



# Christopher Beardsley

It sifts from leaden sieves  
for unaccompanied  
SSAATTBB choir

## CHRISTOPHER BEARDSLEY

It sifts from leaden sieves  
for unaccompanied SSAATTBB choir

It sifts from leaden sieves,  
It powders all the wood,  
It fills with alabaster wool  
The wrinkles of the road.

It makes an even face  
Of mountain and of plain, —  
Unbroken forehead from the east  
Unto the east again.

It reaches to the fence,  
It wraps it, rail by rail,  
Till it is lost in fleeces;  
It flings a crystal veil

On stump and stack and stem, —  
The summer's empty room,  
Acres of seams where harvests were,  
Recordless, but for them.

It ruffles wrists of posts,  
As ankles of a queen, —  
Then stills its artisans like ghosts,  
Denying they have been.

*Emily Dickinson*

Duration: 5 minutes

### Performance notes

1. In the opening and closing sections the long notes should be sung with staggered breathing, if necessary.
2. Each entry should be as imperceptible as possible.
3. Dotted slurs indicate that the change to different words and/or syllables should be sung as smoothly as possible with no emphasis on the new word or syllable.
4. Syllables in brackets should not be sung; they are merely indications to the word that the syllable belongs to.

# It sifts from leaden sieves

Emily Dickinson

Christopher Beardsley

Gently and sustained (♩=c100)

Soprano 1  
from \_\_\_\_\_ lea- (den)

Soprano 2  
from \_\_\_\_\_ lea- (den)

Alto 1  
It sifts \_\_\_\_\_ lea -

Alto 2  
It sifts \_\_\_\_\_ lea -

Tenor 1  
sifts \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ lea -

Tenor 2  
sifts \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ lea -

Bass 1  
It sifts \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_

Bass 2  
It sifts \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_

Piano (for rehearsal only)  
Ped. sempre

9

S1 *pppp* *pppp* < *p* *pppp* *pppp*

S2 *pppp* *pppp* < *p* *pppp* *pppp*

A1 *p* *pppp* *pppp*

A2 *p* *pppp*

T1 *pppp*

T2 *pppp*

B1 *pppp* < *p* *pppp*

B2 *pppp* < *p* *pppp*

Pno.

den sieves, (lea) -den sieves, (lea) -den sieves,

17

S1 *pppp* < *p* *pppp* *pppp*

It pow - - - ders \_\_\_\_\_

S2 *pppp* < *p* *pppp*

It pow-(ders) \_\_\_\_\_

A1 *pppp* < *p*

pow - - - ders \_\_\_\_\_ all \_\_\_\_\_

A2 *pppp* < *p*

pow - - - ders \_\_\_\_\_ all \_\_\_\_\_

T1 *pppp* < *p* *pppp* *pppp*

It pow-(ders) \_\_\_\_\_ all \_\_\_\_\_

T2 *pppp* < *p* *pppp* *pppp*

It pow - - - ders \_\_\_\_\_ all \_\_\_\_\_

B1 *pppp* < *p*

(pow)-ders \_\_\_\_\_ all \_\_\_\_\_

B2 *pppp* < *p*

(pow)-ders \_\_\_\_\_ all \_\_\_\_\_

Pno.

25

S1  
the wood,

S2  
the wood,

A1  
wood,

A2  
wood,

T1  
the wood,

T2  
the wood,

B1  
the

B2  
the

Pno.

*pppp* *p* *pppp*

*pppp* *p* *pppp*

*pppp* *p*

*pppp* *p*

*p*

*p*

*pppp*

*pppp*

33

S1  
fills with a - - la -

S2  
fills with a - - la -

A1  
It fills a - - la-(baster)

A2  
It fills a - - la-(baster)

T1  
It fills with (a-)la -

T2  
It fills with (a-)la -

B1  
with

B2  
with

Pno.

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for page 33 and consists of nine staves. Staves S1 and S2 are Soprano parts with lyrics 'fills with a - - la -'. Staves A1 and A2 are Alto parts with lyrics 'It fills a - - la-(baster)'. Staves T1 and T2 are Tenor parts with lyrics 'It fills with (a-)la -'. Staves B1 and B2 are Bass parts with lyrics 'with'. The Piano accompaniment (Pno.) is at the bottom. Dynamic markings include *ppppp* (pianissimo) and *p* (piano). The score features various musical notations including rests, notes, slurs, and breath marks.

40

S1 *pppp* *pppp* *p* *pppp* *pppp*  
 bas-(ter) wrin - kles of road.

S2 *pppp* *pppp* *p* *pppp* *pppp*  
 bas-(ter) wrin - kles of road.

A1 *pppp* *pppp* *p* *pppp* *pppp* *p*  
 The wrin - kles of the

A2 *pppp* *pppp* *p* *pppp* *pppp* *p*  
 The wrin(-kles) of the

T1 *p* *pppp* *pppp* *p*  
 bas - ter wool The wrin(-kles) of the

T2 *p* *pppp* *pppp* *p*  
 bas - ter wool The wrin - kles the

B1 *pppp* *p* *pppp* *pppp* *p* *pppp*  
 (ala-)bas - ter wool (wrin-)kles - of the

B2 *pppp* *p* *pppp* *pppp* *p* *pppp*  
 (ala-)bas - ter wool (wrin-)kles - of the

Pno.



