

Duration: ca. 3'30"

One Perfect Rose

a setting for a cappella chorus of a poem by Dorothy Parker

by Mark Zuckerman
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A single flow'r he sent me, since we met.
All tenderly his messenger he chose;
Deep-hearted, pure, with scented dew still wet—
One perfect rose.

I knew the language of the floweret;
“My fragile leaves,” it said, “his heart enclose.”
Love long has taken for his amulet
One perfect rose.

Why is it no one ever sent me yet
One perfect limousine, do you suppose?
Ah no, it's always just my luck to get
One perfect rose.

from *Enough Rope* (1926)

One Perfect Rose

Dorothy Parker

Mark Zuckerman

Dryly ($\text{♩} = 48$)

mf

Soprano

A sin-gle flow'r he sent me, since we met.

All ten-der-ly his mes-sen-ger he

Alto

A sin-gle flow'r he sent me, since we met.

All ten-der-ly his mes-sen-ger he

Tenor

Bass

Piano
Reduction

6

chose; Deep-heart-ed, pure, with scent-ed dew still wet— One per-fect rose. One per-fect

chose; Deep-heart-ed, pure, with scent-ed dew still wet— One per-fect rose. One per-fect

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13

rose. _____ One per - fect rose.

rose. _____ One per - fect rose.

mf
8 Deep - heart - ed, pure, with scent - ed dew still wet— One per - fect rose.

mf
Deep - heart - ed, pure, with scent - ed dew still wet— One per - fect rose. _____

The musical score for measures 13-18 features two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts begin with a long note for the word "rose." followed by the phrase "One perfect rose." The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support, with a dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte) starting at measure 15. The lyrics are: "rose. One perfect rose. Deep - heart - ed, pure, with scent - ed dew still wet— One perfect rose."

19

One per - fect rose. I knew the lan - guage of the flow - er - et;

One per - fect rose. I knew the lan - guage of the flow - er - et;

One per - fect rose. "My frag - ile leaves,"

One per - fect rose. "My frag - ile leaves,"

The musical score for measures 19-24 continues the vocal and piano parts. The vocal lines repeat the phrase "One perfect rose. I knew the language of the flower - et;" and then conclude with "My fragile leaves,". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and melodic lines. The lyrics are: "One perfect rose. I knew the language of the flower - et; One perfect rose. I knew the language of the flower - et; One perfect rose. 'My fragile leaves,' One perfect rose. 'My fragile leaves,'"

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25

it said, Love long has tak - en for his am - u - let

it said, Love long has tak - en for his am - u - let

8 it said, "his heart en - close." Love long has tak - en for his am - u - let

"his heart en - close." Love long has tak - en for his am - u - let

The musical score for measures 25-30 consists of five systems. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The second system has two vocal lines and a piano accompaniment. The third system has three vocal lines and a piano accompaniment. The fourth system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The fifth system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "it said, Love long has tak - en for his am - u - let". The eighth measure of the third system has a vocal line with the lyrics: "it said, 'his heart en - close.' Love long has tak - en for his am - u - let". The piano accompaniment features a mix of treble and bass clefs with various chordal textures.

31

One per-fect rose. One per-fect rose.

One per-fect rose. One per-fect rose.

8 One per-fect rose. One per-fect rose. Love long has tak - en for his am - u -

One per-fect rose. One per-fect rose. Love long has tak - en for his am - u -

The musical score for measures 31-36 consists of five systems. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The second system has two vocal lines and a piano accompaniment. The third system has three vocal lines and a piano accompaniment. The fourth system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The fifth system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "One per-fect rose. One per-fect rose.". The eighth measure of the third system has a vocal line with the lyrics: "One per-fect rose. One per-fect rose. Love long has tak - en for his am - u -". The piano accompaniment features a mix of treble and bass clefs with various chordal textures.

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37 *cresc.*

One per-fect rose. One per-fect rose. Why is it Why

One per-fect rose. One per-fect rose. Why is it Why

let One per-fect rose. One per-fect rose. Why is it Why

let One per-fect rose. One per-fect rose. Why is it Why

43 *ff* *mf*

is it Why is it no one ev - er sent me yet One

is it Why is it no one ev - er sent me yet

is it Why is it no one ev - er sent me yet

is it Why is it no one ev - er sent me yet

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48

per - fect lim - ou - sine
One per - fect lim - ou - sine

One per - fect lim - ou - sine
One per - fect lim - ou - sine

lim - ou - sine
One per - fect lim - ou - sine

lim - ou - sine
One per - fect lim - ou - sine

53

do you sup - pose? Ah no, it's al - ways just my luck to

do you sup - pose? Ah no, it's al - ways just my luck to

do you sup - pose? Ah no,

do you sup - pose? Ah no,

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59

get _____ to get One per - fect

get _____ to get

8 Ah no, it's al - ways just my luck to get One per - fect

Ah no, it's al - ways just my luck to get

64 *rit.*

rose. _____ One per - fect rose. _____

One per - fect rose. One per - fect rose. _____

8 rose. _____ One per - fect One per - fect rose.

One per - fect rose. One per - fect One per - fect rose.