

# *Afternoon on a Hill*

SATB Chorus A Cappella

**Music by Joshua Fishbein**

**Words by Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892 - 1950)**

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*Commissioned by the Young New Yorkers' Chorus; Michael Kerschner, Artistic Director*

*Afternoon on a Hill (1917)*

*I will be the gladdest thing  
Under the sun!  
I will touch a hundred flowers  
And not pick one.*

*I will look at cliffs and clouds  
With quiet eyes,  
Watch the wind bow down the grass,  
And the grass rise.*

*And when lights begin to show  
Up from the town,  
I will mark which must be mine,  
And then start down!*

Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892 - 1950)  
From *Renascence, and Other Poems* (M. Kennerley, 1917)

# Afternoon on a Hill

Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892 - 1950)

Joshua Fishbein

Steadily, dreamlike ♩ = 54

*pp* *p*

Soprano  
I will be the glad - dest thing, I will be the glad - dest,

Alto  
I will be the glad - dest thing, I will be the glad - dest,

Tenor  
I will be the glad - dest thing, I will be the glad - dest,

Bass  
I will be the glad - dest thing, I will be the glad - dest,

Keyboard (rehearsal only)  
*pp* *p*

5 *mp cresc.* *mf* *molto*

S  
the glad - dest thing Un - der the sun,

A  
glad - dest thing Un - der the sun,

T  
glad - dest thing Un - der the sun,

B  
glad - dest, the glad - dest thing Un - der the sun,

*mp cresc.* *mf* *molto*

*growing slowly*

9

*p* *molto* *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

S Un - der the sun, Un - der the sun, Un - der the

A Un - der the sun, Un - der the sun, Un - der the

T Un - der the sun, sun,

B Un - der the sun, Un - der the sun,

*p* *molto* *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

*growing slowly* *mp* *mf* *cresc.* *mf*

Suddenly slow, soaring ♩ = 48 *poco rit.* A litte faster, briskly ♩ = 66

12

*cresc.* *f* *molto* *mp* *p*

S sun, Un - der the sun, the sun!

A *cresc.* *f* *molto* *mp* *p* *delicately*

T *(mf)* *f* *molto* *mp* *p*

B *f* *molto* *mp* *p* *delicately*

sun, sun, sun, I will touch a

sun, sun, I will touch a

Suddenly slow, soaring ♩ = 48 *poco rit.* A litte faster, briskly ♩ = 66

*mf* *f* *mp* *p*



*allargando* **Tempo primo, floating** (♩ = 54) *poco rit.* **Faster, refreshed** (♩ = 72)

*f* *with strength* *sub. p* *pp*

S  
And not pick one, pick one.

A  
one, one, one. I will look at

T  
And not pick one, one. I will look at

B  
And not pick one, one. I will look at

*f* *articulate* *sub. p* *pp* *p cool*

*f* *articulate* *sub. p* *pp* *p cool*

*allargando* **Tempo primo, floating** (♩ = 54) *poco rit.* **Faster, refreshed** (♩ = 72)

*p cool* *legato* \*

S  
I will look at cliffs and clouds With quiet eyes,

A  
cliffs and clouds, cliffs and clouds With quiet eyes,

T  
cliffs and clouds With quiet eyes, With quiet eyes, Watch the wind,

B  
cliffs and clouds With quiet eyes, With quiet eyes,

*p cool* *legato* *mf cantabile* *mp*

\* sub-div.