With a sense of forward movement

45

S1 *p* *pppp* *p*  
It makes an e-ven face\_\_\_\_\_

S2 *p* *pppp* *p*  
It makes an e-ven face\_\_\_\_\_

A1 *pppp* *p* *pppp* *p*  
road.\_\_\_\_\_ It makes an e-ven face\_\_\_\_\_

A2 *pppp* *pppp* *p* *pppp* *p*  
road.\_\_\_\_\_ It makes an e-ven face\_\_\_\_\_

T1 *pppp* *pppp* *p* *pppp* *p*  
road.\_\_\_\_\_ It makes an e-ven face\_\_\_\_\_ of

T2 *pppp* *pppp* *p* *pppp* *p*  
road.\_\_\_\_\_ It makes an e-ven face\_\_\_\_\_ of

B1 *pppp* *p* *pppp* *p*  
road.\_\_\_\_\_ It makes an e-ven face\_\_\_\_\_ of

B2 *pppp* *p* *pppp* *p*  
road.\_\_\_\_\_ It makes an e-ven face\_\_\_\_\_ of

With a sense of forward movement

Pno. *p*

53

*mf* *p*

S1  
moun-tain and of plain, - Un - bro - ken fore-head from the east

*mf* *p*

S2  
moun-tain and of plain, - Un - bro-ken fore-head from the east

*mf* *p*

A1  
moun-tain and of plain, - Un - bro - ken fore-head from the east

*mf* *p*

A2  
moun-tain and of plain, - Un - bro-ken fore-head from the east

*mf* *p*

T1  
moun-tain and of plain, - fore - head from the east

*mf* *p*

T2  
moun-tain and of plain, - fore - head from the east

*mf* *p*

B1  
moun-tain and of plain, - fore - head from the east

*mf* *p*

B2  
moun-tain and of plain, - fore - head from the east

*mf* *p*

Pno.

62

*mf* *p* *mf*

S1 Un - to the east a - gain. It rea-ches to the fence, It

S2 Un - to the east a - gain. It rea-ches to the fence, It

A1 Un - to the east a - gain. It rea-ches to the fence,

A2 Un - to the east a - gain. It rea-ches to the fence,

T1 Un - to the east a - gain. It rea - ches the fence,

T2 Un - to the east a - gain. It rea - ches the fence,

B1 Un - to the east a - gain. It rea - ches the fence,

B2 Un - to the east a - gain. It rea - ches the fence,

Pno. *mf* *p* *mf*

68

S1  
wraps it\_ rail\_ by\_ rail, Till it\_ is\_ lost *p*

S2  
wraps it\_ rail\_ by\_ rail, Till it\_ is\_ lost *p*

A1  
It wraps, rail by rail, it\_ is\_ lost *p*

A2  
It wraps, rail by rail, it\_ is\_ lost *p*

T1  
wraps\_ it\_ rail\_ by\_ rail, it\_ is\_ lost *p*

T2  
wraps\_ it\_ rail\_ by\_ rail, it\_ is\_ lost *p*

B1  
It wraps, rail by rail, it\_ is\_ lost *p*

B2  
It wraps, rail by rail, it\_ is\_ lost *p*

Pno. *p*

73

S1 *pppp* *mf*  
 It flings a crys-tal veil On stump and stack and

S2 *pppp* *mf*  
 It flings a crys-tal veil On stump and stack and

A1 *pppp* *mf*  
 It flings a crys-tal veil On stump and stack and

A2 *pppp* *mf*  
 It flings a crys-tal veil On stump and stack and

T1 *mf*  
 in flee - ces; It flings a veil on stack and

T2 *mf*  
 in flee - ces; It flings a veil on stack and

B1 *mf*  
 in flee - ces; It flings a veil on stack and

B2 *mf*  
 in flee - ces; It flings a veil on stack and

Pno. *mf*

Slightly slower, sustained (♩=c84)

78 *p* *pp* *p* *mp* *pppp* // *pppp*

S1 stem, — The sum - mer's room, —

S2 stem, — The sum - mer's room, —

A1 stem, — The sum - mer's room, —

A2 stem, — The sum - mer's room, —

T1 *p* *pp* *p* *sempre mp* // emp - ty room, —

T2 *p* *pp* *p* *sempre mp* // emp - ty room, —

B1 *p* *pp* *p* *sempre mp* // emp - ty room, —

B2 *p* *pp* *p* *sempre mp* // emp - ty room, —

Pno. *p* *pp* *p* *mp*

Slightly slower, sustained (♩=c84)

84 *p* *pp* // *p*

S1  
A - cres of seams where har - vests were,

S2  
A - cres of seams where har - vests were,

A1  
A - cres of seams where har - vests were,

A2  
A - cres of seams where har - vests were,

T1  
*pppp* // *p*  
A - cres of seams where har - vests were,

T2  
*pppp* // *p*  
A - cres of seams where har - vests were,

B1  
*pppp* // *p*  
A - cres of seams where har - vests were,

B2  
*pppp* // *p*  
A - cres of seams where har - vests were,

Pno.

