

I'm Nobody', Four Emily Dickinson Songs

Sonja Grossner

I'm Nobody', Four Emily Dickinson Songs

for tenor (or soprano) and piano were written in 1996 for the Composers' Ensemble at the Birmingham Conservatoire, and were given their first performance at a concert there on March 14th, 1997.

1. I'm Nobody
2. With Flowers
3. The white of the year
4. Dawn

These four songs are part of a cycle of nine songs of the same name of poems by Emily Dickinson.

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1. I'm Nobody

four Emily Dickinson songs
for high voice and piano

Allegro loquace
♩ = 120 - 126

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The musical score is written for tenor and piano. It begins with a tenor staff and a grand piano staff. The tempo is marked 'Allegro loquace' with a quarter note equal to 120-126 beats per minute. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 2/4. The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 1-5) features a piano introduction with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second system (measures 6-9) contains the first vocal line: 'I'm no - bo - dy!'. The piano accompaniment includes dynamics of piano (*p*), forte (*f*), and piano (*p*). The third system (measures 10-13) contains the second vocal line: 'Who are you? Are you'. The piano accompaniment starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes a crescendo (*cresc.*) marking.

14 *mp*

no - bo - dy, too? Then there's a

18 *mf*

pair of us - - - don't tell!

22 $\text{♩} = 92$ *p*

They'd ban - ish us, you know.

tempo primo

♩ = 120 - 126

27 *f*

How drear - y to be

32 *mf*

♩ = 92

some - bo - dy! How

37 *mf*

♩ = 120 - 126

pub - lic, like a frog, To tell your

41 *p*

name the live - long day to an ad -

subito p

46

mir - ing bog!

mf

50

2. With Flowers

Moderato dolce
♩ = 80

Voice

Piano

p

South winds jos-tle them,

pp *p*

4 *mp dim*

Bum-ble bees come,

mp dim

7 *p* *mp* *f*

ho-ver, — hes-i-tate, drink, and are

f

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It begins with a tempo marking of 'Moderato dolce' and a metronome marking of a quarter note equal to 80. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 1-3) features a voice line with lyrics 'South winds jos-tle them,' and piano accompaniment with dynamics *pp* and *p*. The second system (measures 4-6) has a voice line with lyrics 'Bum-ble bees come,' and piano accompaniment with dynamics *mp dim*. The third system (measures 7-9) has a voice line with lyrics 'ho-ver, — hes-i-tate, drink, and are' and piano accompaniment with dynamics *p*, *mp*, and *f*. The piano part includes various textures such as arpeggiated chords and flowing sixteenth-note passages.

10 *p*
gone, gone. But-ter-flies pause—
subito p

13 *mf* *dim*
On their pass-age, Cash-mere;
mp *mf*

16 *p* *dim*
I, soft-ly pluck-ing,———

18 *cresc.* *mf*

pre-sent them here!

18 *mf* *dim poco a poco* *p*

21 *rit.* **Voice**

21 *pp* *ppp*

3. The White of the Year

Allegretto

♩ = 112

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of three systems. The first system shows the piano introduction with a treble clef and a bass clef. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the bass and a more melodic line in the treble, starting with a *pp* dynamic. The second system begins with a vocal line in the treble clef, starting at measure 4. The lyrics are: "This ___ was in the white of the year, That ___ was in the". The piano accompaniment continues with a *p* dynamic. The third system starts at measure 7 with the lyrics: "green. Drifts were as diff - i - cult then to". The piano accompaniment features a *mf* dynamic and includes a change to 3/4 time at the end of the system. Dynamics include *pp*, *p*, and *mf*, with accents and slurs used throughout.

Piano

pp

4 *p*

This ___ was in the white of the year, That ___ was in the

4

7 *mf*

green. Drifts were as diff - i - cult then to

7 *mf* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

11 *dim* *p*

8 think as dai-sies now to be seen.

14 *p*

8 Look - ing

17 *pp*

8 back is best that is left, Or if it be be -

20 *mf*

fore, Re-tro - spec - tion — is pros - pect's — half,

20 *mp* *mf*

23

Some - times — al - most — more.

23

26

26 *p* *dim poco a poco*

28

28

30 *mp*

Some - times — al - most — more.

30 *mp* *dim*

33 *ppp* *molto rit.*

al - most — more.

33

4. Dawn

Allegro animato

♩ = 116-120

Voice *p*

When

Piano *pp*

sfz

5 *cresc.* *mp*

8 night is al-most done, And sun - rise grown so

5 *mp*

sfz *sfz*

9 *cresc.* *mf*

8 near That you can touch the spa - ces, It's

9 *cresc.*

14 *mf*

time to smooth the hair, And

14 *mf*

18

get the dimples ready And wonder we could

18 *mf*

22 *f*

care For that old faded mid - night,

22 *cresc.* *f*

26

That fright - ened but an hour, _____

subito p

cresc.

30

That fright - ened but an hour. _____

mp

subito p

sfz

35

pp

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