub.* *pp*

4. These annual bills!

Mark Twain
(Samuel Clemens)
(1835–1910)

Stanley M. Hoffman
(BMI)
(b. 1959)

$\text{♩} = 76$

f *irritatedly*

These

5

an - nu - al bills! these an - nu - al bills! How man - y a song their dis - cord trills

mf *f*

9

f

Of 'truck' con - sumed, en - joyed, for - got, Since

mf

13

mf with reverie

I — was skinned by last year's lot. Those

mp

Words: Public Domain.

Music: © Copyright 2025 by Stanley M. Hoffman. www.stanleymhoffman.com All rights reserved.

29 **Tempo I** ♩ = 76

so — 'twill be when I'm — a-ground These year - ly duns will still go 'round, While

3

3

oth - er bards, with fran - tic quills, Shall damn and damn these an - nu - al

rit.

3

f

37 *a tempo*

ff

bills!

a tempo

40

3

ff

fff

Mark Twain
(Samuel Clemens)
(1835–1910)

5. Warm summer sun

Stanley M. Hoffman
(BMI)
(b. 1959)

$\text{♩} = 50$ *mp sempre, expressively*

Warm sum - mer sun,

$\text{♩} = 50$ *p sempre*

Shine kind - ly — here, O, — Warm sum - mer wind, Blow

soft - - ly — here. Green sod a -

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

Words: Public Domain.

15

bove, Lie light, lie — light. Good - night, dear

(8va)

Ped.

19

heart. Good - night, good -

(8va)

rit.

rit. loco

Ped.

22

a tempo

night.

a tempo

(8va)

mp

p

loco

Ped.

26

rit. molto

pp

ppp

Ped.