

## Your Melodies

*Commissioned by Wildflower Composers in honor of their fifth anniversary  
Written for Quartet Iris  
Composed by Hannah Cai Sobel*

Inspired by “Your Melodies,” a poem about discovering a new musician by Reuben Gelley Newman.

You like your melodies how you like your men: cool, coy and sinuous.  
You like your melodies so much you sing them again and again.  
You like your melodies to ramble like a deer through the forest, swerve like a fish through the sea, loop in a necklace, come together in a lobster clasp, the polished agate hanging from small infinities of silver.  
You like your melodies to earworm; you like your melodies to dig; to compost, compose, comport themselves carelessly, never come to a close—  
Everything repeats in your melodies.

You like your melodies how you like your women: cool, coy, sinuous.  
You like your melodies because you’re in love with her for the last time, but you’ll sing your love again and again.  
You like your melodies because they’re in your head.  
You’re a wonder boy in your melodies, a genius who still can do nothing, writing music all day, without a steady job; your boyish, your girlish, your urban & Corn Belt melodies.  
“Let’s go swimming,” you tell your melodies, and they splash like the boy in a David Hockney painting, full of pinks and tans and blues—you like your melodies

To overflow, to spill soda all over your shirt, the chest beneath vaguely hot & mysterious, it’s like having a coke with you in your melodies, they burst and caffeinate, a synthetic pop—  
Your melodies bubble, float away with you inside, dream a silence in the middle of the song, then return to the rhythm—  
Your melodies moonwalk, your melodies scuba dive, they adventure time, and you pull yourself together out on the ocean surf, only the waves around you, only the sea.  
You like your melodies to pull yourself together, to tether mind to body, body to song.  
You like your melodies to echo, you like them to queer—to reflect yourself, your acne-scarred face cool in a baseball cap, your cello a lucid dream in your hands—you like your melodies how you like your men, you like your melodies how you like yourself.

### **Performance Notes:**

Before each movement, one person should read the movement text out loud.

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# Your Melodies

written for Quartet Iris

1. You like your melodies the way  
you like your men - cool, coy, sinuous.

Hannah Cai Sobel

$\text{♩} = 69$

Vln. I *legato sul tasto* *p*

Vln. II *legato* *mp* *legato sul tasto*

Vla. *legato sul tasto* *p* *ord.* *mp cresc*

Vc. *legato* *mp* *mf*

8

*ord.* *mf* *sul tasto* *mp* *ord.* *mf*

*ord.* *mf* *mf* *p*

*sul tasto* *mp*

*ord.* *mf*

2. You like your melodies to ramble like  
a deer through the forest.

♩ = 96

1 *light and airy*

*pp*

*light and airy*

*pp*

ord.

*mf*

*light and airy*

*pp*

ord.

*mf*

6

ord.

*mf*

11

*mp*

*light and airy*

*pp*

*p*

*light and airy*

*p*

14

*f*  
*p*  
*mf*  
*f*  
*mf*  
*f*

3. You like your melodies because you're  
in love with her for the last time.

1  $\text{♩} = 60$

*mf*  
*f*  
*pizz.*  
*f*  
*arco.*  
*mf*  
*f*  
*f*

9

*f*  
*f*  
*arco.*  
*f*  
*arco.*  
*f*  
*arco.*  
*mf*

18

Violin I: *ff* *pizz.* *sub p*

Violin II: *ff* *pizz.* *sub p*

Viola: *ff* *pizz.* *sub p*

Cello/Double Bass: *ff* *pizz.* *sub p*

4. You like your melodies because they're in your head.

1

$\text{♩} = 66$   
arco.

Violin I: *mp* *mp* *mp* *mf*

Violin II: *mp* *mp* *mp* *mf*

Viola: *mp* *mp* *mp* *mf* *f*

Cello/Double Bass: *mp* *mp* *mp* *mf* *f*

10

Violin I: *mf* *p*

Violin II: *mf* *mf*

Viola: *ff* *mf* *f*

Cello/Double Bass: *mf* *mp*

16

pizz.

*mp*

pizz.

*mp*

*sub p*

pizz.

*mp*

5. "Let's go swimming,"  
you tell your melodies.

1

arco.

*p*

*sim.*

arco.

*p*

*sim.*

arco.

*p*

*sim.*

arco.

*p*

*sim.*

7

*p*

*mf*

*mp*

*p*

*mf*

*mp*

*p*

*mp cresc*

*mf*

*p*

6. You like your melodies  
how you like yourself.

1  $\text{♩} = 69$

*legato*  
*mp*

5 *legato*  
*mp*

*legato*  
*mp*