

The life of man is but a span

Anon, from a Birmingham broadsheet

Gordon, by Francis Roads (b. 1943)

Verses 1-4 **Slow** $\text{♩} = 90$

Soprano

1. The life of man is but a span, And cut down in his flow'r,
 2. *O teach well your chil-dren men The while that you are here,*
 3. To-day you may be a li-ving man, With ma-ny a thou-sand pound,
 4. *With a turf at your-head, dear man, And a-no-ther at your feet,*

Alto

Tenor [Air]

1. The life of man is but a span, And cut down in his flow'r,
 2. *O teach well your chil-dren men The while that you are here,*
 3. To-day you may be a li-ving man, With ma-ny a thou-sand pound,
 4. *With a turf at your-head, dear man, And a-no-ther at your feet,*

Bass

Keyboard

7

S

We're here to-day and gone to-mor-row, We're all dead in an hour.
It will be bet-ter for your souls, When your corpse lies on the bier.
 To-mor-row you may be a dead man, And your corpse laid un-der ground.
Your good deeds and your bad ones, Then will to-ge-ther meet.

A

T

We're here to-day and gone to-mor-row, We're all dead in an hour.
It will be bet-ter for your souls, When your corpse lies on the bier.
 To-mor-row you may be a dead man, And your corpse laid un-der ground.
Your good deeds and your bad ones, Then will to-ge-ther meet.

B

Kbd.

15 **CHORUS** The life of man is but a span

S
A
T
B

A - wake, A - wake, A - wake good peo - ple all, A - wake, good peo - ple

A - wake, A - wake, A - wake good peo - ple all, A -

A - wake, A - wake, A - wake good peo - ple all, A - wake, good peo - ple

A - wake, A - wake, A - wake good peo - ple all, A -

Kbd.

21

S
A
T
B

all, A - wake, and you shall hear, Our Lord our God died

wake, good peo - ple all, A - wake, and you shall hear, Our Lord our God died

all, A - wake, and you shall hear, Our Lord our God died

wake, good peo - ple all, A - wake, and you shall hear, Our Lord our God died

Kbd.

27

S
A
T
B

on the cross, For them he loved so dear, For them he loved so dear, For

on the cross, For them he loved so dear, For them he loved, For

on the cross, For them he loved so dear, For them he loved so dear, For

on the cross, For them he loved so dear, For them he loved, For

Kbd.

The life of man is but a span

33

S
A
T
B

them, For them he loved so dear.

them, For them he loved so dear.

them, For them he loved so dear.

them, For them he loved so dear.

Kbd.

36

Symphony

S
A
T
B

Kbd.

FINE

The text of this carol was given to me by Gordon Ashman, the co-founder of the West Gallery Music Association, with a request that I should set it.

The life of man is but a span

Verse 5

S
5. My song is done, I must be gone, I can

A
5. My song is done, I must be gone, I can

T
5. My song is done, I must be gone, I can

B
5. My song is done, I must be gone, I can

Kbd.

S
stay no long - er here, God bless you all both

A
stay no long - er here, God bless you all both

T
stay no long - er here, God bless you all both

B
stay no long - er here, God bless you all both

Kbd.

S
great and small, And send you a hap - py New Year.

A
great and small And send you a hap - py New Year.

T
great and small, And send you a hap - py New Year.

B
great and small, And send you a hap - py New Year.

Kbd.

TO CHORUS