

LOVE ME, AND THE WORLD IS MINE

1906

Ernest R. Ball, one of America's finest songwriters, grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, but it wasn't long before he found his way to New York. He possessed a first-class musical education and found plenty of work as a pianist in the vaudeville theaters. He joined the staff of a major music publisher, and it was during the next twenty years that he composed many of his best songs, concentrating on sentimental and Irish songs. All the star performers of the day sang his music. "Love Me And The World Is Mine" was Ernest Ball's first successful song and marked his transformation from a performer of other men's songs to a first-rank creator. The best lyricists of the time were happy to collaborate with him because they knew he would provide the perfect music to enhance their lyrics.

Not much is known about David Reed, Jr. except that he published songs (he was a lyricist and composer) between 1894 and 1923. Several of his songs were sung in Broadway shows of the period.

Since its introduction in 1906, "Love Me And The World Is Mine" has remained a favorite with barbershop singers, who will drop everything to harmonize a chorus or two. The verse is a bit more challenging than the chorus, but its unusual harmonic structure and fine poetry are well worth the effort required. Don't pay too close attention to the written rhythms and bar lines, but feel free to savor each delicious harmony without hurrying.

Words by DAVID REED, JR.
(1872-1946)

Music by ERNEST R. BALL
(1878-1927)

CHORUS:

The musical score for the chorus is presented in two systems. Each system consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system covers the lyrics: "I care not for the stars that shine; I". The second system covers: "dare not hope to e'er be thine. I". The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The score includes first and second endings for both the vocal and piano parts. The key signature changes from C major to D major in the second system, and the time signature changes from common time to 2/4.

1
I care not for the stars that shine; I

2
I

3
dare not hope to e'er be thine. I

4
I

5 on - ly know I love you; Love me, and the world is

VERSE:

8 mine. I wan - der on as in a dream, My

11 goal a par - a - dise must be; For there an an - gel waits 'twould

14 seem, Yet, lo, dear heart, 'tis on - ly thee. Suns may

17 shine to light my way, dear; wealth be mine for aye, dear; Queens may pledge their rich-es

20 too. Yet the world would still be lone - ly with such vir - tues on - ly;

21

22

23 Life to me, dear, means just you. CHORUS: I care

24 I care I care not for the stars that

25

26 that shine; shine; that shine; I dare I dare not hope to e'er be

27

28 be thine. I on - ly know I

29

30 love you; Love me, and the world is mine.

31

32