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JULIANA HALL

TO MEET A FLOWER

3 Songs for Soprano and Piano

on Poems by Emily Dickinson

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"Whose are the little beds," I asked

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Cover design by David Sims.



"Whose are the little beds," I asked, "Which in the valleys lie?" Some shook their heads, and others smiled, And no one made reply.

"Perhaps they did not hear," I said; "I will inquire again. Whose are the beds, the tiny beds So thick upon the plain?"

"'Tis daisy in the shortest; A little farther on, Nearest the door to wake the first, Little leontodon.

"'Tis iris, sir, and aster, Anemone and bell, Batschia in the blanket red, And chubby daffodil."

Meanwhile at many cradles Her busy foot she plied, Humming the quaintest lullaby That ever rocked a child.

"Hush! Epigea wakens!— The crocus stirs her lids, Rhodora's cheek is crimson— She's dreaming of the woods."

Then, turning from them, reverent, "Their bed-time 'tis," she said; "The bumble-bees will wake them When April woods are red." God made a little gentian; It tried to be a rose And failed, and all the summer laughed. But just before the snows There came a purple creature That ravished all the hill; And summer hid her forehead, And mockery was still. The frosts were her condition; The Tyrian would not come Until the North evoked it. "Creator! shall I bloom?"

The daisy follows soft the sun, And when his golden walk is done, Sits shyly at his feet. He, waking, finds the flower near. "Wherefore, marauder, art thou here?" "Because, sir, love is sweet!"

We are the flower, Thou the sun! Forgive us, if as days decline, We nearer steal to Thee, — Enamoured of the parting west, The peace, the flight, the amethyst, Night's possibility!

- Emily Dickinson

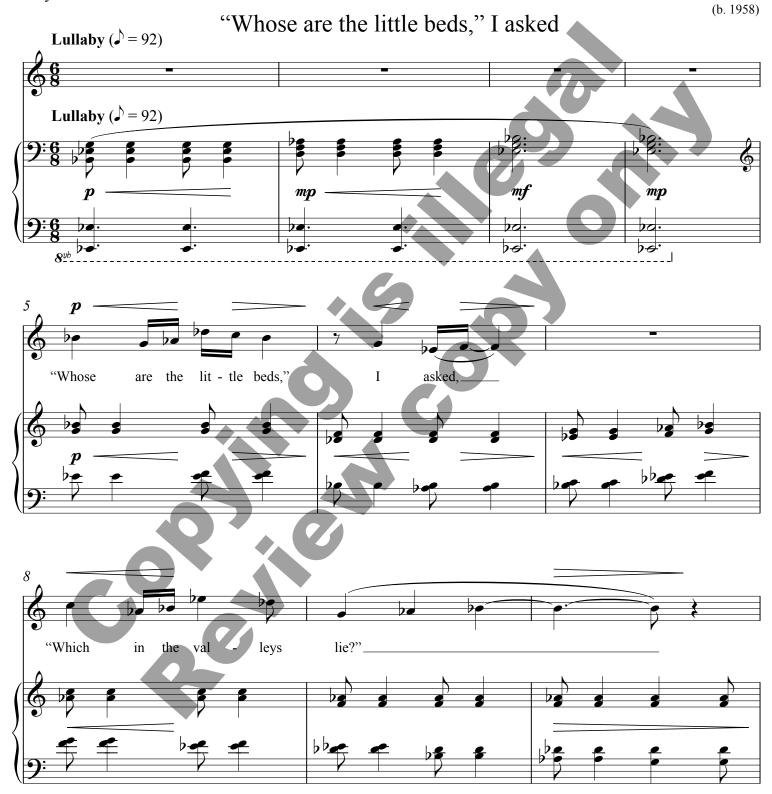
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for Nadine Benjamin, who has sung my songs so very beautifully

To Meet a Flower *for Soprano and Piano*

Emily Dickinson



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Juliana Hall





God made a little gentian



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