
David Leisner

Confiding

a cycle of 10 songs to poems by women

for High Voice and Guitar

This cycle of ten songs, set to poems by women, deals with various kinds and stages of confiding. The first and last songs act as a prelude and postlude. Songs no. 2-5 trace the rise and fall of an intimate relationship, after which the "I" of the poems turns for confiding to the guitar (no. 6), pauses for reevaluation (no. 7), then turns to imagination (no. 8), and finally to God (no. 9).

Confiding exists in versions for both high and medium voice with piano, as well as for high voice with guitar. While the cycle is most powerful performed in its entirety, it may be excerpted as well. It is dedicated to Ralph Jackson.

for Ralph

Confiding

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a cycle of 10 songs to poems by women
for high voice and guitar

1. Savior! I've no one else to tell

Emily Dickinson

David Leisner

Urgently (♩ = 48)

p Sav - ior! *mf* I've no one else to tell- And so I

Urgently (♩ = 48)

mf delicately, like a butterfly
let notes ring

4
trou-ble thee. I am the one for-got thee so-

6
Dost thou re - mem - ber me? Nor,

8
for my - self, I came so far- That were the lit-tle load

10
I brought thee the Im - pe - rial Heart I

f

*poco rubato
appassionato*

Poem by Emily Dickinson used by arrangement with the publishers and the Trustees of Amherst College from THE POEMS OF EMILY DICKINSON, Thomas Johnson, ed., Cambridge, Mass.: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, Copyright © 1951, 1955, 1979, 1983 by the President and Fellows of Harvard College. All rights reserved.

2. Ample make this Bed

Emily Dickinson

David Leisner

Tender (♩ = 46)

mf
let all notes ring

3/6CII 5/6CII

5 *mf*
Am-ple make this Bed- Make this Bed with Awe- In it wait till

10 Judge-ment break Ex-cel-lent and Fair. — *rit.* **A tempo**

rit. *ten.* **A tempo** 3/6CII *p*

15 *p* Be its Mat-tress straight — Be its Pil-low round

3. Wild Nights

6

Emily Dickinson

David Leisner

Strongly accented and wildly energetic ($\text{♩} = 176$)

Strongly accented and wildly energetic ($\text{♩} = 176$)

pp *cresc.* *poco* *a* *poco*

8 *f*
Wild Nights- Wild

12
Nights! Were I with thee Wild Nights should be our luxu-ry!

17
Wild Nights-

22
Wild Nights!

* Recommended: down strokes with a, m and i together, and up strokes with p.

4. Signal

Gene Scaramellino

David Leisner

Tentatively (♩ = 72) *p*

In my most au-tis-tic times, When

p *mf* *p*

let notes ring throughout

5 *poco rit.* **A tempo** *cresc.*

ver-bal thought is drown - ing, And si-lence seems the on-ly choice, I will

poco rit. **A tempo**

mf *p* *cresc.*

8 *mf*

mo-tion to you from a raft.

mf *p* *mf*

12 *p* *mf*

Where am I drift-ing to? The past swims up, dreams sur-face.

p *mf*

16 *p*

A spring-lit eve-ning, I stood on the shore, Hold-ing-

p

5. Star-Crossed

Elissa Ely

13
David Leisner

Darkly (♩ = 72) *mf*

On this far—flung black night, broad with black—ness— each

Darkly (♩ = 72) *mf* *legato*

6

star crawls— with thick edg-es and rig-id worms line the grav-el like grave-dig-gers in the

10 *rit.* *p* *long* **A tempo** *mf cresc.*

rain, wet and re-spect-ful. my throat calls and calls a mes-sage

rit. *long* **A tempo** *mf cresc.*

(bring out the middle voice)

13 *f* *mf* *rit.* *p* **With excitement** (♩ = 152)

scratch— y from too man-y play-ings. lis-ten. lis-ten.

mf *rit.* *p* **With excitement** (♩ = 152)

17 *mf*

we beat on— a - gainst the nee - dle and the re - strain-ing arm,—

6. The Lady to her Guitar

Emily Brontë

David Leisner

Sad (♩ = 58) *mf*

For him who struck thy for-eign string, I

mf sim.

5

ween this heart hath ceased to care; Then

7

why dost thou such feel - ings bring To

civ

9

my sad spi - rit, old gui - tar?

rit. molto

civ

rit. molto

12

A tempo *mf*

It is as if the warm sun - light In

A tempo *mf*

7. Love and Friendship

Emily Brontë

David Leisner

With gusto, but lightly ($\text{♩} = 76$)

6 rit. **A tempo** *mf*

Love is like the wild rose - bri - ar, Friend-ship like the

7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

sub. *p* **A tempo** *mf*

10

hol-ly tree— The hol-ly is dark when the rose briar blooms But

11 12

sub. *p* **A tempo** *mf*

13

which will bloom most con - stant - ly?

14 15

sub. *p* **A tempo** *mf*

16

17 18 19

sub. *p* **A tempo** *p*

8. To Imagination

Emily Brontë

David Leisner

Gentle (♩ = 60) **poco rit.**, **A tempo**

p

5 *p*

When wea-ry with the long day's care, And earth ly change from pain to

8 *p*

pain, And lost, and read-y to des-pair, Thy kind voice calls me back a-gain- O my true friend,

11 *mp*

I am not lone While thou canst speak with such a tone! So

14 *mp*

hope-less is the world with-out, The world with-in I doub-ly prize; Thy

17 *mf* *mp*

world where guile and hate and doubt And cold sus-pi cion nev-er rise; Where

mf

9. Faith

Emily Brontë

David Leisner

Emphatic (♩ = 40)

No cow-ard soul is mine No trem-bler in the world's storm - trou - bled sphere

Emphatic (♩ = 40)

I see Heav-en's glo-ries shine And Faith shines e - qual arm-ing me from

Poco più mosso (♩ = c. 52) *p* quiet, yet fervent

Fear O God with - in my breast Al -

Poco più mosso (♩ = c. 52)

sub. p let notes ring

might - y ev - er-pres-ent De - i - ty Life, that in me hast rest As

cresc. poco a poco

