

Michael Murray

Andrena

Three Songs of Emily Dickinson
for soprano and double bass

- 1. Bee! I'm Expecting You!**
- 2. Answer July**
- 3. A Single Clover Plank**

duration ca. 7'

www.michaelmurraymusic.com

Program Note

Andrena is a genus of bees commonly known as “mining bees.” The three poems in this set reflect Emily Dickinson’s fascination with bees, as references to bees are made in much of her poetry. From the charming letter to Bee from Fly in the first song through the existential questioning of time and nature in “Answer July,” to the unfortunate demise of the bee in “A Single Clover Plank,” many aspects of a bee’s life are explored.

poems by Emily Dickinson (1830-86)

1. Bee! I’m Expecting You!

Bee! I’m expecting you!
Was saying Yesterday
To Somebody you know
That you were due –

The Frogs got Home last Week –
Are settled, and at work –
Birds mostly back –
The Clover warm and thick –

You’ll get my letter by
The Seventeenth; Reply
Or better, be with me –
Your’s, Fly.

2. Answer July

Answer July
Where is the Bee –
Where is the Blush –
Where is the Hay?

Ah, said July –
Where is the Seed –
Where is the Bud –
Where is the May –
Answer Thee – me –

Nay – said the May –
Show me the Snow –
Show me the Bells –
Show me the Jay!

Quibbled the Jay –
Where be the Maise –
Where be the Haze –
Where be the Bur?
Here – said the Year –

3. A Single Clover Plank

A Single Clover Plank
Was all that saved a Bee
A Bee I personally knew
From sinking in the sky –

Twixt Firmament above
And Firmament below
The Billows of Circumference
Were sweeping him away –

The idly swaying Plank
Responsible to nought
A sudden Freight of Wind assumed
And Bumble Bee was not –

This harrowing event
Transpiring in the Grass
Did not so much as wring from him
A wandering “Alas” –

1. Bee! I'm Expecting You!

Emily Dickinson

Michael Murray

Impatiently ♩ = 90 **accel.**

Soprano

Double Bass

f

rit. **Tempo I** ♩ = 90 *mf*

5 6 7 8

Bee! I'm ex - spect - ing you!

mp

9 10 11

Was say - ing Yes - ter - day To Some - bo - dy you

accel.

12 13 14

know That you were due _____

f

Bee! I'm Expecting You!

rit. Warmly ♩ = 72

15 16 17

The Frogs got Home last Week

15 16 17

mf pizz. >

18 19 20

Are set - tled, and at work Birds most - ly back

18 19 20

mf arco

Tempo I ♩ = 90

21 22 23 24

The Clo - ver warm and thick

21 22 23 24

f pizz. arco

accel.....

25 26 27 28

p *mf* *f* pizz. arco

rit. Tempo I ♩ = 90

29 30 31

You'll get my let - ter

29 30 31

mp

Warmly ♩ = 72

32 by the Sev - en - teenth; 33 Re - ply Or 34 bet - ter, be with me—

32 *mf* 33 34 *f*

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of musical notation, measures 32 through 34. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 3/4 time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. Measure 32 starts with a whole rest in the treble and a half note in the bass. Measure 33 has a quarter rest in the treble and a half note in the bass. Measure 34 has a quarter note in the treble and a half note in the bass. Dynamics include *mf* at the start of measure 33 and *f* at the start of measure 34. A hairpin crescendo is shown between measures 33 and 34.

35 pizz. 36 Your's, — 37 Fly.

35 *mp* 36 37

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of musical notation, measures 35 through 37. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps and a 3/4 time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. Measure 35 has a whole rest in the treble and a half note in the bass, marked *pizz.* and *mp*. Measure 36 has a whole rest in the treble and a half note in the bass, with the lyrics "Your's, —". Measure 37 has a whole rest in the treble and a half note in the bass, with the lyrics "Fly.". The system ends with a double bar line.

2. Answer July

Emily Dickinson

Michael Murray

Contemplatively ♩ = 78

Soprano

Double Bass

pizz.

mp

2 3 4 5 6

7 8 *mp* 9 10 *mf* 11 12 13

Ans - wer Ju - ly Where is the Bee_

arco

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

14 15 16 17 18 19 20

Where is the Blush Where is the Hay?

pizz.

14 *mf* 16 *p* 18 *mf* 19 20

21 22 23 24 25 26 27

Ah, said Ju - ly Where is the

arco

21 *f* 22 23 *p* 24 25 26 27

28 29 30 31 32 33 34

Seed Where is the Bud Where is the May

pizz. arco

28 29 30 31 32 33 34

mf *p* *mp*

35 36 37 38 39 40 41

Ans - wer Thee me

pizz. arco pizz. arco

35 36 37 38 39 40 41

f

42 43 44 45

Nay said the May Show me the Snow Show me the Bells

pizz.

42 43 44 45

mp *f*

piu Mosso ♩ = 108

46 47 48 49 50

Show me the Jay!

arco

46 47 48 49 50

ff *mp*

51 *mf* 52 53 54 55

Quib - bled the Jay Where be the Maise

51 52 53 54 55

56 57 58 59

Where be the Haze Where be the Bur?

56 57 58 59

Tempo I ♩ = 78 rit..... slower, freely

60 61 62 63 64

Here said the Year

60 *mp* 61 62 63 64

3. A Single Clover Plank

Emily Dickinson

Michael Murray

Meandering ♩ = 96

The musical score is written for Soprano and Double Bass. It features a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Meandering' with a quarter note equal to 96 beats per minute. The score is divided into four systems, each with a Soprano staff and a Double Bass staff. The Double Bass part consists of a continuous eighth-note accompaniment with slurs and ties. The Soprano part includes rests and lyrics. The lyrics are: 'Sin - gle Clo - ver Plank Was all that saved a Bee A Bee I per - son - al - ly knew From'. The score includes dynamic markings: *mf* at the beginning, *mf* above measure 8, and *f* below measure 16. Measure numbers 1 through 16 are indicated below the staves. The piece concludes with a fermata over the final note of measure 16.

Soprano

Double Bass

mf

mf

A

9 10 11 12

Sin - gle Clo - ver Plank Was all that saved a Bee

13 14 15 16

A Bee I per - son - al - ly knew From

f

A Single Clover Plank

rit....

a tempo

17 18 19 20 21

sink - ing in the sky Twixt

22 23 24 25

Fir - ma - ment a - bove And Fir - ma - ment be - low

mf

26 27 28

The Bil - lows of Cir - cum - fer - ence

29 30 31

Were sweep - ing him a - way

f *mp*

rit... a tempo

32 33 34 35

ff *mf*

36 37 38 39

The

40 41 42

id - ly sway - ing Plank Re - spon - si - ble to

43 44 45

nought A sud - den Freight of Wind as - sumed And

A Single Clover Plank

meno Mosso ♩ = 84

46 *f* Bum - ble Bee was not *mp* 47 This har - row - ing e - vent 48 Tran - 49

50 - spir - ing in the Grass *f* 51 Did not so much as wring from him 52 53

54 *ff* A wan - der - ing "a - las," 55 56 *mp* 57 "a - las" 58