

to my mother  
**A spotless Rose**

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

With easeful movement

Solo

The first system of the musical score features five staves. The top staff is a Solo part in bass clef, 3/4 time, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It contains a whole rest followed by a 7/8 measure and a 4/4 measure. The vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) are in treble clef, 3/4 time, with the same key signature. Each vocal staff begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. The lyrics for all parts are: "A spotless Rose\_ is blow - ing, Sprung from a ten -".

S.  
A.  
T.  
B.

A spotless Rose\_ is blow - ing, Sprung from a ten -

A spotless Rose is\_ blow - ing, Sprung from a ten -

A spotless Rose\_ is blow - ing, Sprung from a ten -

A spotless Rose\_ is blow - ing, Sprung from a ten -

The second system of the musical score continues the vocal parts. It features four staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in treble clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of three sharps. The lyrics are: "- der root,\_ Of ancient seers' foreshowing, Of Jesse promis'd fruit;\_ Its". The Soprano and Alto parts have a 4/4 measure, followed by 5/4, 5/8, and 3/4 measures. The Tenor and Bass parts have a 4/4 measure, followed by 5/4, 5/8, and 3/4 measures. The Bass part includes dynamic markings of *mp* and *mf*.

S.  
A.  
T.  
B.

- der root,\_ Of ancient seers' foreshowing, Of Jesse promis'd fruit;\_ Its

- der root,\_ Of ancient seers' foreshowing, Of Jesse promis'd fruit;\_ Its

- der root,\_ Of ancient seers' foreshowing, Of Jesse promis'd fruit;\_ Its

- der root,\_ Of ancient seers' foreshowing, Of Jesse promis'd fruit;\_ Its

8

S  
fairest bud un - folds to light A - mid the cold, cold winter, And in the

A  
fairest bud un - folds to light A - mid the cold, cold

T  
fairest bud un - folds to light A - mid the cold, cold winter, And in the

B  
fairest bud un - folds to light A - mid cold win - ter, And in the *p*

13

Solo  
The Rose which I am sing - ing, Whereof I -

S  
dark mid - night. A spot - less Rose is

A  
A spot - less Rose is

T  
dark mid - night. A spot - less Rose is

B  
dark mid - night. A spot - less Rose is *pp* *ppp (remotely)*

Solo

S

A

T

B

saiah said, Is from its sweet root springing In Mary, pur-est Maid; For  
 blow - ing, Sprung from a ten - - der  
 blow - ing, Sprung from a ten - - der  
 blow - ing, Sprung from a ten - - der  
 blow - ing, Sprung from a ten - - der

Solo

S

A

T

B

through our God's great love and might, The Blessed Babe she bare us In a  
 root; Its bud un - folds in the dark  
 root; Its bud un - folds in the dark  
 root; Its bud un - folds in the dark  
 root; Its bud un - folds in the dark

*pp* *dim.*

27

Solo

cold, cold win - ter's night

S

mid - night

The Rose which I am sing -

A

mid - night

The Rose which I am sing -

T

mid - night

The Rose which I am sing -

B

*ppp*

*f ma dolce*

mid - night

The Rose which I am sing -

33

S

- ing, Whereof I - saiah said, - Is from its sweet root springing In

A

- ing, Whereof I - saiah said, - Is from its sweet root springing In

T

- ing, Whereof I - saiah said, - Is from its sweet root springing In

B

- ing, Whereof I - saiah said, - Is from its sweet root springing In

36

S *f*  
 Mary, purest Maid; For through our God's great love and might The

A *f*  
 Mary, purest Maid; For through our God's great love and might The

T  
 Mary, purest Maid; For through our God's great love and might The

B *f*  
 Mary, purest Maid; For through our God's great love and might The

40

S *pp* *ppp*  
 Blessed Babe she bare us In a cold, cold

A  
 Blessed Babeshe

T  
 Blessed Babe she bare us In a cold, cold

B *p* *ppp*  
 Babe she bare us In a cold, cold win - ter's