

GWYNETH WALKER

The Poet's Heart

*the passionate love poems of Emily Dickinson
for Mezzo-Soprano and Piano Quartet*

1. Joy
2. One Being
3. Bliss
4. Moon and Sea
5. Our Luxury
6. Remembrance

dedicated to *Arioso* – Montpelier, Vermont
and especially to Linda Radtke, Mezzo-Soprano

duration: 17 minutes

Among the many, varied poems of Emily Dickinson are love poems – passionate love poems. These poems were written of a love which never developed into an established, recognized relationship. Indeed, these were composed by a poet who rarely left her home, who was rarely seen in public. Hers was a guarded soul, a heart in hiding.

The six songs in this set span the elements of love, from the gentle “Forever at His Side to Walk” to the ecstatic “A Kingdom's Worth of Bliss,” from the reflective and sensual “The Moon is Distant from the Sea” to the overtly passionate “Wild Nights!” Each mood, each poem presents its individual interpretation of love. However, this set is framed by one poem which is viewed as a summary of love, and of life’s spirit, “’Tis So Much Joy.” (This poem appears in song #1, and returns in song #6, “A Jewel, a Joy.”)

*’Tis so much joy! ’Tis so much joy! If I should fail, what poverty!
And yet, as poor as I, have ventured all upon a throw!*

Here the poet speaks of the uncertainty of love (a chance, a “throw”). And yet she is willing to risk her heart, to allow a passionate love to grow there – to “venture all.” And in this way, she lived her life to the fullest.

And if I gain! Oh Gun at Sea! O Bells that in the Steeples be!

The Poet’s Heart is a new version of the composer’s earlier work, **A Heart in Hiding**. The original scoring was for mixed chorus and piano, with mezzo-soprano soloist. This transcription for voice and piano quartet was created in the summer of 2009 for various chamber ensembles with which the composer has been collaborating. The “commentary” role originally filled by the chorus is now presented in the strings. While often adding fullness to accompaniment figures, the strings emerge with primary expressive passages as well.

Dr. Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947) is a graduate of Brown University and the Hartt School of Music. She holds B.A., M.M. and D.M.A. Degrees in Music Composition. A former faculty member of the Oberlin College Conservatory, she resigned from academic employment in 1982 in order to pursue a career as a full-time composer. She now lives on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont.

Gwyneth Walker is a proud resident of Vermont. She is the recipient of the Year 2000 "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Vermont Arts Council as well as the 2008 “Athenaeum Award for Achievement in the Arts and Humanities” from the St. Johnsbury (VT) Athenaeum.

Walker’s catalog includes over 180 commissioned works for orchestra, band, chorus and chamber ensembles. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published by E. C. Schirmer of Boston (choral and vocal music) and Lauren Keiser Music of St. Louis (orchestral and instrumental music).

Further information concerning Gwyneth Walker can be found at www.gwynethwalker.com.

The Poet's Heart

for Mezzo-Soprano and Piano Quartet

Emily Dickinson (1830–1886)

Gwyneth Walker

1. Joy

Flowing ♩ = 120

Mezzo-Soprano

Violin *mf cantabile*

Viola *mf cantabile*

Violoncello *mf cantabile*

Piano

Flowing ♩ = 120

7 *poco rit.*

Vln. *poco rit.*

Vla. *poco rit.*

Vlc. *poco rit.*

Pno. *mf* *p*

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13 *Slower* *accel.*

Vln. *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *p*

Pno. *Slower* *accel.*
p cresc.

(Ped.)

16 **A** ♩ = 132 *f* *ecstatic*

M-S 'Tis

Pno. *f*

(Ped.)

19

M-S so much joy! 'Tis

Vln. *p* *mf*

Vla. *p* *mf*

Vlc. *p* *mf*

Pno. *mf*

(Ped.)

21 *rit.*

M-S
so much joy! _____ If

Vln. *p* _____ *mf*

Vla. *p* _____ *mf*

Vlc. *p* _____ *mf*

Pno. *rit.*

(Ped.)

23 **B** *Slower, as a recitative* *mf* *p*

M-S
I should fail, what pov-er-ty! And yet, as poor as I, have ven-tured all up-on a throw! Have

Vln. *f* _____ *p* *f* _____ *p* *mf* _____ *p*

Vla. *f* _____ *p* *f* _____ *p* *mf* _____ *p*

Vlc. *f* _____ *p* *f* _____ *p* *mf* _____ *p*

B *Slower, as a recitative*

Pno. *f* _____ *mf*

26

M-S
gained! Yes! Hes-i-tat-ed so- this side the Vic-to-

Pno. *cresc.* *3* *3* *3*

(Ped.)

