

WHEN YOU WERE SWEET SIXTEEN

1898

James Thornton came to America from Liverpool, England before he was ten years old. He worked as a singing waiter in Boston and New York City, and for 50 years performed on the vaudeville stage as a singer and comedian. He also wrote special material for other performers. His wife, Bonnie, was one of the best known singers of her time.

Thornton was one of the leading songwriters of his day, but few of his songs are remembered now. Among them are "My Sweetheart's The Man In The Moon" and "She May Have Seen Better Days."

"When You Were Sweet Sixteen" has enjoyed tremendous popularity with barbershop quartets since vaudeville days. The chorus is usually sung as a solo, with harmonizing voices joining in on the last words of each phrase.

By JAMES THORNTON
(1861-1938)

VERSE:

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef staff with a piano accompaniment and a vocal line. The vocal line starts with a treble clef and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "When first I saw the love - light in your eye, And". The piano accompaniment has a bass clef and a common time signature. The second system continues the vocal line with the lyrics: "heard your voice, like sweet - est mel - o - dy, Speak". The piano accompaniment continues with the same bass clef and common time signature. The score includes measure numbers 1 through 8. There are various musical notations such as notes, rests, and accidentals.

When first I saw the love - light in your eye, And

heard your voice, like sweet - est mel - o - dy, Speak

© 1988 SPEBSQSA, Inc.

9 10 11 12

8 words of love to my en - rap - tured soul, The

13 14 15 16 17

8 world had naught but joy in store joy for me. Al - though we're drift - ing

for me.

18 19 20 21 22

8 down life's stream a - part, I know your love could ease my ach - ing

CHORUS: *freely*

23 24 25 26 27

8 heart. I love you as I nev - er loved be - fore, nev - er loved be -

fore, 28 29 30 31 32

8 fore, Since first I met you on the vil - lage green. on the vil - lage green. Come

dream of love is o'er.

33 34 35 36

8 to me or my dream of love is dream of love is o'er. I

37 38 39 40

8 love you as I loved you when you were sweet, when you were sweet six - teen.

TAG:

41 42 43 44 45

8 I love you as I loved you, loved you, when you were sweet,

46 47 48 49 50

8 when you were sweet six teen.

Additional verse:

Last night I dreamt I held your hand in mine,
 And once again you were my happy bride.
 I kissed you as I did in Auld Lang Syne,
 As to the church we wandered side by side.
 Without you I had rather not been born;
 I love you as the sunshine loves the morn.