

By a flower — By a letter —

a song cycle for mezzo soprano and piano

- 1. We should not mind so small a flower --*
- 2. When Roses cease to bloom, Sir,*
- 3. So has a Daisy vanished*
- 4. By a flower -- By a letter --*
- 5. If I should cease to bring a Rose*
- 6. I hide myself within my flower,*
- 7. My friend must be a Bird --*
- 8. Once more, my now bewildered Dove*
- 9. There are the days when Birds come back --*

Music by Joshua Chism (2008-09)

Text by Emily Dickinson

1. We should not mind so small a flower—

Emily Dickinson

Joshua Chism

Gentle ♩ = 76

Mezzo-Soprano

Piano

mp

mp 3

We should not

Mezzo

Pno.

5

mind so small a flower— Except it quiet bring Our little garden that we lost

rit.

9

Back to the Lawn again.

mp

a tempo

a tempo
mp

We should not mind so small a flower-

Energetic (♩. = c. 60)

Mezzo

13

mf

So spic - y her — Car -

Pno.

13

mf

Mezzo

18

na - tions nod - So drunk - en, reel — her Bees - —

Pno.

18

mp

8va

Mezzo

23

mf

So sil - ver steal — a hun - dred flutes From out — a hun - dred

Pno.

23

mf

8va

Mezzo

28

trees - —

Pno.

28

mp

8va

2. When Roses cease to bloom, Sir,

Emily Dickinson

Joshua Chism

Dark $\text{♩} = 76$

mf

Mezzo-Soprano

When Ro - ses cease to bloom, Sir, And Vi - o-lets are done— When Bum - ble-bees in

Piano

mf

Mezzo

sol - emn flight Have passed beyond the Sun— The hand that paused to gath - er Up -

Pno.

Mezzo

on this Sum - mer's day Will i - dle lie— in Au - burn— Then take my flow - ers—

Pno.

Slow and Free

f

mp

Mezzo

pray! Then take my flow - ers— pray!

Pno.

mp

Tempo Primo

3. So has a Daisy vanished

Emily Dickinson

Joshua Chism

Tranquil ♩ = 60

Mezzo-Soprano

Piano

Mezzo

Pno.

Mezzo

Pno.

Mezzo

Pno.

recitative-like
mp

f

So has a Dai - sy van - ished — From the fields — to - day —

© 2008 by Joshua Chism

So has a Daisy vanished

Mezzo

22 *mp*

So tip - - toed man - y a

Pno.

22 (8va) *mp*

Mezzo

27

slip - per To par - a - dise a - way -

Pno.

27 (8va) *p*

Mezzo

31 *mf*

Oozed so in crim - son bub - bles

Pno.

31 *mf*

Mezzo

37

Day's de - part - ing tide -

Pno.

37 (8va) *p*

4. By a flower – By a letter –

Emily Dickinson

Joshua Chism

Playful ♩ = 72

Mezzo-Soprano

Piano

mf

By a flow - er- By a riv - er-

7

Mezzo

By a nim - ble love- If I weld the riv - et fast - er- Fi-nal fast a - bove-

Pno.

13

Mezzo

Nev - er mind my breath - less An - vil!

Pno.

19

Mezzo

cresc.

Ne-ver mind — Re - pose! Ne-ver mind the soot-y fa - ces Tugg-ing at the Forge!

Pno.

5. If I Should Cease to Bring a Rose

Emily Dickinson

Joshua Chism

Flowing ♩ = 92 *mp*

Mezzo-Soprano

If I should cease to bring a

Piano

mp

Mezzo

Rose Up - on a fes - tal day,

Pno.

Mezzo

'Twill be be - cause be - ond the Rose

Pno.

Mezzo

I have been called a - way-

Pno.

rit. decresc.

rit.

6. I Hide Myself Within My Flower

Emily Dickinson

Joshua Chism

Eerie ♩ = 76

Mezzo-Soprano

Piano

p molto espress.

Mezzo

Pno.

mp

Mezzo

mp

I hide my - self with - in my flow - er, That fad - ing from - your

Pno.

Mezzo

mf

Vase, You, un - sus -

Pno.

mf

7. My Friend must be a Bird-

Emily Dickinson

Joshua Chism

Free ♩ = 68

Mezzo-Soprano

mp My — friend — must be a Bird— Be - cause it flies! *mf*

Piano

mp *mf*

5 Mezzo

Mor - tal, my friend must be, Be - cause it

Pno.

9 Mezzo

f dies! *mp* Barbs has it, like a Bee! Ah, cu - ri - ous

Pno.

mf *mp*

13 Mezzo

friend! Thou puz - zle - est me!

Pno.

13 *8va* *rit. to end*

rit. to end

Red. *

8. Once more, my now bewildered Dove

Emily Dickinson

Joshua Chism

$\text{♩} = 110$

Mezzo-Soprano

Piano

f

Slower and Free

Mezzo

Piano

mp

subito p

f

subito p

5

Once more, my now be-wil-dered Dove be - stirs her puz-zled

Mezzo

Piano

f

subito p

9

wings Once more her mis - tress, — on the deep — Her

9. These are the days when Birds come back—

Joshua Chism

Moderate ♩ = 80

Mezzo-Soprano

Piano

mf

leg. leg. sim.

Detailed description: This block contains the first four measures of the piece. The Mezzo-Soprano part is mostly rests. The Piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth-note chords in the right hand and a bass line with quarter notes in the left hand. Dynamics include *mf*, *leg.*, and *sim.*

Mezzo

5 *mf* *rit.*

These are the days when Birds come back— A ver - y few— a Bird or two— To

Pno.

5 *rit.*

Detailed description: This block contains measures 5 through 8. The Mezzo-Soprano part has lyrics and a melodic line. The Piano accompaniment continues with the established rhythmic pattern. Dynamics include *mf* and *rit.*

Mezzo

9 *a tempo* *mp*

take a back - ward look. These are the days when skies re - sume The

Pno.

9 *a tempo* *mp*

Detailed description: This block contains measures 9 through 12. The Mezzo-Soprano part has lyrics and a melodic line. The Piano accompaniment features a more active texture with sixteenth-note chords in the right hand. Dynamics include *a tempo* and *mp*.

Mezzo

13 *mf* *p*

old— old soph - ist - ries of June— A blue and gold mis - take. Oh—

Pno.

13 *mp*

Detailed description: This block contains measures 13 through 16. The Mezzo-Soprano part has lyrics and a melodic line. The Piano accompaniment continues with the sixteenth-note chord texture. Dynamics include *mf* and *p*.

Mezzo

17 *cresc.* *mf* *mp*

fraud that can - not cheat the Bee— Al - most thy plau-si-bil-i-ty In-

Pno.

17 *p cresc.* *mp*

Mezzo

22 *p*

du - ces my be - lief. Till ranks of seeds their wit - ness bear— And soft - ly thro' the

Pno.

22 *p* *sim.*

Mezzo

27 *rit.* **Majestic** ♩ = 72 *mf*

al-tered air— Hur-ries a tim - id leaf. Oh

Pno.

27 *rit.* *mf*

Mezzo

31

Sac - ra - ment of sum - mer days, Oh Last Com - mun - ion

Pno.

31