Slightly slower, falling gracefully

*poco movendo* *take time here* *poco rit.* ♩ = 66

S *mp cantabile* Watch the wind, the wind bow down the

A *mp cresc.* *mf cantabile* Watch, Watch the wind bow down,

T *(mf)* *f* *mf lightly* Watch the wind bow down,

B *mp cresc.* *mf cantabile* *f* *mp* Watch, Watch the wind bow down the

*poco movendo* *take time here* *poco rit.* ♩ = 66

*cresc.* *mf* *f* *mf*

Slightly slower, falling gracefully

*pressing forward, frenzied* (♩ = 70)

S *p* *mp dolce* *mf* grass, And the grass rise, the grass

A *mp* *p* *mp dolce* *mf* bow down the grass, And the grass rise, the grass

T *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* bow down the grass, rise, bow down,

B *(mp) dolce* *mf* grass, And the grass rise, bow down,

*pressing forward, frenzied* (♩ = 70)

*mp* *p* *mp* *mf*

*poco rit.*

*a tempo* (♩ = 66)

41

*f* *mp* *sub. p* *cresc.*

S rise, the grass rise, the wind bow down the grass,

A rise, the grass rise, the wind bow down the

T bow down, the wind, the wind bow down the

B bow down, the wind, the wind bow down the

*f* *sub. p* *cresc.*

*poco rit.* *a tempo* (♩ = 66)

*f* *sub. p* *cresc.*

*broadening*  
(*p*)

*Strolling, with rubato* ♩ = 60

44

*mf* *f* *sfz p* (*f*)

S the grass rise. And when lights

A grass, the grass rise. And when lights

T grass, rise. And when lights

B grass, the grass rise. And when lights

*mf* *f* *sfz p* (*f*)

*broadening* *mf* *f* *cresc.* *sfz* (*f*)

*Strolling, with rubato* ♩ = 60



48 *mf* *(mf)*

S be - gin to show Up from the town, Up from the

A be - gin to show Up from the

T be - gin to show Up from the town,

B be - gin to show

51 *mp* *p* *pp dolce*

S town, And when lights be - gin to show, Ah,

A town, And when lights be - gin to show,

T *mp* *p* *mp* And when lights be - gin to

B *mp* *p* *mp* Up from the town, And when lights be -

A little faster, trudging along ♩ = 64

*mp* *mf* *dolce* *molto*

S I will mark, I will mark which must be

A I will mark which must be mine, I will mark which must

T show, I will mark, I will mark which must be

B gin to show, I will mark which must be mine, I will mark which must be

A little faster, trudging along ♩ = 64

*p* *mf* *molto*

still pressing forward (♩ = 66)

*allargando*

*p* *mp* *cresc.* *f* *mp*

S mine, be mine, be mine,

A be mine, be mine, mine.

T mine, be mine, be mine, mine.

B mine, be mine, be mine.

still pressing forward (♩ = 66)

*allargando*

*p* *mf* *f*

\*one sop. on high C

Tempo primo, declamatory (♩ = 54)

with rubato

63

S And then start down, down,

A And then start down,

T And then start down,

B And then start down, And then

*ff* *molto* *mp poco cresc.* *p*

Tempo primo, declamatory (♩ = 54)  
with rubato

Slightly slower, nostalgic ♩ = 52

68

S start down! I will be the glad - dest thing,

A start down! I will be the glad - dest thing,

T start down! I will be the glad - dest thing,

B start down, start down! I will be the glad - dest

*pp* *(pp)* *(pp)* *pp* *(pp)*

Slightly slower, nostalgic ♩ = 52

72 *p* *mp* *mf* *f*

S I will be the glad - dest, Un - der the sun, Un - der the

A I will be the glad - dest thing Un - der the sun, Un - der the

T I will be the glad - dest thing Un - der the sun, Un - der the

B thing, the glad - dest, Un - der the sun, Un - der the

*p* *mp* *mf* *f*

*p* *mp* *mf* *f*

Suddenly faster, with direction ♩ = 63 *poco rit.*

76 *ff* *cresc.* *molto*

S sun, the sun!

A sun, Un - der the sun!

T sun, Un - der the sun!

B sun, Un - der the sun!

*f* *ff* *cresc.* *molto*

Suddenly faster, with direction ♩ = 63 *poco rit.*

*ff* *cresc.* *molto*

\* Sop. on high A should not sing louder than mp.