

My Letter to the World

Emily Dickinson

Daniel R. Mitchell

Selected poems of
Emily Dickinson

Set to music by
Daniel R. Mitchell



List of Songs

1. This Is My Letter To The World
2. Tell All The Truth
3. Hope Is The Thing With Feathers
4. Faith Is A Fine Invention
5. I Taste A Liquor Never Brewed
6. I'm Nobody!
7. Unreturning
8. I Dwell In Possibility
9. I Shall Not Live In Vain
10. Dawn
11. Success Is Counted Sweetest
12. Our Share Of Night To Bear
13. The Heart Seeks Pleasure First
14. Wild Nights
15. Much Madness Is Divinest Sense
16. Fame Is A Bee

This Is My Letter To The World

$\text{♩} = 80$

Voice *mp*
This is my

Piano *p* *mf* *mp*

Bass *p* *mf* *mp*

7

Voice
let - ter to the World That nev - er wrote to Me The sim - ple News that Nat - ure

Piano

Bass

13 *mf*

Voice
told With tend - er Maj - es - ty

Piano *mf*

Bass

19

Voice

Her Mes-sage is com-mit - ed To Hands I can-not see For love of Her

Piano

Bass

25

Voice

Sweet coun-try-men Judge ten - der - ly of Me

Piano

Bass

31

Voice

Piano

Bass

Tell All The Truth

♩ = 96

mf

Voice

Tell all the truth but tell it slant

Piano

mp *mf*

Bass

mp *mf*

Red. pizz.

4

Voice

Suc-cess in Cir-cuit lies Too bright for our in -

Piano

Bass

Red.

7

Voice

firm De - light the Truth's su-perb sur - prise.

Piano

Bass

Red.

10

Voice

Piano

Bass

mp

mp

13

Voice

Piano

Bass

p *mp*

As Light - ning to the Chil - dren eased With

mf *p* *mp*

16

Voice

Piano

Bass

mf *mp*

ex - plan - a - tion kind. The

mf

19 *mf*

Voice

Truth must daz-zle gra - du - al - ly Or

Piano

mp *mf*

Bass

mp

(Red.) Red. Red. Red. Red.

22

Voice

ev - e - ry man be blind.

Piano

Bass

(Red.) Red. Red. Red.

25

Voice

Piano

Bass

Red. Red.

Hope Is The Thing With Feathers

♩ = 80

Voice *mf*
Hope is the

Piano *p* *mf*

Bass *p* *mf*

6

Voice
thing with fea - thers that perch - es in the soul, And sings the tune with-out the words

Piano (Red.)

Bass

11

Voice *f*
and ne - ver stops at all. And sweet - est in the gale is heard; And sore must be the

Piano *f*

Bass *f*

16

Voice

storm that could a - bash the lit - tle bird that kept so ma - ny warm. I've

Piano

Bass

mf

mf

mf

21

Voice

heard it in the chil - lest land and on the stran - gest sea, Yet, nev - er,

Piano

Bass

Red.

Red.

Red.

26

Voice

in ex - trem - i - ty, it asked a crumb of me.

Piano

Bass

Red.

Red.

Red.

31

Voice

Piano

Bass

p

p

Faith Is A Fine Invention

♩ = 120

mp *mf*

Voice

Faith Faith

Piano

mp *mf*

Bass

mp *mf*

5

Voice

is a fine in-ven - tion For

Piano

Bass

9

Voice

Gen - tle-men who see; But mic - ro -

Piano

mf

Bass

mf

13 *f*

Voice
scopes are pru - dent in an e - mer - gen cy!

Piano

Bass

17

Voice

Piano

Bass

I Taste A Liquor Never Brewed

♩ = 96 *mf*

Voice

Piano

Bass

mp *mf* *mp*

mp *mf* *mp*

I taste a li- quor nev -

4

Voice

Piano

Bass

mf *mp*

mf *mp*

- er brewed, from tank - ards scooped in pearl;

7

Voice

Piano

Bass

mf *mp*

mf *mp*

Not all the vats up - on the Rhine

9

Voice

Yield such an al - co - hol! In - e - bri - ate of air am

Piano

Bass

(*Red.*)

12

Voice

I And de - bauch - ee of dew, Ree - ling, through

Piano

Bass

Red.

15

Voice

end - less sum - mer days, from inns of mol - ten

Piano

Bass

Red.

