



What of That

four poems of Emily Dickinson
(1890 edition p.d.)
for narrator and
unaccompanied women's choir
by William Vollinger
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duration: 4 min. 30 sec.

What of That

four poems by Emily Dickinson for narrator & SA chorus

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music by William Vollinger
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$\text{♩} = 128$
p *mf*
as natural a speech as possible, maintaining the pitches
of natural speech even when the rhythms aren't quite

Narrator *mm* Our share of night to bear,
Soprano *mp* Our share night bear,
Alto *mp* Our share night bear,

8

N Our share of morn-ing, Our blank in
S Our share morn-ing, Our in
A Our share morn-ing, Our in

15

N bliss to fill, Our blank in scorn-ing.
S bliss to fill, Our in scorn-ing. Here a star,
A bliss to fill, Our in scorn-ing.

20

N Here a star, and there a star,

S Here a star, there a star, Some lose their

A Here a star, there a star,

23

N Some lose their way. Here a mist, and

S way. Some lose their Here a mist,

A Some lose their way. Here a mist, Here a mist,

27

N there a mist, Af - ter - wards —

S there a mist, there a Af - ter - wards —

A there a mist, there a mist, Af - ter - wards —

31

N day!

S day!

A day!

35 *p* *mf* *f* *shout*

N Mine by the right of the white e-

S Mine Mine right of the white e-

A Mine Mine right of the white

41 *mf* *shout*

N lec-tion! Mine by the roy - al seal!

S lec-tion! Mine Mine roy - al seal!

A Mine Mine roy - al seal!

45 *mf* *shout*

N Mine by the sign in the scar-let pri-son

S Mine Mine sign in the scar-let pri-son

A Mine Mine sign in scar - pri -

48 *mp* *p* *p*

N Bars can - not con - ceal!

S Bars can - not ceal!

A Bars can - not ceal!

51 *shout* **f** *mf*

N Mine, here in vi - sion and in ve-to!

S *mf* Mine, here in vi - sion

A *mf* Mine, Mine, and in ve-to!

54 *shout* **f** *mf*

N Mine, by the grave's re - peal

S *mf* Mine, Mine, grave's re - peal

A *mf* Mine, Mine, grave's re - peal

57 *mf* **f** *mf* **f**

N Tit-led, con - firmed, — de - li - ri - ous

S *mf* Tit-led, con - firmed, — de - li - ri - ous li - ri - ous li - ri - ous li - ri - ous

A *mf* Tit-led, con - firmed, — de - li - ri - ous li - ri - ous li - ri - ous li - ri - ous

60 *shout*

N char-ter! Mine, while the a - ges steal!

S Mine,

A Mine,

64 *p*
 N *mm*
 S
 A *p*
 uh ah

72 *mf*
 N
 S *mp*
 hm
 A
 uh oo

76
 N had no time to hate, be - cause The
 S hm hm hm hm hm hm hm hm hm
 A uh ah

80
 N grave would hin-der me, And life was
 S hm hm hm hm hm hm hm hm hm
 A uh oo

84

N not so am - ple I Could fin - ish en - mi - ty.

S hm hm hm hm hm hm hm hm

A uh ah

88

N Nor had I time to love; but

S ah hm hm hm

A uh oo

92

N since Some in - dus - try must be, The lit - tle

S hm hm hm hm hm must be, The lit - tle

A uh ah

96

N toil of love, I thought, Was large e - nough for me.

S toil of love, hm hm hm hm hm hm hm

A uh oo oop

102 *p* *mf*

N *mm* I reas-on, earth is short,

S I reas-on,

A *mp* I reas-on,

108

N And an-guish ab-so-lute, And many hurt;

S earth is short, And an-guish ab-so-lute, And ma-ny hurt; —

A earth is short, an - an-guish ab-so-lute, And ma-ny hurt; —

112 *off-handed*

N what of that? I reas-on, we could die:

S — But I reas-on, we could die: —

A — But I reas-on, we could die: —

116

N The best vi-tal-i-ty Can-not ex-cel

S The best vi-tal-i-ty

A The best vi-tal-i-ty Can-not ex-cel

121

N de-cay; what of that? I reas-on that in

S — cay; But I reas-on that in heav - en

A de-cay; But I reas-on that in heav - en

127

N Some-how, *tense silences*

S Some-how, *tense silences* it will be e-ven, Some

A Some-how, *tense silences* it will be e-ven, Some

134

N

S new e - quation giv-en; But

A new e - quation giv-en; But

140

N what of that? *p* mm

S

A