

Gwyneth Walker

Feathers and Frogs
Two Songs on Poetry of Emily Dickinson

*for SATB Chorus, Piano and
optional Percussion*

"Hope is the Thing With Feathers"
"I'm Nobody"

Hope is the Thing with Feathers

Read by members of the Chorus, from their places within the chorus (not standing together)

Reader #1 “Hope” is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul—
And sings the tune without the words—
And never stops—at all—

Reader #2 And sweetest—in the Gale—is heard—
And sore must be the storm—
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm—

Reader #3 I’ve heard it in the chilliest land—
And on the strangest Sea—
Yet, never, in Extremity,
It asked a crumb—of Me.

#1 “Hope” is

#2 “Hope” is

#3 “Hope” is

1, 2, & 3 in unison (softly) “Hope”

FEATHERS AND FROGS – Two Songs on Poetry of Emily Dickinson

"Hope is the Thing with Feathers"

for SATB, Piano and (optional) Percussion

Emily Dickinson (1830–1886)
Amherst, Massachusetts

Gwyneth Walker

Quickly, with energy ♩ = 132

Percussion

Piano

p lightly, as a bird call

playfully

4

S.

A.

T.

B.

Perc.

Tamb.

mf energetically

"Hope" is the thing with feath-ers — that perch-es in the soul —

mf energetically

"Hope" is the thing with feath-ers — that perch-es in the soul —

p \leftarrow *mf*

mf

poco Ped.

7

S.

A.

T. *p* *mf energetically*

B. *p* *mf energetically*

Perc.

11

S. *cantabile* **B** *cantabile*

A. *cantabile*

T. *cantabile* *cantabile*

B. *cantabile*

Perc.

15

S. *p* That could a-bash the lit - tle bird

A. *p* That could a-bash the lit - tle bird

T. 8 sore must be the storm That

B. 8 sore must be the storm That

Perc.

19 *ritard.* *accel.*

S.

A.

T. 8 kept so man - y warm. *f*

B. 8 kept so man - y warm. *f*

Perc. (Tamb.) *p*

19 *ritard.* *accel.*

ped.

23 **C** a tempo

S. *f* "Hope" is the thing with feath-ers,

A. *f* "Hope" is the thing with feath-ers,

T. *f* "Hope" is the

B. *f* "Hope" is the

Perc. *f*

23 **C** a tempo

f

poco Ped.

26 **ritard.**

S. "Hope" is the thing with feath-ers, "Hope" is "Hope" is I've

A. "Hope" is the thing with feath-ers, "Hope" is "Hope" is I've

T. *f* thing with feath-ers, "Hope" is the thing with feath-ers, "Hope" is "Hope" is

B. thing with feath-ers, "Hope" is the thing with feath-ers, "Hope" is "Hope" is

Perc. *f*

26 **ritard.**

6

D Slower ♩ = 108

29 *mf*

S. heard it on the chill - est land and on the strang - est sea Yet, *p*

A. heard it on the chill - est land and on the strang - est sea Yet, *p*

T. *mf* and on the strang - est sea Yet, *p*

B. *p* Yet,

Perc. *p*

D Slower ♩ = 108

29 *mf*

Red.

33

S. ne - ver, in Ex - trem - i - ty, it asked a crumb of

A. ne - ver, in Ex - trem - i - ty, it asked a crumb of

T. *8* ne - ver, in Ex - trem - i - ty, it asked a crumb of

B. ne - ver, in Ex - trem - i - ty, it asked a crumb of

Perc.

33

p

37 **accel.** *f* **E** a tempo ♩ = 132

S. me. *f*

A. me. *f*

T. me. *f*

B. me. *f*

Perc. (Tamb.) *p* *f*

37 **accel.** **E** a tempo ♩ = 132

f

poco Ped.

