



# Invitation to Love

for The King's Singers

Till Meyn

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By Till Meyn

## Notes

*Invitation to Love*, with text by Paul Laurence Dunbar, was composed for The King's Singers. Dunbar was one of the first African American poets to gain wide recognition in the United States. His *Invitation to Love* speaks of different moods, times and places where Love is summoned; the music reinforces the quiet passion of the words, and invites singer and listener to welcome a personal Love into their hearts.

### INVITATION TO LOVE

Come when the nights are bright with stars  
Or come when the moon is mellow;  
Come when the sun his golden bars  
Drops on the hay-field yellow.  
Come in the twilight soft and gray,  
Come in the night or come in the day,  
Come, O love, when'er you may,  
And you are welcome, welcome.

You are sweet, O Love, dear Love,  
You are soft as the nesting dove.  
Come to my heart and bring it to rest  
As the bird flies home to its welcome nest.

Come when my heart is full of grief  
Or when my heart is merry;  
Come with the falling of the leaf  
Or with the redd'ning cherry.  
Come when the year's first blossom blows,  
Come when the summer gleams and glows,  
Come with the winter's drifting snows,  
And you are welcome, welcome.

--Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872 – 1906)

Perusal  
Copy

duration: 4'40"

# Invitation to Love

for The King's Singers

Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872 - 1906)

Till Meyn

solemnly, ♩ = 84

Countertenor 1

Countertenor 2

Tenor

Baritone 1

Baritone 2

Bass

*mp*

*p*

doo doo doo doo doo doo doo

do do do do do do do

do do do do do

do do do do do

7

Ct. 1

Ct. 2

Ten.

Bar. 1

Bar. 2

Bs.

*mp*

*mp*

*p*

*mp*

*mp*

stars

Come when the nights are bright with stars

do do do do stars

do do do stars

do do do do

do do do do

12

Ct.1  
Or come when the moon is mel - low; *gl.*

Ct. 2  
Or come when the moon is mel - low;

Ten.  
Or come moon is mel - low; *gl.*

Bar. 1  
Or come when the moon is mel - low; *gl.*

Bar. 2

Bs.

Perusal Copy

17 *mf*

Ct.1  
*mf*  
Come when the sun his gol-den bars Drops on the hay - field

Ct. 2  
*mf*  
bars Drops on the hay - field

Ten.  
*mf*  
bars Drops on the hay - field

Bar. 1  
*mf*  
bars Drops on the hay - field

Bar. 2  
*mf*  
Come when the sun his gol-den bars Drops on the hay - field

Bs.

22

Ct.1 *p*  
yel - low. *gl.* Come in the twi - light soft and \_

Ct. 2 *p*  
yel - low. Come in the twi - light soft and \_

Ten. *p*  
yel - low. *gl.* Come in the twi-light in the light soft and

Bar. 1 *p*  
yel - low. *gl.* Come in the twi - light soft and \_

Bar. 2 *p*  
yel - low. *gl.* Come in the twi - light soft and

Bs. *p*  
Come in the twi - light soft and

27

Ct.1 *mp*  
gray, Come in the night or come in the day, \_\_\_\_\_ Come, O

Ct. 2 *mp*  
gray, Come in the night or come in the day, \_\_\_\_\_ Come, O

Ten. *mp*  
gray, Come in the night or come in the day, \_\_\_\_\_ Come, O

Bar. 1 *mp*  
gray, Come in the night or come in the day, \_\_\_\_\_ Come, O

Bar. 2 *mp*  
gray, Come in the night or come in the day, \_\_\_\_\_ Come, O

Bs. *mp*  
gray, Come in the night or come in the day, \_\_\_\_\_ Come, O

32

*mf* 3

Ct. 1  
love, when - e'er you may,

Ct. 2  
love, when - e'er you may, And you are wel - come,

Ten.  
8 love, when - e'er you may, wel - come,

Bar. 1  
love, when - e'er you may, wel -

Bar. 2  
love, when - e'er you may,

Bs.  
love, when - e'er you may, And you are wel - come,

36

Perusal Copy

*p*

Ct. 1

Ct. 2  
wel - come, wel - come, wel - come. doo doo

Ten.  
8 wel - come, wel - come, wel - come. doo

Bar. 1  
come, wel - come, wel - come, doo doo

Bar. 2

Bs.  
wel - come, wel - come, wel - come. doo doo

41 **tenderly**  
*mp*

Ct.1  
oh oh

Ct.2  
oh oh

Ten.  
oh oh

Bar. 1

Bar. 2  
*mf*  
doo

Bs.  
doo

You are sweet, O Love, dear Love, You are soft as the nes - ting dove.

49 *mf*

Ct.1  
ah ah ah

Ct.2  
ah ah

Ten.  
ah ah

Bar. 1  
*mf* *f*  
Come to my heart and bring it to rest As the bird flies home to its

Bar. 2

Bs.

55 *mp*

Ct.1  
oh

Ct. 2  
*mp*  
oh doo doo

Ten.  
*mp*  
oh doo doo

Bar. 1  
*mp*  
wel - come nest. oh doo

Bar. 2  
*mp*  
oh doo

Bs.

