

Passion and Remembrance

Songs on the Poetry of Edna St. Vincent Millay
for SATB Chorus 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

mf

with pedal

5 [A] [swaying stops]

S
A

T
B

mf in a lively mood

We were ver - y

unis. mf in a tired mood

We were ver - y tired, _____

[A] (tired)

9

S
A

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

(mf)

T
B

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

B

13

T

ver - y tired, —

p

B

back and forth, and back and forth.

p

17

S

ver - y mer - ry, —

p

B

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

mf

C

C

21 *mf*

S But we looked in - to a fire,

A *mf*
But we looked in - to a fire,

T *mf*
We leaned a - cross a

B

25 *p* **D**

S We lay on the hill - top

A *p*
We lay on the hill - top

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

B *p*
We lay on the hill - top

D

p

Ped.

29

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

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

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

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

(Ped.)

32

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

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

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

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

Ped. Ped.

35 *cresc.*

S dawn _____ came _____

A *cresc.*
dawn _____ came

T *cresc.*
dawn _____ came

B *cresc.*
dawn _____ came

cresc.

8 8 8 8

(Ped.)

37 **E** *f*

S soon. _____

A *f*
soon. _____

T *f*
soon. _____

B *f*
soon. _____

E *f*

F [swaying resumes]

41

S
A

T
B

F

mf lightly

with pedal

45 **G** [swaying stops]

S
A

T
B

mf

tired, _____ We were ver - y

We were ver - y tired, _____

G

(mf)

49 **H**

S
A

T
B

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

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

H

53 I *playfully*

S *p*
and

A *p*
and

T

B *p*
(*mf*)
back and forth, and back and forth. And you ate an ap - ple, _____

I *playfully*

57 *cresc.*

S *cresc.*
I ate a pear, _____ from a doz - en of each we had

A *cresc.*
I ate a pear, _____ from a doz - en of each we had

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

B

cresc.

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

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

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

T ⁸ brought some - where; _____ And the sky went wan, and the

B _____ And the sky went wan, and the

f *rit.* **J** *Slower*

65 *p*

S wind came_ cold, and the sun rose drip - ping a

A wind came cold, and the sun rose drip - ping a

T ⁸ wind came_ cold, a *unis. (p)*

B wind_ came_ cold, a *(p)*

mf *p*

with pedal

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

S buck - et full of _____ gold. _____

A *cresc.* buck - et full of gold. _____ *f*

T *cresc.* buck - et full of _____ gold. _____ *f*

B *cresc.* buck - et full of gold. _____ *f*

accel. **K** *a tempo* (♩. = 72) *f*

cresc.

Ped.

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

S _____ (L) (R)

A _____ (L) (R)

T _____ (L) (R)

B _____ (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 (L) (R) (L) (L) (R) (R)

Ped.

83 (L) (R) (L) (R) [M] [swaying stops]

T *p* Ah, *f* We were ver - y

B *unis. p* Ah, *f* We were ver - y

[M]

Ped.

86

p ————— *f*

S
ah, ————— We were ver - y mer - ry, —

p ————— *f*

A
ah, ————— We were ver - y mer - ry, —

T
8
tired, —————

B
tired, —————

90

N

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

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

p ————— *f*

T
8
ah, — We had gone back and forth all night on the fer - ry,

p ————— *f*

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

N

rit. O *Slightly slower, more freely and recitative*

94 , *mf*

S and

A , *mf*

T and

B We hailed, "Good mor-row, moth-er!" to a shawl cov-ered head,
back and forth. We hailed, "Good mor-row, moth-er!" to a shawl cov-ered head,

mf

rit. (♩ = ♪) O *Slightly slower, more freely and recitative*

mf

97 P

S bought a morn-ing pa-per which nei-ther of us read,

A bought a morn-ing pa-per which nei-ther of us read,

T and she wept, "God bless you!" for the , (*mf*)

B and she wept, "God bless you!" for the , (*mf*)

P (*mf*)

The musical score is written for SATB voices and piano. It consists of two systems. The first system starts at measure 94 and ends at measure 96. It features vocal lines for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B), and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked 'rit.' and the dynamics include 'mf'. The lyrics describe a scene where people hail a mother on a ferry. The second system starts at measure 97 and ends at measure 100. It continues the vocal lines and piano accompaniment. The tempo remains 'rit.' and dynamics include 'mf' and 'P'. The lyrics describe people buying a newspaper and a woman weeping for someone. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

100

p *accel.*

S 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

T ap-ples and the pears, but our sub - way

B ap-ples and the pears, but our sub - way

for rehearsal only *accel.*

103 **Q** *a tempo* (♩ = 72)

S fares. _____

A *f* fares. _____

T *f* fares. _____

B *f* fares. _____

Q *a tempo* (♩ = 72)

(Play) *f*

R*with building energy*

107

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

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

T *p*
8 We were ver - y tired, we were ver - y tired,

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

R*with building energy*

p

accel. (into exhaustion)

111

cresc. poco a poco

S *cresc. poco a poco*
mer - ry, ver - y mer - ry, ver - y mer - ry, ver - y

A *cresc. poco a poco*
mer - ry, ver - y mer - ry, ver - y mer - ry, ver - y

T *cresc. poco a poco*
8 ver - y tired, ver - y tired, ver - y tired,

B *cresc. poco a poco*
ver - y tired, ver - y tired, ver - y tired,

accel. (into exhaustion)

cresc. poco a poco

S Quickly, emphatically *rit.*

114 *(accel.)* *(cresc.)* *f*

S
mer - ry, ver - y ver - y tired... ver - y mer - ry...
(cresc.) *f*

A
mer - ry, ver - y ver - y tired... ver - y mer - ry...
(cresc.) *f*

T
8 ver - y tired, ver - y tired... ver - y mer - ry...
(cresc.) *f*

B
ver - y tired, ver - y tired... ver - y mer - ry...
(accel.) **S** Quickly, emphatically *rit.*

[Nodding to each other with understanding and amusement]

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

117 *p* spoken (not on pitch) *p*

S
ver - y young... all night on the
p spoken (not on pitch) *p*

A
ver - y young... all night on the
p spoken (not on pitch) *p*

T
8 ver - y young... all night on the
p spoken (not on pitch) *p*

B
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*

S
fer - - ry!

A
fer - - ry!

T
f *unis.*
fer - - ry!

B
f
fer - - ry!

[The pianist collapses too!]

f

3:50
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