

No Coward Soul Is Mine

For Mezzo-Soprano and Piano



Instrumentation

Mezzo-soprano and piano

Program note

Bronte wrote this famous funeral poem after being inspired by death of her mother and couple of sisters. In this poem the speaker courageously asserts that her soul is not afraid because her faith in heaven, embracing doubt, nature, death and immortality, arms her against fear from life's uncertainties, and I tried to keep this in mind in setting the poem to this song.

Duration

Approx. 6 min. 50 sec.

No Coward Soul Is Mine

Emily Bronte (1818-1848)

No coward soul is mine
No trembler in the world's storm-troubled sphere
I see Heaven's glories shine
And Faith shines equal arming me from Fear

O God within my breast
Almighty ever-present Deity
Life, that in me hast rest,
As I Undying Life, have power in Thee

Vain are the thousand creeds
That move men's hearts, unutterably vain,
Worthless as withered weeds
Or idlest froth amid the boundless main

To waken doubt in one
Holding so fast by thy infinity,
So surely anchored on
The steadfast rock of Immortality.

With wide-embracing love
Thy spirit animates eternal years
Pervades and broods above,
Changes, sustains, dissolves, creates and rears

Though earth and moon were gone
And suns and universes ceased to be
And Thou wert left alone
Every Existence would exist in thee

There is not room for Death
Nor atom that his might could render void
Since thou art Being and Breath
And what thou art may never be destroyed.

No Coward Soul Is Mine

For Mezzo-Soprano and Piano

Emily Bronte (1818 - 1848)

Moderato ♩ = 66

Mezzo-Soprano

Piano

Musical score for "No Coward Soul Is Mine" by Emily Bronte, for Mezzo-Soprano and Piano. The score is in 4/4 time, marked Moderato (♩ = 66).

The score consists of three systems of music.

System 1: Mezzo-Soprano and Piano parts. The piano part features a complex bass line with triplets and sixteenth notes. Dynamics include *pp* and *p*. Performance markings include *Ped.* and *8va*.

System 2: Mezzo-Soprano vocal line with lyrics "No cow - ard". The piano accompaniment includes arpeggiated figures and a "loco" section. Dynamics include *mf* and *f*. Performance markings include *arp.* and *Ped.*.

System 3: Mezzo-Soprano vocal line with lyrics "soul, No cow - - ard soul is mine" and "No". The piano accompaniment continues with complex figures. Dynamics include *p* and *mf*. Performance markings include *Ped.* and *8va*.

10

trem - - - blerin the world's - - - storm - - - - - trou - - - bled

p *mf* *f*

6 3 6 7

Red.

13

sphere I see, I see Heav - en's glo - ries

mf *p*

6 8va

Red. Red. Red. Red.

16

shine And Faith shines

p *mf*

6 6 6 6

Red. Red. Red.

18 *mf*

e - - - - - qual arm - - - - -

mf

Red.

19 *f* *mf* *p sub.*

- - - - - ing me from

f *mf*

Red.

20 *p* *sempre legato*

Fear O God, O

p

Red.

22

God with - in my

6 7 7 6

Ped. Ped. Ped.

23

breast Al - - might - - y, Al -

p *mp*

6 7 7 7 7 6

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

25

might - - - - - y ev - - er

mp

7 6

Ped. Ped. Ped.

26 *mf*

pres - - - - - ent

mf

Ped.

27 *p*

De - - - i - ty

p

Ped.

29 *pp*

Life, that in me hast rest,

pp

Ped.

33

dy - - - - - ing Life, Un -

p *mp*

p *mp*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

34

dy - - - - - ing Life,

7 7 3 7

mp

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

35

have — pow — — — — — er in Thee

mf *p*

mf *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

Red. *Red.* *Red.*

37

p

Red. *Red.* *Red.*

39

mf

Red. *Red.* *Red.*

41 *f*

Vain, Vain

43 *mf*

are the thou - - sand creeds That move

45 *f*

men's hearts, un - -

46 *ff*

- ut - - - ter - a - bly vain,

ff

48 *f*

Worth - less, Worth-less as with - - - ered

f

50 *mf* *f*

weeds Or i - dlest froth a -

mf *f*

52

mid the bound - - - less

53

ff *f*

main To wak - en doubt in one

56

ff

Hold - ing so fast by thy in - fin - i -

* Play lower notes of octaves with LH

58

ty, *f* So sure - - ly an - - chored

60

on The stead - - fast rock

62

of im - mor - - - - - tal - i -

ff

63 *f* *ff*

ty, With

63 64

65

wide - em-brac - ing love Thy spir - it an - i -

65 66 67

68 *f*

mates e - ter - nal years Per - vades and broods a -

68 69 70

71 *ff*

bove, Chang-es, sus-tains, dis - solves, cre - ates and

74 *fff*

rears

f sub.

77

mf

p

arp.

* Same as in m.52

80

80

81

mf

arp.

loco

p

Though earth and moon were

81

81

p

sempre legato

82

gone And

83

83

gone And

84

84

suns and u - - ni - vers - es ceased to

mf

mf

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

86

be And

f

8va

Ped. Ped. Ped.

87

Thou wert left a -

sfz

f *sfz*

Ped. Ped.

88 *f*

lone

loco

f

7 7 6

90 *p*

Eve - ry ex - ist - - - - - ence would ex -

p *mf*

5 6 7 7 7 7

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

92 *mf* *p* *pp*

ist in thee There is no room for

p *pp*

6 6 6 6

Ped. Ped.

96 *p* *mf* *p* *pp*

Death Nor at - om that his might_ could ren - der_ void Since thou art

p *mp* *mf* *p* *pp* *loco*

102 *rit.* *ppp*

Be-ing and_ Breath And what thou art may nev - er_ be_ de-royed.

rit. *ppp*

8va *8va* *8vb* *8vb*

Red. *Red.*

Duration: Approx. 6'45"
May. 7, 2018