

# Essex

John Betjeman (1906-1984)

Piers Connor Kennedy

Leisurely, sweetly, and with lavish rubato, c. ♩=90

Bass Solo

*p softly*

"The va-grant vi-si-tor erst-while," my

Piano

*pp* *mp* *p*

With pedal

4

co-lour-plate book says to me, "Could wend by hedge-row side and stile, from Ben-fleet down to Leigh-on Sea." And

7

as I turn the co-lour-plates Ed-ward-ian Es-sex op-ens wide, Mir-rored in ponds and seen through gates,

10

*mp sweetly*

sweet un-ev-ent-ful count-ry-side. Like

*mp* *mf* *mp*

13

streams the lit-tle by-roads run through oats and bar-ley round a hill to where blue wil-lows catch the sun by

16

some white wea-ther-board-ed mill. "A Sum-mer Id-yll Match-ing Tye" "At Hav-'ring-at-te-Bow'r, the Stocks" And

19

cob-ble path-ways lead the eye\_\_\_\_\_ to cot-tage doors and\_ hol-ly-hocks.

22

*mf joyously*  
Far Es-sex, - fif - ty miles a-way the

*mp*

^ (etc.)

24

le - vel wastes of suck - ing mud Where dis - tant bar - ges high with hay\_ come

26

sail - ing in up - on the flood. Near Es - sex of the Ri - ver Lea\_ and

28

ang - lers out with hook and worm And Ep - ping For - est glades where

30

we had bean - feasts with my fa - ther's firm.