



# TWICE

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Five poems by Emily Dickinson  
for mezzo soprano  
and piano

Alastair Stout

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# Twice

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Performance note:

Each song is performed twice (or partially twice). Songs 1, 2, and 5 begin piano only first time then the singers join the piano on the repeat. Songs number 3 ends with piano only.

Songs 4 - Two Voyagers 

At the end of songs 3, the pianist depresses the notated chords silently and holds the chords with the middle pedal during song 4. While holding the middle pedal, the pianist stands to access the piano strings. Song 4 begins with the pianist lightly running the fleshy part of their finger over the piano strings up and down the approximate area of the held chords. All the strings should be rung, but only the notes of the held chords will sustain. Between the glissandi there should either be pauses, or the three high note figures can be plucked. After a while, the singers begin. The tempo is quite free with plenty of time between phrases. The piano stops playing when the singer reaches the red butterfly. The singer then continues unaccompanied to the end of the song.

Total duration: approx. 12 minutes.

First performed by Olivia Boughton and Alastair Stout at Grace Congregational Church in Rutland, Vermont, on September 26, 2021.

For Olivia

# The Sea of Sunset

Emily Dickinson

Alastair Stout

♩ = 90

mezzo soprano sings on repeat

*p* *mf* *p*

This is the land the sun-set wash-es,-

*p dolce*

Red.

4

These are the banks of the Yel-low Sea; Where it rose, or with-er it

7

rush - es, These are the west - ern mys -

*f* *p*

slow lift

9

t'ry! Night af - ter night her pur - ple

*f*

*f*

slow lift

11

traf - fic\_ Strews the land - ing\_ with op - al bales;

*mp*

slow lift

14

*mf rubato*  
Mer - chant - men poise\_ up - on hor - i - zons, Dip, and

*mf rubato*

16

van - ish, dip, and van-ish with fai-ry sails.

*mp* *rall.*

*pp*

*mp* *pp*

slow lift

# The Wind

♩ = 120

m.s. sings on repeat

*p pos.* *f*

It's like the light, A

*p* *mf*

8va

4

fash - ion - less de - light It's like the

*p*

(8)

*f* *p* *mf*

7 *f*

bee, a date-less mel-o-dy.

*8va*

*f* *pp* *f*

11 *mf* *p*

It's like the woods, Pri-vate like breeze, Phrase-less, yet it

*p* *mf* *p*

14 *f*

stirs the proud-est trees.

*sonore.* *mp cresc.* *mf cresc.*

3 5 3 6

17 *f* *mp* *delicato*

It's like the morn - - ing, Best when it's done,

20 *mf* *p* (*senza vib.*)

The ev - er - last - ing clocks Chime noon. \_\_\_\_\_

## The Soul's Storm

$\text{♩} = 120$

m.s. sings first time only

*turbulent*

*p*

5 5 6 5 5 5 6 5

3 *f*  
It struck me ev - 'ry day The

5  
light - ning was as new As if the

7  
cloud that in - stant slit And let the



9 *ff*

fire through.

*ff*

11

*sub p*

*sub p*

13

*p* *mf*

It burned me

*p* *mf*

15

in the night, it

Musical score for measures 15-16. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are "in the night, it". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves: the right hand in treble clef and the left hand in bass clef. The right hand features a melodic line with fingerings 5, 6, 5, 5 and a long slur over the final measure. The left hand plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes with a key signature change to two sharps (F# and C#) in the final measure.

17

*mf*  
blis - - - er'd in my

*molto*

Musical score for measures 17-18. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are "blis - - - er'd in my". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves: the right hand in treble clef and the left hand in bass clef. The right hand features a melodic line with fingerings 5, 5, 6 and a long slur over the final measure, marked *molto*. The left hand plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes.

18

dream; It sick - en'd fresh up -

Musical score for measures 18-19. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are "dream; It sick - en'd fresh up -". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves: the right hand in treble clef and the left hand in bass clef. The right hand features a melodic line with a long slur over the final measure. The left hand plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes.

20

on my sight with ev - 'ry morn - ing's

rall.

22

beam.

*p*

*pp*

24

a tempo

I thought that storm was

*f*

26 *ff*  
4:3  
brief, The mad - dest, quick - est by;

5 5 6 7 7 7 6 5

28 *sempre ff*  
3 3  
But Na - ture lost the date of this,

5 5 6 5 5 5 6 7

30  
And left it

7 7 7 7

31

in the sky.

32

*fff*

33

piano alone second time

As m. 33 fades, silently depress chords in m. 34. After m. 33 has faded, release sustain pedal and hold m.34 with middle pedal. Continue to sustain with middle pedal until indicated in *Two Voyagers*.

l.v. (long pause)

middle ped. →

# THE



Two *mp cantabile*  
 but - ter - flies  
 went out at noon  
 and walz - ed a - bove a stream,  
 And then to - geth - er  
 bore a - way up - on a shin - ing sea,  
 Though nev - er  
 yet, in an - y  
 port, their com - ing  
 ment - ioned be.

pluck strings

pluck strings

10  
 If spo - ken by  
 the dis - tant bird,  
 if met in  
 ei - ther sea

pluck strings



gliss.  
 gliss. on piano strings approximately around area of held chords

4  
 Then stepped straight through the firm - a - ment  
 and rest - ed on a beam,  
 by frigate or by mer - chant - man,  
 re - port was not  
 to me.

gliss.

16  
 by frigate or by mer - chant - man,  
 re - port was not  
 to me.

rall.



# VOYAGERS

## Evening

♩ = 120

m.s. sings on repeat

*p* *mf* (♩ = ♩) *mf*

The crick-et sang, And set the sun, And work-men fin-ished, one by one,

*pp*  
chirping

*mf* > *p* *mf* > *p* sim.

5

*p* *mf*

Their seam the day up - on. The low grass load-ed with the dew,

*p*

9

*mp* *mf* *f*

The twi-light stood as strang-ers do With hat in hand, po-

*mp* *mf* *f*

12

*mp* *calmato* *p*

lite and new, To stay as if, or go. A vast- ness\_

*mp* *p* *pp* *sonore.*

15

*mf* *p* *f* *ff*

as a neigh - bor, came, A wis - dom\_ with-out face or name,

*mf* *mp* *mp* *f*

19

*p* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *lunga*

A peace, as hem - i - spheres at home, And so the night be - came.

*lunga* *pp*