

Commissioned for the 25th Anniversary of the Chattanooga Girls Choir, Chattanooga, Tennessee
LuAnn Holden, Artistic Director

Hope Is the Thing with Feathers

Emily Dickinson

Susan LaBarr

Freely
8^{va}

Piano
p

Slowly, molto rubato
pp

5 Steady ♩ = 64

9 SA unis.
p

S
A

Hope is the thing with feath-ers that perch - es in the

soul, And sings the tune with - out the words, and

13

The musical score is written in G major and 4/4 time. It begins with a piano introduction marked 'Freely' and '8va', featuring a delicate melody in the right hand and sustained chords in the left hand. The tempo then changes to 'Steady' with a metronome marking of ♩ = 64. The vocal parts enter at measure 9, with the Soprano and Alto lines. The lyrics are: 'Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul, And sings the tune without the words, and'. The score includes dynamic markings such as *p* and *pp*, and performance instructions like 'Freely' and 'Slowly, molto rubato'. Measure numbers 5, 9, and 13 are indicated in boxes.

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17 *mp*

S
nev - er stops at all. Hope is the

A
nev - er stops at all. Hope is the

mp

thing with feath - ers that perch - es in the soul, And

thing with feath - ers that perch - es in the soul. And

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21

sings the tune with - out the words, and nev - er stops at

sings the tune with - out the words, and nev - er stops at

accel. *mf* [25] **Faster** ♩ = 80

all. *accel.* And sweet - est in the gale is heard, And

all. *mf* And sweet - est in the gale is heard, And

accel. **Faster** ♩ = 80

mf

[29]

sore must be the storm that could a - bash the

sor must be the storm that could a - bash the

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molto rit. **A tempo**

lit - tle bird that kept so man - y warm.

molto rit. lit - tle bird that kept so man - y warm. *p* I've

molto rit. decresc. **A tempo** *p*

8va

ped. *

33

p *molto cresc.*

I've heard it on _____ the strang-est sea, Yet

heard it in the chill-est land and on the strang-est sea, Yet

molto cresc.

37

rit.

nev - er in ex - trem - i - ty it asked a crumb of

nev - er in ex trem - i - ty it asked a crumb of

rit.

molto cresc. *rit.*

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41 Tempo I ♩ = 64

ff

me. Hope is the thing with feath-ers that

ff

me. Hope is the thing with feath-ers that

Tempo I ♩ = 64

ff

perch - es in the soul, hope

perch - es in the soul, hope

The first system of the musical score consists of two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal staves are in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are "perch - es in the soul, hope". The piano accompaniment is in a 4/4 time signature, with the right hand playing chords and the left hand playing a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

nev - er stops at all,

nev - er stops at all,

The second system of the musical score continues the vocal lines and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are "nev - er stops at all,". A large red watermark "For Perusal Only" is overlaid across the center of the page.

49

f Hope is the thing with feath - ers that perch - es in the

f Hope is the thing with feath - ers that perch - es in the

The third system of the musical score begins at measure 49, indicated by a box containing the number "49". The lyrics are "Hope is the thing with feath - ers that perch - es in the". The piano accompaniment features a dynamic marking of *f* (forte) and includes a repeat sign in the right hand.

53

mf

soul, And sings the tune with-out the words, and

mf

soul, And sings the tune with-out the words, and

mf

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rit. al fine

rit. al fine

rit. al fine

p