

for Trisha

# WILD NIGHTS (1993)

Text by Emily Dickinson (1830–86)

Stephen Montague  
b. 1943

**Presto** (♩. = ca 160)

Soprano seated near the piano  
(profile to the audience)

Musical score for measures 1-6. The Soprano part is a whole rest. The Clarinet (in Bb) part features a melodic line with dynamics *ff* and *mf*. The Viola part has a rhythmic accompaniment with the instruction *sul pont.*. The Piano part includes a bass line with dynamics *ff* and *mf*, and a right-hand part with dynamics *mf* and *mf*.

◊ = silently depress notes on the keyboard    = sweep strings (inside the piano near the agraffe) with a guitar pick

**A** Soprano: Sing as if thinking these thoughts  
(rather subdued/pondering the ideas)

Musical score for measures 7-12. The Soprano part begins with the lyrics "Wild Nights -". The Clarinet (in Bb) part continues with a melodic line. The Viola part has a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics *norm.* and *p*. The Piano part includes a bass line with dynamics *mf* and *mf sim.*.

Musical score for measures 13-18. The Soprano part continues with the lyrics "Wild Nights! Were I with thee". The Clarinet (in Bb) part continues with a melodic line. The Viola part has a rhythmic accompaniment. The Piano part includes a bass line with dynamics *mf*.

19 B *mp*

Sop. Wild — Nights — should —

Cl.

Va.

Pf. *mf sim.*

25

Sop. be Our lu - - xu - - ry!

Cl.

Va.

Pf. *mp* *f* (Inside piano) *p*

gliss.  
sweep with back of hand

31 C *f*

Sop. Fu - tile - the Winds - To a Heart in port -

Cl.

Va. *fp* *f* *mf* *norm.* *sul pont.*

Pf. *mf* *accel.*

37 *mf*

Sop. Done with the Com - - pass - Done with the Chart!

Cl. *mp* *p*

Va. *mp* *p*

Pf.

(2nd.)

43 *mf* **D**

Sop. Row - ing in Ed - en

Cl. *mf* *sub. p* *s*

Va. *mf* *sub. p*

Pf. *mf* *l.v.* (with clarinet)

49 *mf* *mf*

Sop. Ah, the Sea!

Cl. *mf*

Va. *mf*

Pf. *mf* *l.v.*

**E** *mp*

Sop. *ossia*  
Might I but moor - To - night In Thee!

Cl. *p* *legato*

Va. *p*

Pf.

59 *rit.* ..... *molto.* .....

Sop.

Cl. *decresc.*

Va. *decresc.*

Pf. *mp sweep slowly*

**F** **Slowly, rubato**

64 *p* *p* *f*

Sop. *Slowly stand up* *Slowly walk to the piano* *Sing into the piano*  
Ah - - - O O O O - - - Ah!

Cl. *p* *f*

Va. *p* *f*

Pf. *catch resonance*

**G Rubato**

Almost caress the piano as strings are stroked.  
More emotional than before.

freely

(64)

Sop. *f* Ah - O - Ah! *ff* Ah - O - Ah *p* Ah Wild

Cl. *f*

Va. *f* con sord.

Pf. Keyboard: silently depress (singer plays)

Inside piano: *p* Sweep inside\*

\* Soprano: use flesh of finger to slowly stroke (sweep) the strings.

grad. off

67

Sop. Nights - Wild Nights! Were I with thee Wild Nights should be Our lu - xu - ry!

Cl. (con sord.)

Va. *mp*

Pf.

75 **H**

Sop. Fu - tile - the Winds - To a Heart in port - Done with the Com - pass - Done with the Chart!

Cl.

Va.

Pf.

I

rit. . . . . Tenderly

slowly

83

Sop. *pp*  
*pp*  
 Row - ing in Ed - en - Ah, the Sea! Might I but moor - To - night In Thee!

Cl. *pp*

Va. *pp* senza sord.

Pf.

J

(Still facing the piano)

Normal voice

Turn...

91

Sop. *mm* Hum Ah O - - - - Ah *f* *ff*

Cl. *mp* *p* *mf* *ff* gliss.

Va. *mp* *p* *mf* *ff* (open)

Pf.

K Presto appassionata

Face audience

Move to a little further forward than 'normal' concert position.

92

Sop.

Cl.

Va. *ff brutal*

Pf. *ff secco* *mf*