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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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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

Juliana Hall

(b. 1958)

“Whose are the little beds,” I asked

Lullaby (♩ = 92)

Lullaby (♩ = 92)

5 *p*

“Whose are the lit - tle beds,” I asked,

8

“Which in the val - leys lie?”

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11 *mp*

Some shook their heads, and

14 *pp*

oth - ers smiled, And no one

18 *p*

A little faster (♩ = 112)

made re - ply. "Per - haps they did not

A little faster (♩ = 112)

22 *poco rit.* ♩ = 92 *p* *poco rit.* *a tempo*

hear," _____ I said; _____

26 *mp* *p*

"I will in - quire _____ a - gain. _____ Whose are the

29 *p*

beds, _____ the ti - ny beds _____ So thick up - on the

God made a little gentian

Emily Dickinson

Juliana Hall

(b. 1958)

A story (♩ = 72)

A story (♩ = 72)

ff

with pedal

4 *mp*

God made a lit - tle gen - tian;

p

7 *mp*

It tried _____

f

p

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10 *mf* *f* *mp*

to be a rose And

13

failed, _____

marcato
f

16 *f*

and all the summer laughed. _____

ff

19 *pp*

But just be - fore the snows

15^{ma}

pp

8^{vb}

22 *mp*

There came a pur - ple

p

25

crea - ture That rav - - - ished

The daisy follows soft the sun

Emily Dickinson

Juliana Hall
(b. 1958)

A story (♩ = 58)

mp

The

p

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

5

dai - sy fol - lows soft the sun,

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

9

And when his gold - en walk is done,

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

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13

Sits shy - ly at his feet.

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

8va⁻

mf

16

8va⁻

ff

mf

8va⁻

Ped. *

19

mf

He, wak - ing,

mf

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

21 *mp*

finds the flow - er near.

p

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

24 *mf*

“Where - fore,

mp *mf*

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

26 *f*

ma-raud - er, art thou here?”

f

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *