



# The Garden in the Brain

7 songs to words of Emily Dickinson

Peter Seabourne

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Seven Songs to words of Emily Dickinson

I. Within my Garden, rides a Bird  
Upon a single Wheel -  
Whose spokes a dizzy Music make  
As 'twere a travelling Mill -

He never stops, but slackens  
Above the Ripest Rose -  
Partakes without alighting  
And praises as he goes,

Till every spice is tasted -  
And then his Fairy Gig  
Reels in remoter atmospheres -  
And I rejoin my Dog,

And He and I, perplex us  
If positive, 'twere we -  
Or bore the Garden in the Brain  
This Curiosity -

But He, the best Logician,  
Refers my clumsy eye -  
To just vibrating Blossoms!  
An Exquisite Reply!

II. You see I cannot see - your lifetime -  
I must guess -  
How many times it ache for me - today - Confess -  
How many times for my far sake  
The brave eyes film -  
But I guess guessing hurts -  
Mine - get so dim!

Too vague - the face -  
My own - so patient - covers -  
Too far - the strength -  
My timidness enfolds -  
Haunting the Heart -  
Like her translated faces -  
Teasing the want -  
It - only - can suffice!

III. What if I say I shall not wait!  
What if I burst the fleshy Gate -  
And pass escaped - to thee!

What if I file this Mortal - off -  
See where it hurt me - That's enough!  
And wade in Liberty!

They cannot take me - any more!  
Dungeons can call - and Guns implore  
Unmeaning - now - to me -

As laughter - was - an hour ago -  
Or Laces - or a Travelling Show -  
Or who died - yesterday!

IV. Fairer through Fading - as the Day  
Into the Darkness dips away -  
Half Her Complexion of the Sun -  
Hindering - Haunting - Perishing -

Rallies Her Glow, like a Dying Friend -  
Teasing with glittering Amend  
Only to aggravate the Dark  
Through an expiring - perfect - look -

V. A Dying Tiger - moaned for Drink -  
I hunted all the Sand -  
I caught the Dripping of a Rock  
And bore it in my Hand -

His Mighty Balls - in death were thick -  
But searching - I could see  
A Vision on the Retina  
Of Water - and of me -

'Twas not my blame - who sped too slow -  
'Twas not his blame - who died  
While I was reaching him -  
But 'twas - the fact that He was dead -

VI. Two butterflies went out at Noon -  
And waltzed upon a Farm -  
Then stepped straight through the Firmament  
And rested, on a Beam -

And then - together bore away  
Upon a shining Sea -  
Though never yet, in any Port -  
Their coming, mentioned - be -

If spoken by the distant Bird -  
If met in Ether Sea  
By Frigate, or by Merchantman -  
No notice - was - to me -

VII. Good Morning - Midnight -  
I'm coming Home -  
Day - got tired of Me -  
How could I - of Him?

Sunshine was a sweet place -  
I liked to stay -  
But Morn - didn't want me - now -  
So - Goodnight - Day!

I can look - can't I -  
When the East is Red?  
The Hills - have a way - then -  
That puts the Heart - abroad -

You - are not so fair - Midnight -  
I chose - Day -  
But - please take a little Girl -  
He turned away!

# The Garden in the Brain

## I. Within my Garden, rides a Bird

Emily Dickinson

Peter Seabourne

May/June 2003

With gentle but purposeful forward movement ♩ = 92

*mp*

5

9 *mp*

Wi - thin my Gar - den, rides a Bird\_ U - pon a sin-gle Wheel-

13

one syllable

Whose spokes a diz-zy Mu-sic make\_ As 'twere a trav\_el-ling Mill-

16

He ne - ver stops, but

20

sla-ckens A - bove the Ri-pest Rose- Par-takes wi-thout a-

24 *mp*

ligh-ting And prai-ses as he goes, Till eve-ry spice is tas-ted

8va

7  
16

27

And then his Fai-ry Gig Reels in re-mo-ter at-mos - pheres-

6  
16

30

And I re-join my Dog, And He and I, per-plex us If po - si-tive, 'twere

3  
8

34 *p*

we- Or bore the Gar-den in the Brain This Cu-ri - o - si - ty

38 *poco* *mp*

42 *mp*

But He, the best Lo - gi - cian\_\_ Re - fers my dum-sy eye-

46 *non ril.*

To just vi-bra-ling Blos-soms!\_\_ An ex - qui-site re-ply.

## II. You see I cannot see - your lifetime

Lontano - lento molto ♩=32

*this staff - sempre lontano*

The musical score is written for piano and consists of two systems, each with three staves. The first system begins with a tempo marking of "Lontano - lento molto" and a note value of 32. The first staff of the first system is marked "p" and contains a melodic line with a fermata. The second and third staves of the first system are marked "mp" and feature complex chordal textures with triplets. A high register staff labeled "8va" is positioned above the first staff. The second system begins with a measure number "4" and continues the complex chordal textures and melodic lines across its three staves.

7 *p* simply but with great intensity

Musical score for measures 7-8. The vocal line (treble clef) contains the lyrics: "You see I can - not see- your life - time-". The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a complex harmonic structure with a five-measure phrase in the right hand and chords in the left hand. A dynamic marking of *p* is present.

9 I must guess-

Musical score for measures 9-11. The vocal line (treble clef) contains the lyrics: "I must guess-". The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a complex harmonic structure with a five-measure phrase in the right hand and chords in the left hand. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present.

12 *mp* *mf* *sub. mp*  
How ma-ny times it ache for me- to - day- Con-fess- How ma-ny

Musical score for measures 12-14. The vocal line (treble clef) contains the lyrics: "How ma-ny times it ache for me- to - day- Con-fess- How ma-ny". The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a complex harmonic structure with a five-measure phrase in the right hand and chords in the left hand. Dynamic markings of *mp*, *mf*, and *sub. mp* are present.



15

*sub. mp*

times for my far sake The brave eyes film- But I guess

*sub. mp*

*8va*

*sub. mp*

18

*p plainer*

guess-sing hurts- Mine- get so dim! Too vague- the face-

*p*

*p plainer*

*p*

*p*

22

*poco*

*p*

My own- so pa-lient- co-vers- Too far- the strength-

*poco*

*p*

*p*

26 *mp*

My ti - mid-ness en - folds- Haun-ting the Heart- Like

29 *mf* *sub. mp*

her trans-la - ted fa - ces- Tea-sing the want-

*mf* *poco* *sub. mp*

32 *p*

It - on - ly - can - suf - fice!

*p* *8va*

### III. What if I say I shall not wait!

Defiantly -with a gush! ♩=132

*ff*

What if I say I shall not wait! What if I burst the flesh-ly

*ff*

Ped.

4

Gate-

*sub. mp*

Ped.

7

floating on air - *mp*

And passes - caped- to thee!

(8)

10 *sub. ff*

What if I file this Mor-tal- off- See where it hurt me- That's e-

*sub. ff*

13 *(non dim)*

nough- And wade

*8va*

*(non dim)*

15 *pesante*

in Li - ber - ty! They can - not

*pesante*

19

take me- a - ny more! Dun - geons can call- and Guns im -

22

plore Un - mea-ning- now- to me-

*mp*

*sub. scherzando*

25

*p* light-headed - heedless As laugh-ter- was- an hour a - go- *p* Or La-cies- or

*p* *8va-* *sfz* *mf* *8va-*

29

a Tra-vel - ling Show-

(8)

*sfz* *mf*

31

*mp*

Or who died- yes - ter - day!

*mp* *non ril.* *molto*

## IV. The Perfect Look

Extremely delicate, almost unbearably so  $\text{♩} = 72$ 

una corda

*p* *len.*

Ped.

4

*p* very legato - dreamy

Fai - rer through

Ped.

9

Fa - ding- as the Day

Ped.