18

Voice

blue.

Piano

mf

Red.

Bass

mf

21

Voice

When land - lords turn the

Piano

mp

Red.

Bass

mp

24

Voice

drunk - en bee out of the fox - glove's door, When but - ter-flies re -

Piano

Red.

Bass

27

Voice

nounce their drams, I shall but drink the more! Til ser - aphsswing

Piano

Bass

30

Voice

their sno - wy hats, And saints to wind - ows run, To see the li - tle tip -

Piano

Bass

33

Voice

- ler lean - ing a - gainst the sun!

Piano

Bass

I'm Nobody!

$\text{♩} = 108$ *mf*

Voice

I'm No - bod-y! Who are you? Are you No - bod-y too? Then

Piano *mp*

Bass *mp*

The first system of the musical score is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 108 beats per minute. It features three staves: Voice, Piano, and Bass. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The voice part begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics 'I'm No - bod-y! Who are you? Are you No - bod-y too? Then'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a rhythmic bass line in the left hand. The bass line starts with a quarter note G2, followed by eighth notes A2, B2, and C3, and then continues with a similar pattern.

6

Voice

there's a pair of us! Don't tell they'd ad-ver-tise you know!

Piano *mf*

Bass *mf*

The second system of the musical score continues from the first. It features three staves: Voice, Piano, and Bass. The voice part begins with the lyrics 'there's a pair of us! Don't tell they'd ad-ver-tise you know!'. The piano accompaniment features a more active right hand with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the bass line continues with a steady eighth-note pattern. The dynamic marking is *mf*.

11 *mp* *p*

Voice

I'm No - bod - y! Who are you?

Piano *mp* *p*

Bass *mp* *p*

The third system of the musical score continues from the second. It features three staves: Voice, Piano, and Bass. The voice part begins with the lyrics 'I'm No - bod - y! Who are you?'. The piano accompaniment features a more active right hand with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the bass line continues with a steady eighth-note pattern. The dynamic markings are *mp* and *p*.

16

Voice

Piano

Bass

(Red.) Red.

19

Voice

Piano

Bass

mp

How dre -

mf *mp*

mf *mp*

mf *mp*

22

Voice

Piano

Bass

- ary to be

(Red.) Red.

25 *mf*

Voice: Some - bod - y! How pub -

Piano: *mf*

Bass: *mf*

28 *f* *mf*

Voice: - lic like a frog, To

Piano: *f*

Bass: *f*

31

Voice: tell one's name the live - long June To live - an

Piano: *mp*

Bass: *mp*

34 *f*

Voice

ad - mir - ing Bog!

Piano

f

Bass

f

Unreturning

J. = 72

Voice *mf*

Piano *mp cresc. mf dim. mp cresc.*

Bass *mp cresc. mf dim. mp cresc.*

'Twassuch a lit - tle,

5

Voice

Piano *(cresc.) mf dim. mp*

Bass *(cresc.) mf dim. mp*

lit - tle boat That tod - dled down the bay! 'Twassuch a

9

Voice *f mf*

Piano *cresc. mf dim. mp*

Bass *cresc. mf dim. mp*

gal - lant, gal - lant sea That beck - oned it a - way! 'Twassuch a

13

Voice

gree - dy, gree - dy wave That licked it from the coast; Nor ev-er

Piano

cresc. *mf*

Bass

cresc. *mf*

17

Voice

gussed the state - ly sails My lit - tle craft was lost!

Piano

dim. *mp* *dim.* *p*

Bass

dim. *mp* *dim.* *p*

I Dwell In Possibility

♩ = 72

Voice *mp*
I dwell

Piano *p* *mp* *p*

Bass *p* *mp* *p*

8 *mf* *mp*

Voice
in pos - si-bil-i - ty A fair - er house than prose. More

Piano *mp* *p*

Bass *mp*

15 *mf*

Voice
num - er-ous of Wind-dows Su - per - i-or for doors Of Cham - bers

Piano *mf*

Bass *p* *mf*

21

Voice

as the Ce - dars Im - preg - na - ble of Eye And for an Ev - er - last - ing roof the

Piano

Bass

27

Voice

Gam - brels of the Sky Of vi - si - ters the fair - est For Oc - cu - pat - ion

Piano

Bass

f *mf*

f *mf*

f *mf*

33

Voice

This The spread - ing wide my nar - row Hands To ga - ther Par - a -

Piano

Bass

39

Voice

dise.

