

A Birthday

Text by *Christina Georgina Rossetti* (1830-1894) [Br]

Text by *Harry Thacker Burleigh* (1866-1949) [Am]; *Samuel Coleridge-Taylor* (1875-1912) [Br]; *Sir Frederic Hymen Cowen* (1852-1935) [Br]; *Cecil Armstrong Gibbs* (1889-1960) [Br], from *Three Lyrics by Christina Rossetti*, op. 131, #2; *Samuel Liddle* (1864?-1951) [Br], from *Eight Christina Rossetti Poems*; *Darius Milhaud* (1892-1974) [Fr], from *Trois Poèmes*; *Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry* (1848-1918) [Br], *My Heart Is Like a Singing Bird*, from the collection *English Lyrics, Tenth Set, #1*; *Ned Rorem* (1923-) [Am], from *Women's Voices, #2*; *Cyril Meir Scott* (1879-1970) [Br]

My heart is like a singing bird
[ma:ɪ hæɹt ɪz la:ɪk ʌ 'sɪŋ.ɪŋ bɜ:d]

Whose nest is in a watered shoot;
[huz nɛst ɪz ɪn ʌ 'wa.təd ʃut]

My heart is like an apple tree
Whose boughs are bent with thickset fruit;
My heart is like a rainbow shell
That paddles in a halcyon (purple) sea;
My heart is gladder than all these
Because my love is come to me.

Raise me a dais of silk and down (purple and gold);
Hang it with vair and purple dyes;
Carve it in doves and pomegranates,
And peacocks with a hundred eyes;
Work it in gold and silver grapes,
In leaves and silver fleur-de-lys;
Because the birthday of my life
Is come, my love, is come to me.

The entire text to this title with the complete
IPA transcription is available for download.

Thank you!

