

FREE 'N EASY

Words

Eben E. Rexford (1846-1916) and Joe Liles (1930 -)

Music

H.P.Danks (1834-1903) and Joe Liles

Arrangement

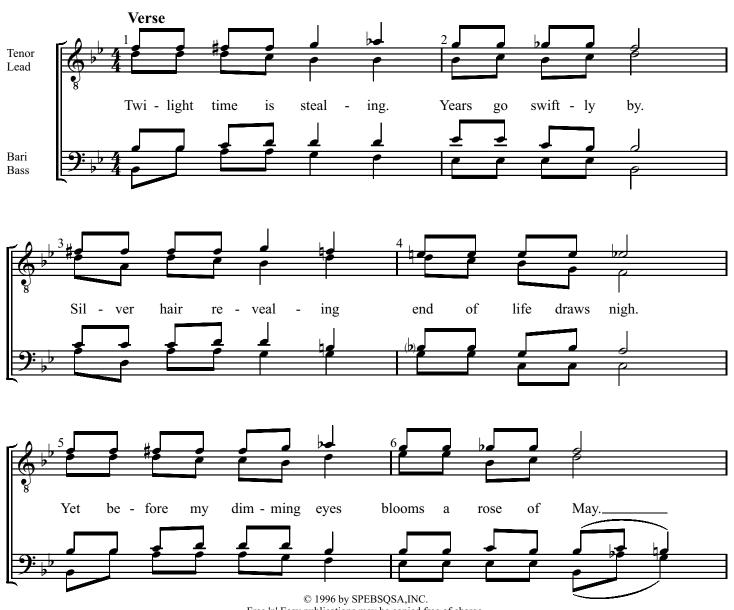
Joe Liles

SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF BARBER SHOP QUARTET SINGING IN AMERICA INC.

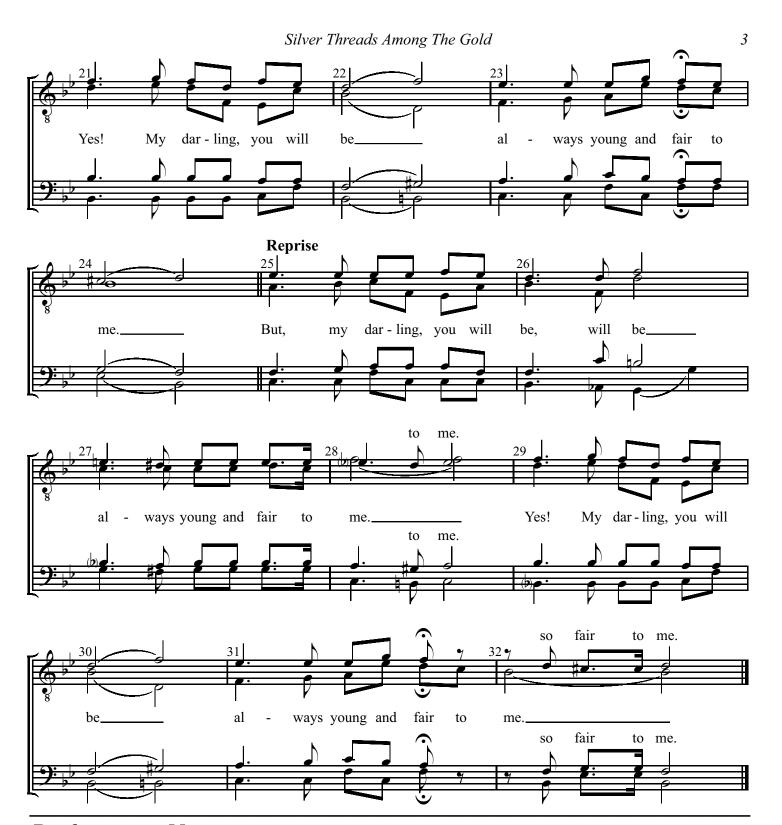
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SILVER THREADS AMONG THE GOLD

(1873)







Performance Notes

Hart Pease Danks of New Haven, Connecticut was already an experienced composer of sacred songs, a singer and conductor, when he spotted a poem in a Wisconsin farm journal edited by Eben Rexford, an authority on gardening and floriculture. Rexford was in the habit of writing poems as space fillers in his magazine. He sold a group of poems to Danks, and one of them was "Silver Threads Among The Gold." The rest, as they say, is history. The song sold over two million copies in the 19th century alone.

Joe Liles, a Texan, a barbershop singer and writer of songs in several styles, felt that such a beautiful chorus needed an appropriate verse. He composed both words and music.

Danks composed over 1,200 songs but died alone and in poverty in Pkiladelphia. He and Rexford are remembered today only by this song. Joe Liles lives in Kenosha, Wisconsin and is an active member of SPEBSQSA.