29 *accel.* **f** C *a tempo* (♩ = 132)

M-S
ry! _____

Vln. *p* _____ *f*

Vla. *p* _____ *f*

Vlc. *p* _____ *f*

Pno. *accel.* C *a tempo* (♩ = 132)
(*cresc.*) *f* *simile*

32 *Slightly slower* ♩ = 112
p

M-S
Life is but Life! And

Vln. _____ *p*

Vla. _____ *p*

Vlc. _____ *p*

Pno. *dim.* *p*

35 *cresc.*

M-S Death but Death! Bliss is, but Bliss, and Breath but Breath! And

Vln. *p* (*p*)

Vla. *p* (*p*)

Vlc. *cresc.*

Pno. *cresc.*

38 *rit.* **D** More slowly, as a recitative *f* *mf*

M-S if in-deed I fail, _____ at least, to know the worst, is sweet! De-

Vln. *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *f*

Pno. *(cresc.)* *f*

rit. **D** More slowly, as a recitative

41

M-S *p*

feat means noth-ing but De-feat, no drea-rier can be - fall!

Vln. *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc.

Pno. *mf* *p*

Ped.

44 **E** *a tempo* (♩ = 132)

Pno. *p* *3* *cresc.* *3* *f* *3* *simile*

Ped.

47

M-S *f*

And if I gain! Oh Gun at Sea!

Vln. *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *f*

Pno. *mf* *3* *3* *3*

50

M-S

Oh Bells that in the Stee - ples be!

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

f

53

M-S

At first, re - peat it slow! For

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

56 **F** *rit.* *dim.*

M-S Heav - en is a dif - ferent thing, con - jec - tured and waked

Vln. *mf colla voce*

Vla. *mf colla voce* *dim.*

Vlc. *mf* *dim*

Pno. **F** *rit.* *dim.*

59 (*rit.*) *p* Slowly

M-S sud - den in - and might ex - tin - guish me!

Vln. (*p*)

Vla. (*p*)

Vlc. *p*

Pno. (*rit.*) *p* Slowly

68 *rit. to end*

M-S joy!

Vln. gliss.

Vla. gliss.

Vlc. gliss.

Pno. *rit. to end*

gliss. to end of keyboard

Ped. Ped. Ped.

3'00"

2. One Being

Slowly, freely

Mezzo-Soprano *p*

Violin *con sord.* *p*

Viola *con sord.* *p*

Violoncello *con sord.* *p*

Piano *Slowly, freely* *p*

Ped.

For -

*Ossia for lower ranges.

5 **A** ♩ = 72 *rit.* **Slower** *mf*

M-S e-ver at His side to walk, the small-er of the two! Brain of His Brain, Blood of His Blood, two

Vln. *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vlc. *mf*

Pno. **A** ♩ = 72 *rit.* **Slower**

(Ped.)

8 **B** *a tempo* (♩ = 72) *p*

M-S lives, One Be - ing, _ now. For - ev - er of His Fate to taste if

Vln. *mf* *p*

Vla. *mf* *p*

Vlc. *mf* *p*

Pno. **B** *a tempo* (♩ = 72) *(p)*

(Ped.)

11

M-S
grief the larg-est part ____ if joy, to put my piece a-way for that be-lov-ed Heart.

Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.

Pno.

f

f

f

3 3 3 3 6 6

Ped.

14 **C** Impassioned

M-S
All life, to know each oth - er, whom

Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.

Pno.

f

f

C Impassioned

6 6

Ped.

17

M-S *mf* *rit.* *f*
we can nev-er learn. And bye and bye, a Change called Hea - ven, rapt

Vln. *p* *f*

Vla. *p* *f*

Vlc. *p* *f*

Pno. *rit.* *f* *8va* *5*

(Ped.)

20 **D**

M-S
neigh-bor-hoods of men, just find-ing out, what puz-zles us, with-out the lex-i con!

Vln. *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *p*

Pno. **D** *p* *5*

(Ped.)

3. Bliss

With gentle motion ♩ = 112

Mezzo-Soprano

Violin

Viola

Violoncello

senza sord.

p

senza sord.

p

senza sord.

p

With gentle motion ♩ = 112

Piano

p

ped. *simile*

6

A

mf cantabile

M-S

What would I give to see his face? I'd

Vln. *pizz.*

Vla. *pizz.*

Vlc. *pizz.*

A

Pno.

ped.

11

Recitative

M-S
give, I'd give my life, of course. But that is not e-nough! Stop just a min-ute,

Pno.

Ped.

15

M-S
let me think! I'd give my big - gest Bob - o - link! _ That makes two,

Vln. *mf* *arco* *f* *p*

Vla. *mf* *arco* *f* *p*

Vlc. *mf* *arco* *f* *p*

Pno.

f

19

M-S
Him and life! _ You know who "June" is,

Vln. *pp*

Vla. *pp*

Vlc. *pp*

Pno. *p*

Ped.

24

M-S *f* *mf*
I'd give her, Ro-ses, a day from Zan - zi - bar, and Lil - y tubes, like

Pno. *f*
(Ped.)

28

M-S *(mf) cantabile*
Wells, Bees, by the fur - long, Straights of Blue,

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *p*

Pno. *mf dim.* *p* *simile*
(Ped.)

31

M-S *p*
Na - vies of But - ter - flies sail - ed through, and dap - pled Cow - slip

Vln. *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *(p)*

Pno. *cresc.*

34 *f*

M-S Dells.

Vln. *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *f*

Pno. *(cresc.)* *f* *Ped.*

37 **D** Quickly, free measure *rit.* *p*

M-S Ro - ses! Li - ly tubes! Bees! Straights of Blue! But - ter - flies! Cow - slip Dells!

D Quickly, free measure *pp* rapidly, blurred, barely audible *rit.*

Pno. *f*

38 **E** a tempo (♩ = 112) *mf cantabile*

M-S Then I have "shares" in

Vln. *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *p*

E a tempo (♩ = 112) *p* *Ped.* *simile*

41

M-S *p*
Prim - rose "Banks," Daf - fo - dil Dow - ries, Spi - cy "Stocks," Do -

Vln. *colla voce*

Vla. *colla voce*

Vlc. *colla voce*

Pno. *colla voce*

44

M-S *mf* **F**
min - ions broad as Dew, Bags of Doub-loons, ad -

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno. **F**

47

M-S
ven - tur - ous Bees brought me from fir - ma - ment - al seas, and

Vln.
p

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.
poco cresc.

50

M-S
f
Pur - ple from Pe - ru!

Vln.
f

Vla.
f

Vlc.
f

Pno.
f
mf
Ped.

53

G Slightly slower

M-S *f* Now, have I bought it, "Shy-lock"? Say!

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

G Slightly slower

Pno. *f*

(Ped.)

56

M-S Sign me the Bond! "I vow to pay to Her who pled-ges this: _____

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno. *p*

(Ped.)

59 **H** *a tempo* (♩ = 112) *p*

M-S

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

H *a tempo* (♩ = 112)

Pno.

62 **I** *Impassioned* *f*

M-S

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

One hour, —

I *Impassioned* *f*

Pno.

65

M-S

one hour of her Sov-'reign's

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

68

M-S

face!?" Ec - stat - ic Con - tract! Re - luc - tant

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

72

M-S *(f)* **J**
Grace! _____ A King-dom's worth of Bliss! _____

Vln. *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc.

Pno. **J**

Ed.

76

M-S *p* **K**
A King - dom's

Vln. *f* *p* **K**

Vla. *f* *p* **K**

Vlc. *p* *f* *p* **K**

Pno. **K**

Ed.

4. Moon and Sea

Gently ♩ = 108

Mezzo-Soprano

Violin

Viola

Violoncello

Piano

p

p

p

p

Ped. Ped.

7

A

p smoothly

M-S

The Moon is dis-tant from the Sea, and yet, with Am-ber

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

A

Pno.

(Ped.)

12

M-S
Hands, She leads Him, doc-ile as a Boy, a - long ap-point-ed Sands. He

Vln.
(p)

Vla.
(p)

Vlc.
(p)

Pno.

(Ped.)

17 **B**

M-S
nev - er miss - es a De-gree, o - be-dient to Her Eye. He comes just so

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.
B
p

cresc.

(Ped.)

22

M-S
far, to - ward the Town, just so far, goes a - way.

Pno.
rit.
mf
rit.
Slower
(p)

C *a tempo* (♩ = 108)

M-S
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.

C *a tempo* (♩ = 108)

Pno.

29
M-S
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Pno.

(p) Oh, Sig - nor, *cresc.* Oh, Sig - nor,

32 *(cresc.)* *f*

M-S Thine, the Am - ber Hand, and mine, the dis - tant

Vln. *(cresc.)*

Vla. *(cresc.)* *f*

Vlc. *(cresc.)* *f*

Pno. *(cresc.)* *f*

35 *unis.* *rit.* *a tempo* *p*

M-S Sea, o - be - dient to the least Com - mand Thine eye im - pose on

Vln. *f* *pizz.* *mf* *p*

Vla. *pizz.* *mf* *p*

Vlc. *pizz.* *mf* *p*

Pno. *rit.* *a tempo* *mf*

39 **D**

M-S me.

Vln. arco *p*

Vla. arco *p*

Vlc. arco *p*

Pno. **D**

Ped. simile

42 *p*

M-S The Moon is dis-tant from the Sea. —

Vln. *pp* — *p*

Vla. *pp* — *p*

Vlc.

Pno.

5. Our Luxury

With motion ♩ = 120

Piano

p cresc. poco a poco

with pedal

Detailed description: Piano score for measures 1-6. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The right hand features a series of chords, each with a fermata, moving up the scale. The left hand has a simple accompaniment. The dynamic marking is *p cresc. poco a poco*. A 'with pedal' instruction is written below the staff.

7

Vln. *at the tip*

Vla. *at the tip*

Pno. *(cresc.)*

f

f

f

Ped.

Ped.

Detailed description: Violin and Viola parts for measures 7-10. Both strings are marked 'at the tip'. The violin part starts with a *p* dynamic and a long note, then moves to *f*. The viola part follows a similar pattern. The piano part continues with triplets and is marked *(cresc.)* and *f*. Pedal markings are present under the piano part.

11 **A**

Vln. *p*

Vla. *p*

Vcl. *p passionately*

Pno. *p cresc.*

f

f

Ped.

simile

Detailed description: Violin, Viola, and Violoncello parts for measures 11-13. Measures 11 and 12 are marked with a box 'A'. The violin and viola parts are marked *p*. The cello part is marked *p passionately*. The piano part continues with triplets and is marked *p cresc.* and *f*. A 'simile' instruction is written below the piano part. Pedal markings are present.

14

Vln. *p cresc. passionately*

Vla. *p cresc. passionately*

Vlc.

Pno. *p cresc.*

17

Vln. *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *p*

Pno. *f*

19 **B**

Vln. *p* *f*

Vla. *p* *f*

Vlc. *f* *p cresc.*

Pno. *p*

21

M-S

Vln. *p cresc.* *f*

Vla. *p cresc.* *f*

Vlc. *(cresc.)* *f*

Pno. *cresc.* *f*

24

M-S *f* Wild ___ Nights! _

Vln. *very passionately*

Vla. *very passionately*

Vlc. *very passionately*

Pno. *(f)*

(Ped.)

28

M-S *(f)*
Wild Nights! Were I with thee,

Vln. *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *p*

Pno. *p* *f* *p*
Ped.

32 *poco rit.* *a tempo* *p*
Wild Nights should be our lux-u-ry!

Vln. *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *p*

Pno. *poco rit.* *a tempo* *p*
Ped.

D

36 *mf cantabile*

M-S *mf*
Fu - tile, the Winds, to a Heart in port, _____

Vln. *mf* *p*

Vla. *mf* *p*

Vlc. *mf* *pizz.* *p* *arco*

D

Pno. *mf*

39 *mf*

M-S *mf*
Done with the Com - pass, Done with the Chart! _____

Vln. *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vlc. *mf* *pizz.* *arco*

Pno.

42 *mf cantabile*

M-S
Row - ing in E - den, Ah! — the Sea! —

Vln. *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *pizz.* *arco*

Pno.

45 *rit.* *p* **E** *a tempo*

M-S
Might I but moor, To - night, in thee! —

Vln. *pizz.*

Vla. *pizz.*

Vlc. *pizz.*

Pno. *rit.* *p* **E** *a tempo*

48

M-S

Vln.

Vla.

Pno.

arco, at the tip

pp

arco, at the tip

pp

51

Vln.

Vla.

Vcl.

Pno.

ord.

p passionately

ord.

p cresc. passionately

arco

p cresc. passionately

f

(p) cresc.

f

54

Vln.

Vla.

Vcl.

Pno.

f

f

p cresc.

p cresc.

57

Vln. *p cresc.* *f*

Vla. *(cresc.)* *f*

Vlc. *f* *p*

Pno. *f*

59 **F**

Vln. *p* *f*

Vla. *p* *f*

Vlc. *f* *p cresc.*

Pno. *p* *cresc.* *5* *3*

61

Vln. *p cresc.*

Vla. *p cresc.*

Vlc. *(cresc.)*

Pno. *(cresc.)* *5* *3*

63

M-S

Vln. *f* *very passionately*

Vla. *f* *very passionately*

Vlc. *f* *very passionately*

Pno. *f*

Ped.

66

M-S *f* **G**
Wild _____ Nights! _____ Wild _____

Vln. *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *p*

Pno. **G** *(f)* *p*

(Ped.)

69

M-S *Slowly, freely*
 Nights! Wild Nights! Should be our

Vln. *p* *f* to sord.

Vla. *p* *f* to sord.

Vlc. *p* *f* to sord.

Pno. *f* *p* *f* *Slowly, freely*

Ped.

73

M-S *dim.* *H* *a tempo* (♩ = 120) *p*
 lux - ur - y, our lux - ur - y, our lux - ur - y!

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno. *H* *a tempo* (♩ = 120) *p* 3

(Ped.) Ped.

*Cue-sized notes are an ossia for lower ranges.
 The Poet's Heart: 5. *Luxury*

78

M-S

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

*con sord.,
at the tip*

pp

*con sord.,
at the tip*

pp

*con sord.,
at the tip*

pp

Red. simile

81

M-S

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

p murmuring gently

Might I but moor, To - night, Might I but moor, To -

p sost.

p sost.

p sost.

6. Remembrance

mf freely, as a recitative

Mezzo-Soprano

I held a Jewel in my fin-gers, and went to sleep. —

Piano

p

8^{va}

Ped.

5

M-S

The day was warm, the winds were pro-sy, I said "Twill keep"

Pno.

loco

(p)

Ped.

9

M-S

I woke, and chid my hon-est fin-gers, the Gem was gone. — And

Pno.

Ped.

13

M-S

f now, an Am - e - thyst re - mem - brance *mf* is all I own. —

Pno.

mf

Ped.

17 **With motion** ♩ = 132
p
 M-S
ord., senza sord.
 Vln. *pp*
ord., senza sord.
 Vla. *pp*
ord., senza sord.
 Vlc. *pp*
With motion ♩ = 132
 Pno. *p*
Ped. simile

21 **A** rit. **Slower** ♩ = 112
 M-S *p*
 Life is but Life! And Death but Death!
 Vln. *p* *pp* *p*
 Vla. *p* *pp* *p*
 Vlc. *p* *pp*
A rit. **Slower** ♩ = 112
 Pno. *mf* *p*
Ped.

26 *mf*

M-S Bliss is but Bliss, and Breath but Breath! _____ And if in-deed I fail, _____

Vln. *mf* *p* *f*

Vla. *mf* *p* *f*

Vlc. *mf* *f*

Pno. *f*

(Ped.)

30 **B**

M-S _____ at least, to know the worst is sweet! De - feat means noth-ing but De-feat, no

Vln. *pizz.* *mf*

Vla. *pizz.* *mf*

Vlc. *pizz.* *mf*

Pno. **B**

(Ped.)

33 *p* *accel.* *mf*

M-S
drear-ier can be-fall! I have ven-tured

Vln. *arco* *p*

Vla. *arco* *p*

Vlc. *arco* *p*

Pno. *p* *accel.*

Ped.

36 *a tempo*

M-S
all, ven - tured all!

Vln. *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vlc. *mf* *sost.*

Pno. *a tempo* *mf* *simile*

Ped.

39 *f* C

M-S *f*
And if I gain! Oh Gun at Sea! _____

Vln. *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *f colla voce*

Pno. *cresc.* *f*

42

M-S
Oh Bells, that in the Stee - ples be! _____

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

45

M-S

At first, re - peat it slow! For

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

48 **D** rit. *mf*

M-S

Hea - ven is a dif - ferent thing, Con - jec - tured and waked

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

Pno.

51 (rit.) *p* **Slowly** rit.

M-S
 sud - den, in, And might ex - tin - guish me! _____

Vln. *p* (*p*)

Vla. *p* (*p*)

Vlc. *p* pizz. (*p*)

Pno. (rit.) **Slowly** rit. *p* (*p*)

Ped.

55 (rit.) **E** *a tempo* (♩ = 112) *p* **ecstatic**

M-S
 'Tis so _ much joy!

Vln. *p* (*p*)

Vla. *p* (*p*)

Vlc. *p* arco (*p*)

Pno. (rit.) **E** *a tempo* (♩ = 112) *p* **gently** (*p*)

Ped. simile

59 *cresc.* *accel.*

M-S *'Tis so_ much joy!*

Vln. *cresc.*

Vla. *cresc.*

Vlc. *cresc.*

Pno. *cresc.* *accel.* *f*

F Quickly

64 *f*

M-S

Vln. *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *f*

F Quickly

Pno. *p cresc.*

Ped.

Publisher's Note

The string parts (Catalog No. 7499) are available for sale.

The choral version of this piece, titled *A Heart in Hiding* for mezzo-soprano solo, SATB chorus and piano, is also available for sale (Catalog Nos. 7216–7220).