40 *f*

S. "Hope" is the thing with feath-ers, "Hope" is the thing with feath-ers, *f*

A. "Hope" is the thing with feath-ers, "Hope" is the thing with feath-ers, *f*

T. "Hope" is the thing with feath-ers, "Hope" is the *f*

B. "Hope" is the thing with feath-ers, "Hope" is the *f.*

Perc. *mf*

40

43 **accel.**

S. "Hope" is "Hope" is

A. "Hope" is "Hope" is

T. thing with feath-ers, "Hope" is "Hope" is

B. thing with feath-ers, "Hope" is "Hope" is

Perc.

Red.

(**accel.**)

45

S. Ah, whispered, not on pitch *pp*

A. Ah, whispered, "Hope" not on pitch *pp*

T. Ah, whispered, "Hope" not on pitch *pp*

B. Ah, whispered, "Hope" not on pitch *pp*

Perc.

f (**accel.**)

45

8va *pp*

Red.

I'm Nobody

Read by members of the Chorus, from their places within the chorus (not standing together)

Readers

#1 I'm Nobody! Who are you?

#2 Are you—Nobody—Too?

#1 & 2 Then there's a pair of us!

Everyone Shhhh!

#1 Don't tell!

#2 they'd advertise—you know!

#1 How dreary—to be— Somebody!

How public—like a Frog—

#2 To tell one's name—the livelong June—

To an admiring bog!

*Chorus nod heads up and
down in an
approving/admiring manner
towards one another*

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"I'm Nobody!"

for SATB, Piano and (optional) Percussion

Emily Dickinson (1830–1886)
Amherst, Massachusetts

Gwyneth Walker

A Quickly ♩ = 132

Percussion *Tamb.* *p*

Piano *p playfully*

5 *ritard.* *f* *p*

S. Are you no - bod-y too?

A. Are you no - bod-y too?

T. *f* Who are you?

B. *p* I'm no-bod-y!

Perc. *p* *f*

5 *ritard.*

9 Slowly, grandly

S. *f* Then there's a pair of us! Don't tell! they'd ad-ver tise- you know! *sub. p* *accel.* *f*

A. *f* Then there's a pair of us! they'd ad-ver tise- you know! *p* *f*

T. *f* Then there's a pair of us! they'd ad-ver tise- you know! *p* *f*

B. *f* Then there's a pair of us! they'd ad-ver tise- you know! *p* *f*

you know!

Perc. Bass Drum *f*

9 Slowly, grandly *grandly* *accel.* *p* *f*

14 **B** a tempo

S. _____

A. _____

T. _____

B. *p* How drear - y, how drear - y, how drear - y,

Perc. Claves *f* *p*

14 **B** a tempo

f *p*

8_{vb}

19

S. *mp*
How

A. *mp*
How

T. *p*
How drear - y to be some - bod - y! How drear - y to be some - bod - y!

B. *p*
how drear - y, how drear - y, how drear - y, how drear - y, how drear - y,

Perc. *pp*

19

24 **C**

S. drear - y to be some - bod - y! — How pub - lic, like a frog, to tell one's name the

A. drear - y to be some - bod - y! — How pub - lic, like a frog, to tell one's name the

T. *p*
How drear - y to be some - bod - y! How drear - y to be some - bod - y! tell

B. *p*
how drear - y, how drear - y, how drear - y, how drear - y, tell

Perc. Triangle *p*

24 **C**

29

S. live - long June to an ad-mir-ing Bog! *f*

A. live - long June to an ad-mir-ing Bog! *f*

T. live - long June to an ad-mir-ing Bog! *f*

B. to an ad-mir-ing Bog! *f*

Perc. Tamb. *p* *f*

29

33

S. I'm no-bod-y, I'm no-bod-y! shh *ritard.* *p* **a tempo** *ritard.*

A. I'm no-bod-y, I'm no-bod-y! no - bod - y shh *p*

T. I'm no-bod-y, I'm no-bod-y! no - bod - y shh *p*

B. I'm no-bod-y, I'm no-bod-y! shh *p*

Perc. Triangle *p* Susp. Cymb. *p*

33

ritard. **a tempo** random blacknote clusters, ascending *ritard.* *f* *p*

Red. *v* *v*