

Passion and Remembrance

Songs on the Poetry of Edna St. Vincent Millay
for Women's Chorus (SSA) and Piano

"Reuerdo" by
Edna St. Vincent Millay
(1892–1950)

Gwyneth Walker

3. Back and Forth on the Ferry

Swaying tempo ♩. = 72
[Chorus sways gently LEFT and RIGHT, as indicated]

Chorus

Piano

Swaying tempo ♩. = 72
mf
with pedal

5 **A** [swaying stops] *unis. mf* in a lively mood

S1
S2

We were ver - y

mf in a tired mood

A

We were ver - y tired, _____

A (tired)

9 B

S1
S2

mer - ry, — We had gone back and forth all night on the fer-ry,

(mf)

A

We had gone back and forth all night on the fer-ry,

(merry)

13 S2 p

S2

wearily p ver - y tired, —

A

back and forth, and back and forth.

17 S1 p C

S1

ver - y mer - ry, —

(mf)

A

It was bare and bright and smelled like a sta - ble, —

C

21 *mf*

S1 But we looked in - to a fire,

S2 *mf*
We leaned a-cross a

A

25 *p* **D**

S1 We lay on the hill - top

S2 *p*
ta - ble, _____ We lay on the hill - top

A *p*
We lay on the hill - top

D

p

Red. _____

29

S1 un - der - neath the moon; _____ And the

S2 un - der - neath the moon; _____ And the

A un - der - neath the moon; _____ And the

(Ped.)

32

S1 whis - tles kept blow - ing, _____ and the

S2 whis - tles kept _____ blow - ing, _____ and the

A whis - tles kept _____ blow - ing, and the

Ped. _____ Ped.

35 *cresc.*

S1
S2

dawn _____ came _____

cresc.

A

dawn _____ came

cresc.

8 8 8 8

(Ped.)

37 **E** *f*

S1
S2

soon. _____

f

A

soon. _____

E

f

F [swaying resumes]

41 **L** **R** **L** **R** **L** **R** **L** **R**

S
A

F

mf lightly

with pedal

6

45 **G** [swaying stops] *mf* *p* *mf*

S1
S2

tired, _____ We were ver - y

mf

A

We were ver - y tired, _____

G

(*mf*)

49 **H**

S1
S2

mer - ry, _____ We had gone back and forth all night on the fer-ry,

(*mf*)

A

mer - ry, We had gone back and forth all night on the fer-ry,

H

53 **I** *playfully* *p*

S1
S2

and

wearily *p*

A

back and forth, and back and forth. And you ate an ap - ple, _____

I *playfully* *p*

57 *cresc.*

S1
S2 I ate a pear, _____ from a doz-en of each we had

A _____ *p* *cresc.*
from a doz-en of each we had

cresc.

61 *f.* *rit.* **J Slower** *mf 2*

S1
S2 bought some - where; _____ And the sky went want, and the

A *f.* *div.* *mf 2*
brought some - where; _____ And the sky went wan, and the

rit. **J Slower**

65 *p*

S1
S2 wind came _ cold, and the sun rose drip - ping a

A _____ *unis. (p)*
a

wind _ came _ cold, _____

mf *p*

with pedal

69 *accel. cresc.* **K** *a tempo* (♩ = 72) *f*

S1 buck - et full of gold.

S2 buck - et full of gold.

A *cresc.* *div.* *f*

accel. *cresc.* **K** *a tempo* (♩ = 72) *f*

Red.

72 **L** [swaying resumes] **L** **R**

S1 **L** **R**

S2 **L** **R**

A **L** **R**

L *lightly* *mf*

(swaying continues)

76 **L** **R** **L** **R** **L** **R** **L** **R**

[perhaps change direction of swaying,
with the humorous effect of possible collisions!]

80

Ⓛ Ⓜ Ⓛ Ⓛ Ⓜ Ⓜ

Ped.

83

Ⓛ Ⓜ Ⓛ Ⓜ **M** [swaying stops]

unis.
p

Ah, _____

f

We were ver - y

M

Ped.

86

p *f*

S1
S2

ah, _____ We were ver - y mer - ry, -

A

tired, _____

Ped.

100 *accel.*

S1 *p* ap-ples and the pears, but our sub - way

S2 *p* ap-ples and the pears, all our mon-ey, but our sub - way

A *p* and we gave her all our mon-ey, all our mon-ey, but our sub - way

for rehearsal only *accel.*

103 **Q** *a tempo* (♩ = 72) *f*

S1 fares. _____

S2 *f* fares. _____

A *f* fares. _____

Q *a tempo* (♩ = 72) *f* (Play)

12

R with building energy

107

unis. p

S1
S2

p We were ver - y mer - ry, we were ver - y

A

p We were ver - y tired, we were ver - y tired,

R with building energy

accel. (into exhaustion)

111

cresc. poco a poco

S1
S2

mer - ry, ver - y mer - ry, ver - y mer - ry, ver - y

cresc. poco a poco

A

ver - y tired, ver - y tired, ver - y tired,

accel. (into exhaustion)

cresc. poco a poco

(accel.)

S Quickly, emphatically

114

(cresc.)

S1
S2

mer - ry, ver - y ver - y tired... ver - y mer - ry...
f

A

ver - y tired, ver - y tired... ver - y mer - ry...
f

(cresc.)

S Quickly, emphatically *rit.*

(cresc.)

[Nodding to each other with understanding and amusement]

117 **Slowly** *p* spoken (not on pitch) *a tempo* (♩. = 80)

S1 ver - y young. . . all night on the

S2 ver - y young. . . all night on the

A ver - y young. . . all night on the

[a humorous touch!]

Slowly *p* *a tempo* (♩. = 80)

(*p*)

[At the end, the singers collapse upon one another with the exhaustion of an all-night adventure!]

120 ***f***

S1 fer - - ry!

S2 ***f*** fer - - ry!

A ***f*** fer - - ry!

[The pianist collapses too!]