A tempo (♩=c100)

89

S1 *mf* *p*  
 — Re - cord-less, but for them. It ruf - fles\_ wrists\_ of\_ posts,

S2 *mf* *p*  
 — Re - cord-less, but for them. It ruf - fles\_ wrists\_ of\_ posts,

A1 *mf* *p* *p*  
 — Re - cord-less, but for them. ruf-fles wrists of posts, As

A2 *mf* *p* *p*  
 — Re - cord-less, but for them. ruf-fles wrists of posts, As

T1 *mf* *p* *p*  
 — Re-cord-less but for them. ruf - fles\_ wrists\_ of\_ posts,

T2 *mf* *p* *p*  
 — Re-cord-less but for them. ruf - fles\_ wrists\_ of\_ posts,

B1 *mf* *p* *p*  
 — Re-cord-less but for them. ruf-fles wrists of posts, As

B2 *mf* *p* *p*  
 — Re-cord-less but for them. ruf-fles wrists of posts, As

Pno. *mf* *p*  
 A tempo (♩=c100)



Gently and sustained

94

S1  
As an-kles of a queen, — stills — its —

S2  
As an-kles of a queen, — stills — its —

A1  
an-kles of a queen, — Then — stills — its —

A2  
an-kles of a queen, — Then — stills — its —

T1  
As an-kles of a queen, — its —

T2  
As an-kles of a queen, — its —

B1  
an-kles of a queen, — Then — stills —

B2  
an-kles of a queen, — Then — stills —

Pno.  
Gently and sustained

*mf* *p* *pppp* *p*

*mf* *p* *pppp* *p*

*mf* *p* *pp* *p*

*mf* *p* *pp* *p*

*mf* *p* *pppp* *p*

*mf* *p* *pppp* *p*

*mf* *p* *pp* *p* *pppp*

*mf* *p* *pp* *p* *pppp*

*mf* *p* *pp* *pppp*

100 *pppp* *pppp* < *p* > *pppp*

S1 (ar-)ti - - - sans

S2 (ar-)ti - - - sans

A1 ar - - - ti - - - sans

A2 ar - - - ti - - - sans

T1 ar(-tisans)

T2 ar(-tisans)

B1 *pppp* < *p* (h) ar - - - ti - - - sans

B2 *pppp* < *p* ar - - - ti - - - sans

Pno.

105

S1  
ghosts, — De - - - -

S2  
ghosts, — De - - - -

A1  
like — De - - - -

A2  
like — De - - - -

T1  
like — ghosts, — De - - - -

T2  
like — ghosts, — De - - - -

B1  
like — ghosts, —

B2  
like — ghosts, —

Pno.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 105, contains eight staves. The top seven staves are for voices: Soprano 1 (S1), Soprano 2 (S2), Alto 1 (A1), Alto 2 (A2), Tenor 1 (T1), Tenor 2 (T2), Bass 1 (B1), and Bass 2 (B2). The eighth staff is for the Piano (Pno.). The music is in a common time signature. The vocal parts feature lyrics: 'ghosts, — De - - - -' for S1 and S2; 'like — De - - - -' for A1 and A2; 'like — ghosts, — De - - - -' for T1 and T2; and 'like — ghosts, —' for B1 and B2. Dynamic markings include *pppp* (pianissimo) and *p* (piano). Phrasing slurs and breath marks are present throughout the vocal lines. The piano accompaniment consists of sustained chords in the right hand and bass notes in the left hand.

111

S1  
 - ny - - - - - ing  
*pppp*

S2  
 - ny - - - - - ing  
*pppp*

A1  
 ny(-ing)  
*pppp*

A2  
 ny(-ing)  
*pppp*

T1  
 - ny - - - - - ing  
*pppp*  $\leftarrow$  *p*

T2  
 - ny - - - - - ing  
*pppp*  $\leftarrow$  *p*

B1  
 (Deny-)ing  
*pppp*  $\leftarrow$  *p*

B2  
 (Deny-)ing  
*pppp*  $\leftarrow$  *p*

Pno.

117

Musical score for voices and piano, measures 117-120. The score is written for Soprano 1 (S1), Soprano 2 (S2), Alto 1 (A1), Alto 2 (A2), Tenor 1 (T1), Tenor 2 (T2), Bass 1 (B1), Bass 2 (B2), and Piano (Pno.).

Measures 117-120 contain the lyrics "they have".

Dynamic markings include *pppp* (pianissimo) and *p* (piano). The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

Lyrics: they have

123

Musical score for voices and piano. The score is written for Soprano 1 (S1), Soprano 2 (S2), Alto 1 (A1), Alto 2 (A2), Tenor 1 (T1), Tenor 2 (T2), Bass 1 (B1), Bass 2 (B2), and Piano (Pno.). The lyrics for the vocal parts are "been." and "been, \_\_\_\_\_". The piano part features sustained chords in the right hand and moving lines in the left hand. Dynamics include *pppp*, *p*, and *f*. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings.