

# Dickinson Songs

## 1. If I Can Stop One Heart from Breaking

Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

Jeroen D'hoë (b. 1968)

Andante (♩=76)

Soprano Solo

Piano

*p* *ppp* sempre [free, slow tempo - do not synchronize hands]

*mf* *mp* *sfz* *ff* *sfz*

Red.

1 2 3 4 5 6

8/4 4/4 4/4 2/4 4/4

6/8 4/4 4/4 2/4 4/4

4/4 11 12 6/8

6/8 13 4/4 2/4 4/4

If I can  
stop one Heart from break - ing I shall not live in vain  
If I can  
ease one Life the Ach - ing Or cool one Pain

*ppp* sempre *p*

*pp* sempre [free, slow tempo - do not synchronize hands]

*ff* *sfz* Red.

## 2. Whether My Bark Went Down at Sea

Andante (♩=96)

Soprano Solo

Piano

*pp*  
Ped.  $\wedge$  Ped.  $\wedge$

Whe - ther my bark went down at sea,

*p*  
Ped.  $\wedge$  Ped.  $\wedge$  *mp* *p*

[etc.]  
Whe - ther she met with gales,

*mf* *f* *mf*  
Ped.  $\wedge$  Ped.  $\wedge$  *mp*

Whe - ther to isles en - chant - ed, She bent her do - cile

*pp* *p* *f*  
Ped.  $\wedge$  Ped.  $\wedge$  *mp*

## 3. You Cannot Put a Fire Out

Presto (♩=122)

4/4 **1** *mp* **2** *f* *mf*

You can-not put a Fi-re out, A Thing that can i-gnite Can

*ppp* *p* *mp* *mp*

**4** *ff* *f*

go, it-self, with-out a Fan Up-on the slow-est night You

*ppp* *mf*

**6** *fff* *f*

can-not fold a Flood, And put it in a Drawer Be-

*ppp* *mf*

**8** *mp* **10** Tempo *mp*

cause the winds would find it out, And tell your Ce-dar Floor You

*pp* *ppp* *ppp*

## 4. My Life Closed Twice Before its Close

Largo ( $\text{♩} = 46$ )

Soprano Solo

Piano

1 4

7 11 12

[do not synchronize hands]

13 16

*mf*

My life closed twice be-fore its

20 23

*mp* *f* *ff*

close; it yet re-mains to see If im-mor-ta-li-ty un-

The musical score is written for Soprano Solo and Piano. It begins with a tempo marking of Largo (♩ = 46). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The score is divided into systems. The first system covers measures 1-4. The second system covers measures 7-12, with measure 12 containing a performance instruction: "[do not synchronize hands]". The third system covers measures 13-16, with lyrics "My life closed twice be-fore its" under measures 16-17. The fourth system covers measures 20-23, with lyrics "close; it yet re-mains to see If im-mor-ta-li-ty un-". Dynamic markings include *pp*, *mp*, *f*, and *ff*. There are also markings for *n* (normal) and *mf*. The piano part features various chords and arpeggios, with some measures marked with *ped.* (pedal). Measure numbers 1, 4, 7, 11, 12, 13, 16, 20, and 23 are boxed. The Soprano Solo part has rests in measures 1-4, 7-10, 13-15, and 20-21.

## 5. A Word Is Dead

Inno - Adagio solenne ( $\text{♩}=54$ )

Soprano Solo

Piano

*pp* sempre

*p* *mp* [*d+d.*] *p*

A word is dead when it is said, Some say.

*mf* *ff*

*mp* *f*

*mf* *f*

I say it just be - gins to live That day.

*ppp* sempre

*ppp* sempre