12

In - to the Dark - ness dips a - way-

*len.*

16

*mp*

Half Her Com -

*mp*

20

ple - xion of the Sun - Hin - de - ring-

*mp*



24

Haun-ling- De - ri - shing—

28

Ral-lies Her

33

Glow, like a dy - ing Friend—

37

Tea - sing with glit - te - ring A - mend

*len.*

41

On - ly to

*sub. mp*

*poco f*

*sub. mp*

44

ag - gra - vate the Dark Through an ex - pi - ring

*poco a poco dim. (but like a warm reminiscence)*

48

per - fect- look-

*p*

51

# V. A Dying Tiger

Andante ♩=72

*mp*

A Dy-ing Ti-ger-

*dry - rather like a dull thud*

*mp*

*p*

8<sup>vb</sup>

6

*p*

moaned for Drink-

*p*

*p tender*

*mp* *R.H. legato*

*come prima*

*Red.*

8<sup>vb</sup>

10

*mp*

I hun-ted all the Sand-

*poco cresc.*

*p* *sub. mf*

*3*

*mollo*

(8)

8<sup>vb</sup>

14 *mp*

I caught the Drip-ping of a Rock And bore it in my Hand-

*p* *p* *p* *mp* *p tender* 5

*mp* *mp* Ped.

18 *mp*

His Migh - ty

*mp* *sub. mf* 3

*ten. R.H. legato*

22 *mf* *molto* *p* *increasingly poignant*

Balls- in Death were thick- But sear-ching- I could see

*mf* *molto* *p very tender* 5

Ped. Ped.

25

*poco rit.*

A Vi-sion on the Re-ti-na— Of Wa-ter- and of me—

*come prima*

*poco rit.*

*mp*

29

*mp*

'Twas not my blame- who sped

*8vb*

*Ped.*

33

too slow- 'Twas not his blame- who died While I was rea-ching him—

*Ped.*

37 *sub. p* *very tender*

But 'twas- the fact that

40

He was— dead-

## VI. Two Butterflies

Jittery  $\text{♩} = 72$ 

*mf*

Two but - ter - flies went out at Noon-

*mf*

8va

4

And waltzed u-pon a Farm

*mf*

8va

7

Then stepped straight through the Fir-ma-ment And res - ted, on a Beam

*p*

8va



10 (8)

*mf* *mp*

13 *mf*

And then to - ge-ther bore a-way U -

*8va*

*mf*

17

pon a shi - ning Sea- Though ne-ver yet, in

(8)

*mf*

20

a - ny Port- Their co - ming men - tioned-

(8)

23

*mp*

be - ll spo - ken by the dis - tant Bird-

*p* *mp* *mf*

*8va*

28

*mp*

If met in E - ther Sea - By Fri - gate, or by Mer - chant - man - No

(8)

*mp* *mf*

*8va*

32

not - tice- was- to

(8)

34

me-

8va

## VII. Good Morning - Midnight

Extremely poignantly ♩ = 60

*p*

Good Mor-ning-Mid-night- I'm co-ming Home Day- got

*p*

Ped.

6

tired of Me- How could I- of Him?

10

*mp* *poco* *mf* *p semplice*

Sun - shine was a sweet place- I liked to stay- But Morn di - dn't

*mp* *poco* *mf* *p semplice*

13

*poco animato, affronted*

*mp*

want me- now- So- Good-night- Day! I can look-

16

*mf*

can't I- When the East is Red? The Hills-have a way- then- That

20

*f* *passionate, desperate, even a little angry*

*passionate, desperate, even a little angry*

puts the Heart- a - broad- You- are not so fair- Mid-night-

24 *sub. mp* *suddenly drained, hopeless*

I \_\_\_\_\_ chose Day- \_\_\_\_\_ But- \_\_\_\_\_ please \_\_\_\_\_

*sub. mp* *p*

27

take a lit - tle Girl- He turned a - way! \_\_\_\_\_

*sub. mp* *p*