

Jon F. Howe

Tales of the Amherst Troubadour

Three Dickinson Songs for Two Treble
Voices and Piano

Text by Emily Dickinson

Perusal Score

Program Note

As an American composer, especially one born and raised in New England, It feels like setting text by American poet Emily Dickinson is a rite of passage. Tales of the Amherst Troubadour is a short song cycle setting three of Dickinson's poems. For each song, I wanted to try composing in the style of three different movements within music history. *The Soul*, due to its darker material, was written in a borderline post-tonal style common in the early 20th century. *Summer Shower* was written in an Impressionist-influenced style. *A Liquor Never Brewed* draws upon Romantic era lieder in its compositional approach.

This song cycle was written for Daniel Caramante and Brendon Lewis, who premiered the work at the URI New Music Concert on December 8, 2018 with piano accompaniment by Peter Kelmelis.

Text

All of the text used in this composition is in the public domain.

The Soul has Bandaged moments - (360)

The Soul has Bandaged moments -
When too appalled to stir -
She feels some ghastly Fright come up
And stop to look at her -

Salute her, with long fingers -
Caress her freezing hair -
Sip, Goblin, from the very lips
The Lover - hovered - o'er -
Unworthy, that a thought so mean
Accost a Theme - so - fair -

The soul has moments of escape -
When bursting all the doors -
She dances like a Bomb, abroad,
And swings upon the Hours,

As do the Bee - delirious borne -
Long Dungeoned from his Rose -
Touch Liberty - then know no more -
But Noon, and Paradise

The Soul's retaken moments -
When, Felon led along,
With shackles on the plumed feet,
And staples, in the song,

The Horror welcomes her, again,
These, are not brayed of Tongue -

Summer Shower

A drop fell on the apple tree,
Another on the roof;
A half a dozen kissed the eaves,
And made the gables laugh.

A few went out to help the brook,
That went to help the sea.
Myself conjectured, Were they pearls,
What necklaces could be!

The dust replaced in hoisted roads,
The birds jocosely sung;
The sunshine threw his hat away,
The orchards spangles hung.

The breezes brought dejected lutes,
And bathed them in the glee;
The East put out a single flag,
And signed the fete away.

*The italicized portion is not used in this composition, but presented for preservation of the entire poem.

I taste a liquor never brewed (214)

I taste a liquor never brewed,
From tankards scooped in pearl;
Not all the vats upon the Rhine
Yield such an alcohol!

Inebriate of air am I,
And debauchee of dew,
Reeling, through endless summer days,
From inns of molten blue.

When landlords turn the drunken bee
Out of the foxglove's door,
When butterflies renounce their drams,
I shall but drink the more!

Till seraphs swing their snowy hats,
And saints to windows run,
To see the little tippler
Leaning against the sun!

Perusal Score

Written for Daniel Caramante and Brendon Lewis

Gales of the Amherst Groubadour

Emily Dickinson

Three Dickinson Songs for Two Treble Voices and Piano

Jon F. Howe (2018)

I. The Soul

Moderato drammatico con affannato ♩ = 80

5

mf *f* *mp*

The Soul has

mf *f* *mp*

The Soul has

mf *p* *f* *p sub.*

7

f

Ban - daged mo - ments When too a - palled to stir She

f

Ban - daged mo - ments When too a - palled to stir

mf *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf*

13

p *mp*

feels some Fright

mf

ghost - ly

pp *mf*

18 *f* *mp sub.* 23

— come up — stop! look at her;

come up — And stop! to look at her;

p *f* *mp sub.* *mf*

24 *mp* *f*

lub — her, with long — Ca-

mf Sa — fin - gers

p *mp*

30 32 *mf*

-ress her free - - zing hair Sip Gob - lin from the ve - ry

f *p*

Ca - ress her free - - zing - hair Hor - ror Hor - ror Hor - ror From the ve - ry —

mf *p sub.*

35 *f* **36** *p*

lips The Lov - er _____ hov - ered O' - er Un - wor - thy _____

mf

lips sip_ Gob - lin sip Gob - lin hov - ered Un - wor - thy _____

f *mp*

40 *f* *mp* *mf*

That a thought so mean Ac - cost a theme so

p *mp* *p*

That a thought so mean

45 *p* **48** *mp*

fair _____ The soul has mo - ments of

mp

The soul has mo - ments of

f *mp sub.*

This musical score is for a song titled "Tales of the Amherst Troubadour - The Soul". It is written for a voice and piano. The score is divided into three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The first system starts at measure 35 and ends at measure 36. The second system starts at measure 40 and ends at measure 41. The third system starts at measure 45 and ends at measure 48. The music is in 3/4 time and features various dynamics including forte (f), piano (p), mezzo-forte (mf), and mezzo-piano (mp). The lyrics are written below the vocal line, and the piano accompaniment is written on a grand staff. A large "Perusal Score" watermark is visible across the middle of the page.

53

51 *f* *mf* *f*

es - cape Touch! Touch! Touch! Li - ber - ty

f *mf* *f*

es - cape Touch! Touch! Touch! Li - ber - ty

61

57 *mf* *f*

Noon and Pa - ra - dise!

mp *f*

Then know no more but Noon and Pa - ra - dise!

f *p*

mf

66

63 *mf* *mf* *mp*

When Fe - lon lead a - long

The soul has re - ta - ken mo - ments With

p *mf*

8ba

68 *f*

shack - les on the plumed feet

f

shack - les on the plumed feet and Sta - ples in the song *8va*

loco

73 *mf*

The Hor - ror wel - comes her a - gain

p

(8) Hor - ror Hor - ror Hor - ror Hor - ror wel - comes her a - gain

pp sub.

(8)

77 *f* *ff*

are not brayed of Tongue

f *ff*

These are not brayed of Tongue

mf *ff*

8ba

II. Summer Shower

Maestoso con dolcezza ♩ = 72

mf

A drop

mf

A drop

6

fell on the ap - ple tree

fell on the ap - ple tree

12

10

13 *mf* *p* *mf*

An - oth - er fell on the roof

18 *f* 19 *p* *p*

A half a doz - en kissed the Eaves

half a doz - en the Eaves

25 *mp* *f* *f* *mp*

And Made the Ga - bles laugh

And Made the Ga - bles laugh

(Red.)

This musical score is for a piece titled 'Tales of the Amherst Troubadour - Summer Shower'. It is a three-part setting for voice and piano. The first system (measures 13-18) features a vocal melody with lyrics 'An - oth - er fell on the roof' and a piano accompaniment with triplet patterns. The second system (measures 18-24) continues the vocal melody with lyrics 'A half a doz - en kissed the Eaves' and 'half a doz - en the Eaves', with piano accompaniment including an 8va section. The third system (measures 25-30) features a vocal melody with lyrics 'And Made the Ga - bles laugh' and a piano accompaniment with a 'Red.' section. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf*, *p*, *f*, and *mp*, and various musical notations including triplets, 8va, and Red. sections.

31

mp

A few

mf

few

f

Rehearsal Score

34

went out to help! help help? the Brook

went out help the Brook

f

f

Rehearsal Score

38

Ah

mp

Ah

p

8va

Ah

Rehearsal Score

43

rit.....

mf

Where a drop

drop

48 a tempo
mp

fell *mp*

fell *mp*

mf The *mf*

Dust_

mp

Red.

53

p *f*

Dust re - placed in Hoi - sted Roads

p *f*

re - placed in Hoi - sted Roads

f

(Ped.)

60 *mf*

58 The Birds Jo - co - ser Sung on the roof

mf The Birds Sung on the roof

63 *f* 66 *mf*

(c)ted Lutes

The bree - zes brought de - - jec Lutes

70 *p* *mp* 74

And Bathed them in the Glee

mp And Bathed them in the Glee

p

(Red.)

76 *f*

77 *f*

78 *f*

79 *f*

III. A Liquor Never Brewed

Andante moderato ♩ = 88-96 *mf*

mf

I taste a liq - our nev - er brewed

mf

I taste a liq - our nev - er brewed From

mp

mp *f* *mp*

Tank - ards scooped scooped in Pearl Not

p *mp*

Tank - ards scooped in Pearl Not

7 *f*

all the vats u - pon the Rhine Yield such an Al - co -

all the vats u - pon the Rhine Yield such an Al - co -

cresc. *f* *dim.*

(Red.)

10 **12** *Meno mosso con moto* ♩ = 80 *mf*

- hol! In - e -

- hol!

p

(Red.)

14 *mf*

- bri - ate of air am I In - e - bri - ate of air am I

In - e - bri - ate of air am I In - e - bri - ate of air am I

16

p

In - e - bri - ate In - e - bri - ate Dew And

p

In - e - bri - ate In - e - bri - ate

18

mf *p*

Deb - au - chee of Dew Deb - au - chee of Dew Ree -

mf *p*

And Deb - au - chee of Dew And Deb - au - chee of Dew

20

f *mp*

- ling thro' end - less sum - mer days inns of mol - ten Blue

f *mp*

ling thro' end - less sum - mer days From inns of mol - ten Blue

23 *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *8va*

From inns of mol - ten Blue

From inns of mol - ten Blue

f *ff*

8va

26 *mf*

When

mp

28 *p* (a sarcastic mimicry)

"Land - lords" turn the drunk - en Bee

When "Land - lords" turn the drunk - en Bee

29

f

“Land - lords” “Land - lords” Out of the Fox - - glove’s

mf

“Land - lords” “Land - lords” Out! Out! Out! the

tr

mf

31

door

f

door

mf

When

32

But - ter - flies re - nounce their “drams”

p (a sarcastic mimicry)

When But - ter flies re - nounce their “drams”

mp

33

mf Their "drums" Their "drums" *f* I shall but drink - - the___

mf Their "drums" Their "drums" I shall drink the

mf

35

more
f

more

p

Perusal Score

38

The musical score for measures 38-40 is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). Measures 38 and 39 are empty for the upper staves. The lower staves (treble and bass clef) contain complex chords and melodic lines. Measure 40 continues the pattern with similar chords and a bass line starting with a 'Ped.' marking.

41

8va

45 **Tempo primo** *mf*

Till Ser - aphs swing - their snow - y hats_____

mf

Till Ser aphs swing their snow - y hats_____ And

mp

48 *mp* *f* *p* *mp*

Saints to win - dows run_____ To

p *mp*

Saints to win - dows run_____ To

51

see the lit - tle Tip - pler Lean - ing a - gainst the Sun!___

54

Drink the more!___

Drink the more!___

8va

3

ff

Perusal Score