

## ***“The Fly”***

***“The Fly”, a poem from the famous English romantic poet William Blake’s (1757-1827) “Songs of Experience” focuses our thoughts on the life of a little common fly. Blake muses for example how “my thoughtless hand” has “brushed away” the fly’s summer play. Arnold Harris has mirrored the text in his acapella SATB setting with a thoughtful section juxtaposed with a lively, dance like section accompanying Blake’s awareness that the fly, like a person, dances and drinks and sings. Changes of key and meter give extra life to this unaccompanied setting.***

# The Fly

(from "Songs of Innocence & Experience")

William Blake 1757 - 1827)

Music by Arnie Harris ©2021

♩ = 65

*mp* *mf*

SOPRANO  
ALTO

TENOR  
BASS

Lit - tle fly, Lit - tle fly thy sum-mers play My

4

S/A

T/B

thought-less hand has brush'd a-way Am not I a fly like thee? Or

8

S/A

T/B

art not thou a man like me? for I dance and\_

art not thou a man like me? for I dance

*f* *f*

Faster  
♩ = 75

11

S/A

drink and sing for I dance and drink and sing and

T/B

and sing! for I dance and sing and

14

S/A

drink and sing! Till some blind hand shall brush

T/B

drink and sing! Till some shall

19

S/A

my wing my wing.

T/B

brush my wing my wing. If

*p*

*p*

tenors only *mf*

23

A

S/A

and the want of thought is

T/B

thought is life and strength and breath and the want of thought is

+basses *mf*

27 *f*

S/A death then am I a hap-py fly if I live, or

T/B death then am I a hap-py fly if I live or

32 *rit.* *p* if I

S/A if I die or if I live or die

T/B if I die or if I live or die

36 *rit.* //

S/A or if if I live or if I die

T/B or if if I live or if I die

4 Tempo primo

41 ♩ = 65 *mf*

S/A

Lit - tle fly thy sum-mers play my thought-less hand has

T/B

*mf*

S/A

brush'd a-way Am not I a fly like thee? Or art not thou a

T/B

S/A

man like me? Lit - tle fly art not thou art not

T/B

*p*

*p*

S/A

thou a man like me?

T/B

*pp*

*pp*