

GITANJALI CHANTS

Rabindranath Tagore

Craig Hella Johnson

With naturally flowing eighths ♩ = ca. 128-140

Soprano Alto

Bell pitch *mp* unis.

Hm.

Tenor Bass

mp unis.

Ev - er in — my life — have I

5

sought — thee with — my songs. — It was

8

they who led me from door — to — door, — and with

11

them have I felt — a - bout — me,

14

It was my
search - ing and touch - ing my world.

17 A

songs that taught me all the
Hm.

20

les-sons I ev-er learnt; they showed me se-cret

23

paths, they brought be-fore my sight man-y a star on the ho-

26 *mf*

ri-zon of my heart. They guid-ed me all the day
(hm)

29

long to the my-ster-ies of the count-ry of plea - sure and

unis.

32

pain, and at last to what pal - ace gate have they brought me

35

at the end of my jour - ney? Hm.

unis. *mf*

You came

38

down from your throne and stood at my cot-tage

41

door. I was sing - ing all a -

44

unis.

lone in a cor - ner, and the mel - o - dy caught your

47

ear. You came down and stood _____ at my _____

50

mf

cot - tage door. Mas - ters are man - y in our hall, and _____

53

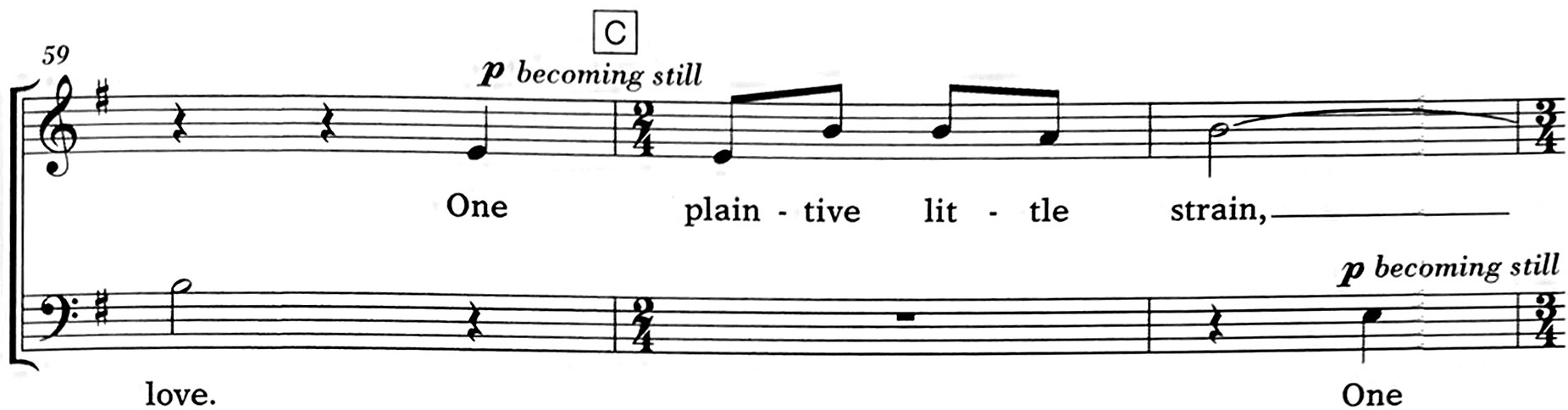
mp

songs _____ are sung _____ there at all _____ hours. But the

56

sim - ple car - ol of this nov - ice struck at your

59 C *p becoming still*



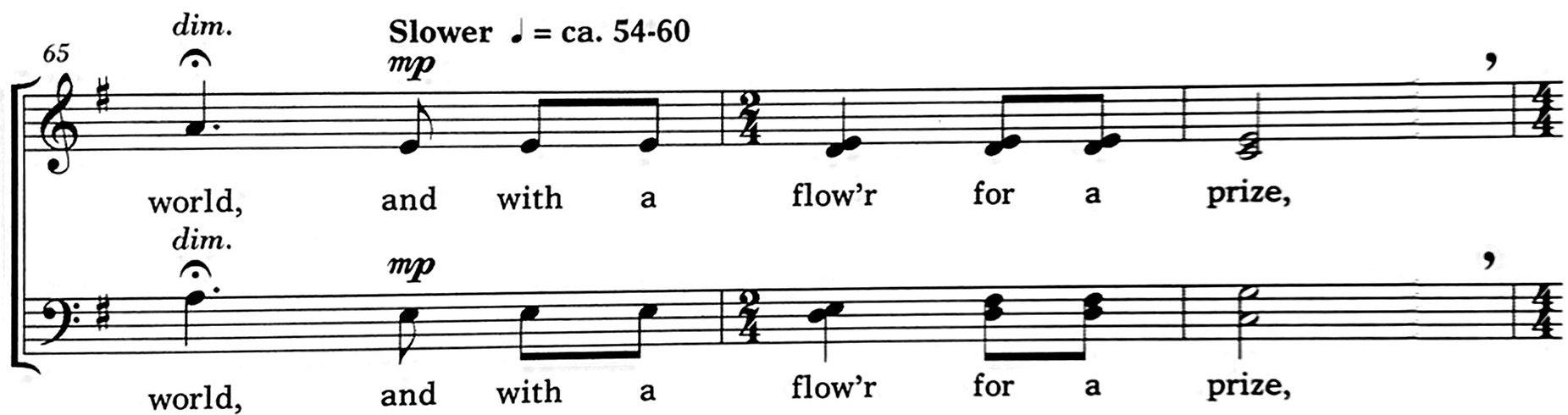
One plain - tive lit - tle strain, ————
love. One