61 *accel.*-----

Ct.1

Ct. 2  
doo doo doo doo

Ten.  
doo doo doo doo doo doo doo

Bar. 1  
doo doo doo doo doo

Bar. 2  
doo doo doo doo

Bs.  
doo doo

Perusal Copy



67 *passionately*, ♩ = 92

*f*

Ct. 1  
Come when my heart is full of grief Or when my heart is

Ct. 2  
Come when my heart is full of grief Or when my heart is

Ten.  
Come when my heart is full of grief Or when my heart is

Bar. 1  
Come when my heart is full of grief Or when my heart is

Bar. 2  
Come when my heart is full of grief Or when my heart is

Bs.  
doo grief when my heart is

72

Ct. 1  
mer-ry;

Ct. 2  
mer - ry; *mf* Come with the fal - ling of the leaf Or

Ten.  
mer-ry; *mf* Come with the fal - ling of the leaf

Bar. 1  
mer-ry; *mf* Come with the fal - ling of the leaf Or

Bar. 2  
mer - ry; *mf* Come with the fal - ling of the leaf Or

Bs.  
mer - ry; *mf* Come with the fal - ling of the leaf

76

Ct. 1 *mp*  
Come when the year's first

Ct. 2 *mp*  
with the redd'-ning cher-ry. Come when the year's first

Ten. *mp*  
Or with the redd' - ning cher - ry. Come when the year's first

Bar. 1 *mp*  
with the redd' - ning cher - ry. Come when the year's first

Bar. 2 *mp*  
with the redd' - ning cher - ry. Come when the year's first

Bs. *mp*  
with the redd'-ning cher - ry. Come when the year's first

81

Ct. 1 *f*  
blos - som blows, Come when the sum - mer gleams and

Ct. 2 *f*  
blos - som blows, Come when the sum - mer gleams and

Ten. *f*  
blos - som blows, Come when the sum - mer gleams and

Bar. 1 *f*  
blos - som blows, Come when the sum - mer gleams

Bar. 2 *f*  
blos - som blows, Come when the sum - mer gleams and

Bs. *f*  
blos - som blows, Come when the sum - mer gleams and

86 *mf*

Ct. 1 glows, \_\_\_\_\_ Come with the win - ter's drif - ting snows, \_\_\_\_\_

Ct. 2 glows, \_\_\_\_\_ Come with the win - ter's drif - ting snows, And you are

Ten. glows, \_\_\_\_\_ Come with the win - ter's drif - ting snows,

Bar. 1 glows, \_\_\_\_\_

Bar. 2 glows, \_\_\_\_\_ Come with the win - ter's drif - ting snows, And you are

Bs. glows, \_\_\_\_\_

91 *p*

Ct. 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Ct. 2 wel - come, \_\_\_\_\_ wel - come, \_\_\_\_\_ wel - come, \_\_\_\_\_

Ten. wel - come, wel - come, wel - come, \_\_\_\_\_ wel - come.

Bar. 1 wel - come, \_\_\_\_\_ wel - come, \_\_\_\_\_ wel - come,

Bar. 2 wel - come, wel - come, wel - come, \_\_\_\_\_ wel - come.

Bs. \_\_\_\_\_ wel - come.

Ct.1

Ct. 2 *mp*  
 You are sweet, O Love, dear Love, You are soft as the

Ten. *mp*  
 You are sweet, O Love, dear Love, You are soft as the

Bar. 1 *mp*  
 You are sweet, O Love, dear Love, You are soft as the

Bar. 2 *mp*  
 You are sweet, O Love, dear Love, You are soft as the

Bs. *mp*  
 You are sweet, O Love, dear Love, You are soft as the

Ct.1  
 Come to my heart and bring it to

Ct. 2  
 nes - ting dove. Come to my heart and bring it to

Ten.  
 nes - ting dove. Come to my heart and bring it to

Bar. 1  
 nes - ting dove. Come to my heart and bring to

Bar. 2  
 nes - ting dove. Come to my heart and bring to

Bs.  
 nes - ting dove. Come to my heart and bring to

106 *f*

Ct. 1 rest As the bird flies home to its wel - come nest.

Ct. 2 rest bird flies home to its wel - come nest.

Ten. 8 rest bird flies home wel - come nest.

Bar. 1 rest As the bird flies home to its wel - come nest.

Bar. 2 rest bird flies home to its wel - come nest.

Bs. rest bird flies home wel - come nest.

111 *rit.* ..... *gently*, ♩ = 84

Ct. 1

Ct. 2 *mf* oh *p*

Ten. 8 *mf* oh doo doo *p*

Bar. 1 *mf* oh *p*

Bar. 2 *mf* oh oh doo *p*

Bs. *mf* oh doo doo doo *p*

117

*mp* *mf*

Ct.1 doo doo

Ct.2 doo doo doo doo

Ten. doo doo doo doo doo doo doo

Bar.1 doo doo doo

Bar.2 doo doo doo doo

Bs. doo doo doo

123

*p dim. poco a poco*

Ct.1 doo wel - come

Ct.2 doo doo oh wel - come

Ten. doo doo doo oh wel - come

Bar.1 doo doo doo oh wel - come

Bar.2 doo doo oh wel - come

Bs. doo oh wel - come

*p dim. poco a poco*

*p dim. poco a poco*

*p dim. poco a poco*

*p dim. poco a poco*

*mf*

*p dim. poco a poco*

Perusal Copy

Ct. 1  
wel - come wel - come wel - come (mm) *pp*

Ct. 2  
wel - come wel - come wel - come (mm) *pp*

Ten.  
wel - come wel - come wel - come (mm) *pp*

Bar. 1  
wel - come wel - come wel - come (mm) *pp*

Bar. 2  
wel - come wel - come wel - come (mm) *pp*

Bs.  
wel - come wel - come wel - come (mm) *pp*