Light and Shadow...
Bright or Obscure

Two songs on the poetry of
Sir Joseph Noel Paton (1821–1901)

for
Male Voice and Piano

by
Justin Henry Rubin
Light and Shadow

Text by Sir Joseph Noel Paton (1821–1901)
Justin Henry Rubin (2015)

Moderato (poco adagio)  \( \text{mp esp.} \)

Life, thou wert once sweet, so sweet, so

warmly

Molto rit.

bright, so bright, I grudged each hour that slumbers stole, that slumber stole

\( \text{a tempo Poco rit. a tempo} \)

From happy Day through happy Night Brought

\( \text{mf Molto rit. a tempo} \)

ever dreams of new delight...

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Now thou art all so dark, so drear, I pray for sleep to
drown the pain, to drown the pain, drown the pain,
A thousand phantom-shapes of fear to wring the heart and
sere the brain.
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Allegretto, con moto

like a light gallop

mf

f

And is it thus our fe-v’rous race we
Through visible

life,

that dream within a dream,

To death, that What?, like bubbles on a stream,
Bright or obscure,
as Fortune's venal sun
Flatters or flouts, with arbitrary gleam.
Like these, we are not, but do
on - ly seem:  Mere hol - low sem - blants!  And

though,  a - while,  We may de - ceive,

And though a - while,  We may de - cei - ve...

Will that me - di - cate the pain,  will that me - di - cate the pain
Of conscious insignificance? and when Life's paltry bubble bursts, ...what then? what then? what then?

Molto rit. quasi-recit.

Meno mosso

Molto rit.