62 *mf*



min - gled with — the great mu - sic of the
plain-tive lit - tle strain, min - gled with — the great mu - sic of the

65 *dim.* *mp* **Slower** ♩ = ca. 54-60



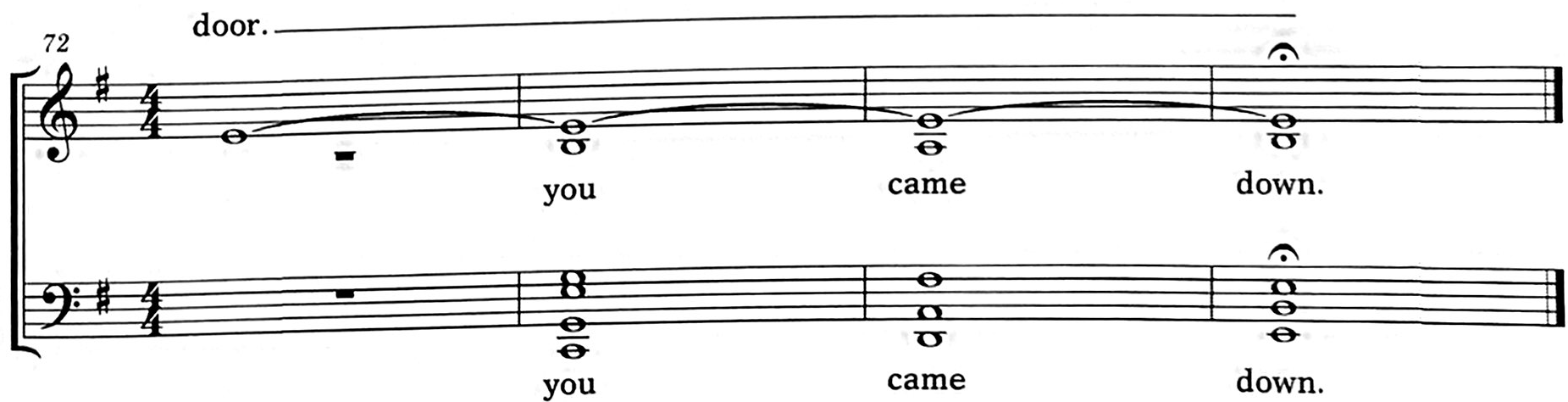
world, and with a flow'r for a prize,
world, and with a flow'r for a prize,

68 *p.*



you — came — down and stopped — at my cot - tage
you, —
div. —
you, —

72



door. ————
you came down.
you came down.

GITANJALI CHANTS

From the moment of my first encounter with the extraordinary writings of the Bengali poet, musician, painter and playwright Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941), I have been deeply in love with his verse. His words have evoked a feeling in me which is both mystical and familiar, and it seems to me that these are words which want to be sung. Tagore was the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913, and his profoundly beautiful collection entitled *Gitanjali* ("Song Offerings") offers the reader endless riches.

This setting of two of the *Gitanjali* poems was born out of a practical need for an opening piece for a concert program. I chose to set these texts as a chant, which serves as an invitation for singers and listeners alike to listen closely and acknowledge the gift of a deep inner calling that may be heard both in our silence and in our singing.

~*Craig Hella Johnson*

Duration: ca. 4:30



Photo: Andrew Yates

Craig Hella Johnson has earned a reputation as one of the most influential choral conductors in the United States. Founding Artistic Director of the critically acclaimed choral group *Conspirare*, Johnson brings together world class musicians to create unique, dynamic choral art. Under Johnson's leadership, *Conspirare* received the distinguished Edison Award and five Grammy nominations for recent recordings and was awarded the 2005 Margaret Hillis Award For Choral Excellence.

In addition to his work with *Conspirare*, Johnson also serves as the Artistic Director of the Victoria Bach Festival, an event that draws musicians and critical acclaim from around the country. From 1998-1999, Johnson was the Artistic Director of the San Francisco-based *Chanticleer*, the only full-time professional chorus in the United States. Johnson also served as Director of Choral Activities at the University of Texas at Austin from 1990-2001 where he led the graduate program in conducting. Recent guest conducting appearances include performances with the Oregon Bach Festival, Austin Symphony, San Antonio Symphony, Chicago's Music of the Baroque, the Taipei Male Choir, the Berkshire Choral Festival and the St. Olaf Choir.