

Three poems by Emily Dickinson

for soprano and piano, opus 22b

I. Death
II. The Sun
III. Wild Nights

composed

between 26th January and 22nd February 2003, revised in November 2011

dedicated

to Juliana Gondek

duration

ca. 8 min.

premiered (only “The Sun” & “Wild Nights”)

on 8th August 2003 at the festival “Gelderse Muziekdagen” in Apeldoorn (The Netherlands) by Quirijn de Lang (baritone) & Reinild Mees (piano)

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scoring

Soprano, Piano

Five poems by Emily Dickinson

I. Death *

Death sets a Thing significant
The Eye had hurried by
Except a perished Creature
Entreat us tenderly

To ponder little Workmanships
In Crayon, or in Wool,
With "Thos was last her fingers did" -
Industrious until -

The Timble weighed too heavy -
The stitches stopped - themselves -
And then 'twas put among the Dust
Upon the Closet shelves -

A Book I have - a friend gave -
Whose Pencil - here and there -
Had notched the place that pleased Him -
At Rest - His fingers are -

Now - when I read - I read not -
For interrupting tears -
Obliterate the Etchings
Too Costly for Repairs.

(circa 1862)

II. The Sun

The *Sun* - *just touched* the Morning -
The *Morning* - Happy thing -
Supposed that He had come to *dwell* -
And Life would all be *Spring!*

She felt herself *surpremer* -
A *Raised* - *Ethereal Thing!*
Henceforth - for Her - *What Holiday!*
Meanwhile - her wheeling King -
Trailed - slow - along the Orchards -
His *haughty* - *spangled* Hems -
Leaving a *new necessity!*
The *want* of *Diadems!*

The Morning - *fluttered* - *staggered* -
Felt feebly - for her *Crown* -

*Her unanointed forehead -
Henceforth - Her only One!*

(circa 1861)

III. Wild Nights

Wild Nights - Wild Nights!
Were I with thee
Wild Nights should be
Our luxury!

Futile - the Winds -
To a Heart in port -
Done with the Compass -
Done with the Chart!

Rowing in Eden -
Ah, the Sea!
Might I but morr - Tonight -
In Thee!

(circa 1861)

* all titles by the composer