

Because I Could Not Stop for Death

Poem: Emily Dickinson

Setting: David Avshalomov

Andante ♩ = 64

5

Baritone

stately
mf
p
no pedal

10

mf BE - CAUSE I *p* could not stop for Death he

15

kind - ly stopped for me; The Car-riage held but just our-selves and Im-mor-tal-i-ty.
sostenuto

We slow-ly drove, he knew no haste, and I had put a-way

cantabile

sost.

use pedal

my la-bor, and my lei-sure too, for his civ-il - i - ty .

30

elegantly sad

mf *p* *mp*

35

mf *pedal freely* *f* *mp* We

3

passed the school where child - ren played at wrest - ling in a ring; we

p sost.

40

passed the fields of gaz - ing grain we passed the set - ting sun. We paused be - fore a

pp

45

house that seemed a swell - ing in the ground; the roof was scarce - ly

p

50

vis - i - ble the corn - ice but a mound

p

55

solenne

pp

mf

65

p

pp

70

//

mp

mf

p

Poco Meno Mosso

Rit.

♩ = 54

75

p

pp

no pedal

p Since then 'tis cent-ur-ies;

but each feels short - er than the day _____ I first sur - mised the

The first system of the score features a vocal line in the bass clef and a piano accompaniment in the grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The vocal line begins with a quarter rest, followed by the lyrics "but each feels short - er than the day" and "I first sur - mised the". The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a more complex melodic line in the right hand. A "Red." (Reduction) symbol is placed below the piano part, with "L.V." (Lied Voice) written next to it.

horses' *mf* heads _____ were toward e - ter - ni - ty.

Riten. 85 *A tempo II*

The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line includes the lyrics "horses' *mf* heads" and "were toward e - ter - ni - ty.". The piano accompaniment features a prominent *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic. A "Red." symbol is present below the piano part. The system concludes with a *Riten.* (Ritardando) marking and a measure marked "85", which is the beginning of the *A tempo II* section.

Riten.

p (be - cause I could not stop)

colla voce

The third system shows the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a *p* (piano) dynamic and the lyrics "(be - cause I could not stop)". The piano accompaniment includes a *colla voce* instruction. The system ends with a double bar line. Dynamics include *sf* (sforzando), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *p*.