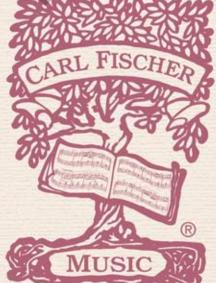
Daniel S. Godfrey

Juliet at her Window

Four songs after Shakespeare for Soprano, Flute, Clarinet in Bb, Violin, Cello and Piano



Carl Fischer Chamber Music



CARL FISCHER

Program Notes

The four texts for Juliet at her Window are taken primarily from Act II, Scene II of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, with supplemental passages from elsewhere in the play. Lines are combined and/or rearranged in one way or another to form brief, thematically related stanzas in each song. The texts suggest states of mind on Juliet's part, with no intention to represent the scene or play as narrative. Also, the words chosen and their musical context reflect only on Juliet — Romeo is not mentioned — and my intention was to focus on her breathless optimism and extrovert declarations of love, while hinting somewhere beneath the surface at the pathos, denial and isolation from reality that (in my view) underly them. Ultimately, though, the point is not to interpret Shakespeare but to seek, as have so many composers, a musical path into and through the human spaces opened up by his words.

Daniel S. Godfrey Juliet at her Window

Four songs, with texts adapted from Shakespeare

I. My Only Love

My only love sprung from my only hate! Too early seen unknown, and known too late! Prodigious love it is to me, That I must love an enemy.

'Tis but thy name that is my enemy. Nor hand, nor foot, nor hand, nor face Nor any other part. 'Tis but thy name.

My only love sprung from my only hate!

Too early seen unknown, and known too late!

II. Dost Thou Love Me?

Dost thou love me? I know thou wilt say Ay! And I will take thy word. If thou dost love, Pronounce it faithfully!

If thy bent of love
Be honourable and true,
Then all my fortunes at thy feet I'll lay,
And follow thee, my lord, throughout the world.

Yet, if thou swears't, thou may prove false...

Swear not! Swear! Swear not! Not by the moon, the inconstant moon, That monthly changes in her circled orb; Not by the lightning, Which doth cease to be ere one can say, It lightens.

Do not, O, do not swear at all!

Or, if thou wilt, Then swear by thy gracious self, Which is the god of my idolatry, And I'll believe thee.

III. My Bounty

My bounty is as boundless, As boundless as the sea! The more I give, the more I have; The more I have, the more I give, The more I give to thee.

The more I have, the more I give, The more I give to thee; The more I give, the more I have. My bounty is as boundless, As boundless as the sea!

They are but beggars that can count their worth; But my true love is grown to such excess, I cannot sum up half my sum of wealth.

The more I have, the more I give, The more I give to thee; The more I give, the more I have. My bounty is as boundless, As boundless as the sea!

IV. Good Night!

Good night! Sweet, good night! As sweet repose and rest As that within my breast Come to thy heart!

Good night! Sweet, good night!
This bud of love by summer's ripening breath
May prove a beauteous flower when next we meet.

I would have thee gone: Yet no further than a wanton's bird; Who lets it hop a little from her hand, And with a silk thread plucks it back again!

Good night! Good night! As sweet repose and rest As that within my breast Come to thy heart!

O for a falconer's voice, To lure this tassel-gentle back again!

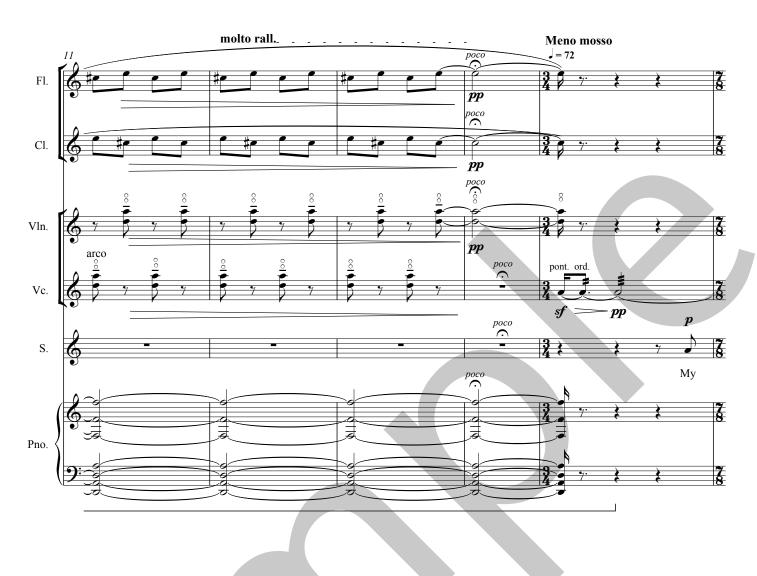
Good night! Sweet, good night! Parting is such sweet sorrow That I shall say good night Till it be morrow!

Juliet at her Window

Daniel Strong Godfrey

I. My Only Love





















III. My Bounty







IV. Good Night





