

Almost

7 Emily Dickinson settings for voice and violin

for Stephen Calder

1. Almost

Andrew Toovey (2017)

Slowish (♩ = c. 60)

p (ad lib dynamics)

With-in my reach! I could have
touched! I might have chanced that way! Soft saun-tered through the vill-age,
Saun-tered as soft a way! So un sus-pec-ted vio-lets With-in the fields lie low, Too
late for stri-ving fin-gers— That passed, an hour a-go.

mf *mp* *p* *mp* *p*
mp *mf* *p* *mf* *p*
p *p* *5* *3* *mf*
p *mf* *p*

3. Delight becomes

Faster (♩ = c. 72)

mp

De-light be-comes pic - tor - i - al When viewed through pain,

p

more fair, be - come im ³poss - i - ble That a - ny

gain. The moun - tain at a giv - en

dis - tance In am - ber lies; Ap - proached

the am - ber flits a little, And that's the skies!

pp

The musical score is written for a piano and voice. It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The tempo is marked 'Faster' with a quarter note equal to approximately 72 beats per minute. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score includes dynamic markings: *mp* (mezzo-piano), *p* (piano), and *pp* (pianissimo). The piano accompaniment features a consistent eighth-note pattern with arpeggiated chords. The vocal line includes lyrics and a triplet of eighth notes. The piece concludes with a fermata over a whole note and a final *pp* marking.

4. Secrets

Fastish ($\text{♩} = \text{c. } 70$)

mf

The_ skies_ can't_ keep_ their_ se-cret! They_ tell_

mp

it_ to the hills. The_ hills_ just_ tell_

mp

the or - chards. And they_ the_ daf - fo -

mp

dils! A_ bird, by_ chance, that_ goes_ that_ way_

mp

soft ov-er-head the whole. If I should bribe the lit - tle bird,

who knows but she would tell?

I think I won't, how - ev - er, it's fi - ner not to know;

if sum - mer were an ax - i - om, what sor - ce - ry had

snow? So _____ keep _____ your _____ se - cret, Fa - ther!

5 5

I _____ would _____ not, _____ if _____ I _____ could, _____ know _____

5 5

what _____ the _____ sap - phirefell - ows do, In _____ your _____

5 5

new _____ fa - shioned world!

5 5

6. Griefs

Gracefully (♩ = c. 50)

mp

I mea-sure eve-ry grief I meet

muted

p

with an-a-ly-tic eyes; I won-der if it weighs like mine, Or had an eas-ier

size. I won-der if they bore it long, Or did it just be-gin? I could not tell the date of

mine, it feels so old a pain. I won-der if it hurts to live,

And if they have to try, And whe-ther, could they choose be-tween, They would not

ra ther die. I won-der if when years have piled some thou- sand on the cause of

ear-ly hurt, if such a lapse could give them an-y pause; or would they go on ach-ing still

Through cen - turies a - bove En-ligh - tened_ to a lar-ger pain

By con-trast with the love. The grieved are ma-ny I am told;— The rea-son dee-per lies,

Death is but one and comes but once, And on-ly nails the eyes. There's grief of want, and grief of

*sudden
stop*

cold, A sort they call 'des - pair', There's ba-nish-ment from na-tive eyes,

In sight of na-tive air. And though I may not guess the kind cor-rect - ly,

stop

yet to me A pier-cing com-fort it af - fords in pass-ing Cal - va -

ry, To note the fash-ions of the cross, of those that stand a-lone, still fas-ci -

na - ted to pre-sume That some are like my own.

sul pont.

flaut.

Fairly slow ($\text{♩} = \text{c. } 60$)

7. Numen lumen

mf ³ *mf* ³

I _____ live with him, I _____ see his face;

mp

³ ³ ³ ³ ³

I _____ go no more a-way For vi - si - tor, or _____ sun - down;

³ ³ ³ ³

Death's _____ sin - gle pri - va - cy, _____ The on - ly one fore - stall - ing mime, And

³ ³ ³

that by right, that he pre - sents a claim in - vi - si - ble,

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four systems. Each system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The piano accompaniment is a steady eighth-note pattern. The vocal line features several triplet markings. The lyrics are: 'I _____ live with him, I _____ see his face; I _____ go no more a-way For vi - si - tor, or _____ sun - down; Death's _____ sin - gle pri - va - cy, _____ The on - ly one fore - stall - ing mime, And that by right, that he pre - sents a claim in - vi - si - ble,'. The tempo is 'Fairly slow' with a quarter note equal to approximately 60 beats per minute. The dynamics range from mezzo-forte (mf) to mezzo-piano (mp).

No wed - lock gran - ted me. I live with him, I hear his

voice, I stand a - live to - day To wit-ness to the cer-tain-ty Of

im-mor ta - li - ty Taught me by Time, - the lo - wer way Con - vic - tion ev - ery

day, - That life like this_ is end - less Be judge - ment what it may.