

# Emily is Gay

4 poems of Emily Dickinson for soprano

*because no voice coach tells me that Emily Dickinson "isn't gay" and "just enjoys writing from the male perspective" without consequence. You're wrong, Geoff.*

1. The bee is not afraid of me

The Bee is not afraid of me.  
I know the Butterfly.  
The pretty people in the Woods  
Receive me cordially—

The Brooks laugh louder when I  
come—  
The Breezes madder play;  
Wherefore mine eye thy silver mists,  
Wherefore, Oh Summer's Day?

3. I wish I knew that woman's name

I wish I knew that woman's name,  
So, when she comes this way,  
To hold my life, and hold my ears,  
For fear I hear her say

She's 'sorry I am dead,' again,  
Just when the grave and I  
Have sobbed ourselves almost to  
sleep, —  
Our only lullaby.

2. She went as quiet as the dew

She went as quiet as the dew  
From a familiar flower.  
Not like the dew did she return  
At the accustomed hour!

She dropt as softly as a star  
From out my summer's eve;  
Less skilful than Leverrier  
It's sorer to believe!

4. So proud she was to die

So proud she was to die  
It made us all ashamed  
That what we cherished, so unknown  
To her desire seemed—

So satisfied to go  
Where none of us should be  
Immediately—that Anguish stooped  
Almost to Jealousy—

# 1. The bee is not afraid of me

Emily Dickinson

Hannah Cai Sobel

$\text{♩} = 86$

*mp* The bee is not a-fraid of

7 *mf* me, I know the but-ter-fly; *mp* The

13 pret - ty peo-ple in the woods Re-ceive me cor-dial-ly.

19

The brooks laugh loud-er when I come, The

23

breez - es mad - der play. Where - fore mine\_eyes, thy

28

sil-ver mists? Where - fore O, sum - mer's

32

day?

## 2. She went as quiet as the dew

Emily Dickinson

Hannah Cai Sobel

$\text{♩} = 86$

*p*

She went as quiet as the dew

7

*p*

From a fa-mi-liar flower. Not like the dew did

*sub p*

14

she re - turn, At the ac cus - tomed hour!

*sub p*

20 *mf*

She dropt as soft-ly as a star, From out my sum-mer's

26

eve; Less skill - ful than Lev - er - rier,

32

It's sor-er to be - lieve!

# 3. I wish I knew that woman's name

Emily Dickinson

Hannah Cai Sobel

♩. = 52

Musical score for the first system, measures 1-6. The music is in 6/8 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The vocal line begins with a whole rest in measures 1-5, followed by a quarter note 'I' in measure 6. The piano accompaniment starts in measure 2 with a half note chord, followed by eighth-note patterns in the right hand and half-note chords in the left hand. The dynamic marking *mp* is present in both staves.

Musical score for the second system, measures 7-11. The vocal line contains the lyrics: "wish I knew that wo man's name, So when she comes this". The music features eighth-note patterns in the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The dynamic marking *f* is present in the vocal line, and *mp* is in the piano accompaniment. There are slurs and accents over the notes in the vocal line.

Musical score for the third system, measures 12-16. The vocal line contains the lyrics: "way, To hold my life and hold my ears, For fear I hear her". The music continues with eighth-note patterns in the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The dynamic marking *mp* is present in the piano accompaniment, and *f* is in the vocal line. There are slurs and accents over the notes in the vocal line.

18

say She's 'sor-ry I am dead' a gain She's

25

'sor-ry I am dead' a gain, Just when the Grave and I Have

31

sobbed our - selves — al - most to sleep,

34

*mp*

Our on - ly lul - la - by.

The musical score consists of two systems. The first system is for the voice, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. It begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, and then a half note G4-A4-B4. The lyrics 'Our on - ly lul - la - by.' are written below the notes. The second system is for the piano, with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The right hand has a melody starting with a quarter note G4, followed by a half note G4-A4-B4. The left hand has a bass line with chords. The piano part includes dynamic markings *mp* and triplet markings '2' over the notes.



# 4. So proud she was to die

Emily Dickinson

Hannah Cai Sobel

$\text{♩} = 92$  *mf*

So proud she was to die It

5

made us all ashamed That what we cherished, so un-known

9

To her de sire— seemed

13 *mf*

So sat - is - fied to go Where

*p* *mf*

17

none of us should be Im - me - di - at - ly - that

21 *f*

An - guish stooped Al - most

24 *rit.*

to Jea - lou - sy