Piano

dim. *p*

Bass

dim. *p*

The musical score for page 26, measures 39-46, is presented in three staves: Voice, Piano, and Bass. The Voice staff begins with a treble clef and a single note 'dise.' in measure 39. The Piano staff, consisting of a grand staff with treble and bass clefs, features a complex accompaniment with dynamic markings 'dim.' and 'p'. The Bass staff, with a bass clef, contains a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamic markings 'dim.' and 'p'. The score concludes with a double bar line at the end of measure 46.

I Shall Not Live In Vain

$\text{♩} = 92$

Voice

Piano

Bass

f

f

4 *mf*

Voice

Piano

Bass

mf

mf

7 *f*

Voice

Piano

Bass

f

f

f

If I can stop one heart from brea - king

I shall not live in vain;

The musical score is arranged for Voice, Piano, and Bass. It is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 92 beats per minute. The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 1-3) features a piano introduction with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second system (measures 4-6) includes the vocal line with lyrics: "If I can stop one heart from brea - king". The piano accompaniment in this system is marked mezzo-forte (*mf*). The third system (measures 7-9) features the vocal line with lyrics: "I shall not live in vain;". The piano accompaniment in this system is marked forte (*f*). The bass line provides a steady accompaniment throughout, with dynamics of *f* and *mf*. The piano part includes a reduction (*Red.*) of the piano accompaniment.

10 *mf*

Voice

If I can ease one life

Piano

mf

(Red.) Red.

Bass

mf

13

Voice

the ach - ing, Or cool one pain, Or help one

Piano

Red. Red. Red.

Bass

16

Voice

faint - ing ro - bin Un - to his nest a - gain,

Piano

Red. Red. Red.

Bass

19 *f*

Voice

I shall not live in vain.

Piano

f

Bass

f

22

Voice

Piano

Bass

Dawn

$\text{♩} = 72$

Voice *p*
When night When

Piano *p* *mp* *p*

Bass *p* *mp* *p*

7 *mp*
night is al - most al - most done, And

Piano *mp*

Bass *mp*

12 *mf*
sun - rise grows so near That we can touch the spac - es,

Piano *mf*

Bass *mf*

16

Voice

That we can touch the spaces, It's

Piano

Bass

20

Voice

time to smooth the hair to smooth the hair And get the dim -

Piano

Bass

23

Voice

ples ready, And wonder we And wonder we could

Piano

Bass

26 *f*

Voice

care For that old fa - - ded mid - night That

Piano

f

Bass

f

29

Voice

Fright - ened but an hour.

Piano

Bass

32

Voice

Piano

(p)

Bass

Sucess Is Counted Sweetest

$\text{♩} = 70$

Voice

Piano

Bass

mp *f*

Red.

8

Voice

Piano

Bass

mf

Suc-cess is count - ed sweet - est. By

mf

Red.

14

Voice

Piano

Bass

those who ne' - er suc-ceed. To

Red.

20

Voice

com - pre - hend a nec - tar Re - quir - es sore - est

Piano

Bass

25

Voice

need.

Piano

Bass

30

Voice

Not one of all the Pur - ple Host Who took the Flag to -

Piano

Bass

35

Voice

day Can tell the De - fi - ni - tion So clear of Vic -

Piano

Bass

39

Voice

- to - ry As he de - feat - ed

Piano

Bass

f

43

Voice

Dy - ing As he de -

Piano

Bass

mf *mp*

48 *mf*

Voice
feat - ed Dy - ing. on whose for - bid - den

Piano
mf

Bass
mf

53 *f*

Voice
ear The dis - tant strains of tri - umph Burst

Piano
f

Bass
f

58

Voice
a - gon - ized and clear.

Piano

Bass

62

Voice

Piano

Bass

The musical score consists of three staves: Voice, Piano, and Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The Voice staff shows three measures of whole rests. The Piano staff has two staves (treble and bass clef) with chords and some eighth notes. The Bass staff has a single bass clef staff with a melodic line. Dynamics include *mf* and *mp*. There are also *red.* markings with brackets under the piano accompaniment.

mf

mp

mf

mp

red.

red.

red.

Our Share Of Night To Bear

♩ = 90

Voice

mp

Our share

Piano

p *mp*

Red.
pizz.

Bass

mp

5

Voice

of night to bear Our share of morn - ing.

Piano

Red.

Bass

9

Voice

Our blank in bliss to fill,

Piano

Red.

Bass

13 *mf*

Voice: *mf*
Our blank in scorn - ing.

Piano: *mf*
(Red.) Red.

Bass: *mf*

17

Voice: *mf*
Our share of Night to bear Our share of morn - ing. Our blank in bliss to

Piano: *mf*
(Red.) Red. Red. Red.

Bass: *mf*

21

Voice: *mf*
fill Our blank in scorn - ing.

Piano: *mf*
(Red.) Red. Red.

Bass: *mf*

25

Voice

Here a star, and there a star, some lose their

Piano

Bass

29

Voice

way. Here a mist, and

mf

Piano

Bass

mf

33

Voice

there a mist, A - ter - wards

f

Piano

Bass

f

37

Voice

(o)

Day.

Piano

Red.

Bass

The Heart Asks Pleasure First

$\text{♩} = 72$

Voice

Piano

Bass

mp *mf* *mp*

mp *mf* *mp*

mp *mf* *mp*

The heart

6

Voice

Piano

Bass

mf *mp*

asks plea - sure first, And then. ex - cuse

11

Voice

Piano

Bass

mf *mf*

from pain; And then, those li - tle an - o -

16

Voice

dynes that dead - en suf - fer ing.

Piano

Bass

19

Voice

p

Piano

mp *mf*

Bass

p *mf*

23

Voice

mf

And then, to go

Piano

mp *mf*

Bass

27 *mp*

Voice to sleep; And then, if it should be the

Piano *mp*

Bass

31

Voice will of its in - quis - it - tor The li - ber -

Piano

Bass

35 *p*

Voice ty to die.

Piano *p*

Bass *p*

Wild Nights

♩ = 92

Voice

Piano

Bass

p *cresc.*

p *cresc.*

5

Voice

Piano

Bass

f *mp*

Wild Nights Wild Nights! Were I with thee Wild Nights should be our lux - u -

f *mp*

f *mp*

9

Voice

Piano

Bass

f

ry!

f

f

12 *mf*

Voice

Woild nights Wild nights Wild nights Wild nights were I with thee wild

Piano

mf

Bass

mf

15

Voice

nights should be our lux - ur - y.

Piano

Bass

17 *mp*

Voice

Fu - tile the winds to a heart

Piano

mp

Bass

mp

20 *mf*

Voice: in port Done with the com - pass,

Piano: [Musical notation]

Bass: [Musical notation]

23 *f*

Voice: Done with the Chart!

Piano: *mf* [Musical notation]

Bass: *mf* [Musical notation]

26 *mf*

Voice: Row-ing in

Piano: *f* [Musical notation] *mf*

Bass: *f* [Musical notation] *mf*

30

Voice

E - den Ah the sea Might I but

Piano

Bass

33

Voice

moor to night in thee!

Piano

Bass

36

Voice

Piano

Bass

p

Much Madness Is Divinest Sense

Voice *mp*
Much mad - ness is div-

Piano *p* *mp*

Bass *p* *mp*

8
Voice
- i - nest sense to a dis - cern - ing eye; Much sense the stark-est mad-ness.

Piano

Bass *mf*

14

Voice

Piano

Bass

20 *mf*

Voice

Much mad-ness is div-in - est sense to a dis-cern-ing eye; Much

Piano

mf

Bass

mf

25

Voice

sense the stark - est mad - ness.

Piano

Bass

32

Voice

'Tis the ma - jor - i - ty in this,

Piano

Bass

38 *mp*

Voice: as all, pre - vails. As - sent, and you are sane; De - mur you're

Piano: *mp*

Bass: *mp*

45 *mf* *mp*

Voice: straight way dan - ger - ous and han - dled with a chain. And han - dled

Piano: *mf* *mp*

Bass: *mf* *mp*

52 *pp*

Voice: with a chain.

Piano: *pp*

Bass: *pp*

Fame Is A Bee

mf

Voice

Fame is a

Piano

mf

Bass

mf

4

Voice

bee. Fame is a bee.

Piano

mp

mf

Bass

mp

mf

7

Voice

It has a song It has a sting

Piano

mf

Bass

mf

10

Voice

Ah, too, it has a wing.

Piano

Bass

13

Voice

it has a wing

Piano

Bass

p

16

Voice

Piano

Bass