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**Eric Ewazen**

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**Songs of  
Love and Loss**

*for Bass Voice and Piano*



THEODORE  
**PRESSER**  
COMPANY

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SONGS OF LOVE AND LOSS for bass voice and piano was premiered by Bryan Matthews at Juilliard in 1984. Subsequently in 2004, I arranged the work for Bass Trombone and Piano for Charlie Vernon, who premiered the work at the International Trombone Association Festival at Ithaca College.

The poetry of Edna St. Vincent Millay, with her beautiful, sometimes enigmatic, and always evocative poetry was the inspiration for the 4 songs of this cycle. The first poem, "The Dream," is a paean to Love, with heartfelt words embracing the beauty and enduring power of Love. The second poem, "Mariposa," describes the brief, fleeting life of butterflies, briefly bringing their beauty to the world, then all too soon disappearing, lingering only in our memories and dreams. The third song is a story of life and love, but ends sadly with loss. Life is celebrated, but like the butterflies in the previous song, it too quickly disappears, only to exist in our memories, beautifully, but wistfully. The final song, "A Crown of Bluer Metal" is a song of determination, of rebuilding, of soldiering on despite sadness or tragedy or the whims of life — it is ultimately a poem celebrating the circle of life... enduring, despite all odds.

— Eric Ewazen

Score

## Songs of Love and Loss

Edna St. Vincent Millay

## I. The Dream

Eric Ewazen

Andante Con Moto ♩ = 63

Voice

Piano

*p*

*mf*

*f*

*mf*

Love, if I weep \_\_\_\_ it will not mat-ter. \_\_\_\_

And, if you laugh \_\_\_\_ I shall not care. \_\_\_\_

12 *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Fool-ish am I \_\_\_\_\_ to think a - bout it, but it \_\_\_\_\_ is good \_\_\_\_\_ to

12 *mf* *p* *mf*

15 *pp*

have you there. \_\_\_\_\_ Love, in my

15 *p* *pp*

18 *mf* *p*

sleep \_\_\_\_\_ I dreamed of wa - king. \_\_\_\_\_

18

20 *mf* *f*

White and aw-ful the moon-light reached o-ver the floor and

20 *mf* *f*

23 *mf* *f*

some-where, some-where, there was a shud-der loose.

23 *f* *mf*

25 *mp*

It screeched, swung in the wind! And no wind blow-ing!

25 *f* *mp*

17

Red. \*

## II. Mariposa

Andantino Delicato ♩ = 76

Voice

Piano

*p* *mp* *simili*

3 *p* *mp*

But - ter - flies are white and blue

3

5 *p* , *p*

In this field we wan - der through. Suf - fer me to take your

5

8 *p*

hand. Death comes in a day or two.

8 *p* *pp*

11 *p* *mp*

All the things we ev - er knew

11 *p* *mp* *simili*

14 *p* *mp*

will be ash - es in that ho - ur.

14 *mp*

16 *mf*

Mark this trans - ient but - ter - fly, how he hangs u - pon the

16 *mf*

18 *f* *p*

flow - er. Suf - fer me to take your

18 *f* *p*

20 *mf*

hand. Suf - fer me to cher - ish

20 *mp* *mf*

# III. Short Story

Adagio ♩ = 44

**Voice**

*p*

In a fine coun-try, in a sun - ny coun-try, a -

**Piano**

*p*

*Red. 8va* \* *simili*

*mf*

4 mong the hills I knew \_\_\_\_\_ I built a house for the wren that lives in the

*p*

*mf* *mp* *p*

6 or - chard and a house \_\_\_\_\_ for you. The

9 *mf* *sub. p*

house I built for the wren had a round — en - trance neat and ve - ry

9 *mf* *sub. p*

13 *mf*

small; But the house I built for you — had a

13

17 *f*

great door - way — for a la - dy proud and tall —

17 *f*

Red. \* Red. \* Red. \* Red. \*

21 *poco rit.*

Andante ♩ = 56

21 *poco rit.*

Ped. \* 8va

24

*p**mp*

You came from a coun-try where the

24

*mp*

28

shrub by sweet la - ven - der lives the mild win - ter through

28

# IV. A Crown of Bluer Metal

Allegro Energico ♩ = 92

Voice

Piano

*mf*

4

*mf*

Beat me a crown of blu - er me - tal;

*f*

*sub.mp*

7

fret it with stones of a for - eign style \_\_\_\_\_

*sub.mf*

The musical score is for a piece titled 'IV. A Crown of Bluer Metal' in 4/4 time, marked 'Allegro Energico' with a tempo of 92 beats per minute. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part consists of two staves (treble and bass clef). The vocal line is on a single staff with a bass clef. The score is divided into three systems. The first system shows the beginning of the piece with a piano introduction marked 'mf'. The second system starts at measure 4, where the vocal line enters with the lyrics 'Beat me a crown of blu - er me - tal;'. The piano accompaniment in this system has a forte 'f' section followed by a 'sub.mp' section. The third system starts at measure 7, with the vocal line continuing the lyrics 'fret it with stones of a for - eign style \_\_\_\_\_'. The piano accompaniment continues with a 'sub.mf' section. A large, faint watermark is visible across the center of the page.

10 *mp* *mf*

The heart grows wea - ry

10 *f* *sub. mp*

13

af - ter a lit - tle of what it loved for a lit - tle while.

13 *8va*

16 *mp*

Weave me a web of

16 *mp*

*Red. 8va* \* *Red.* \* *simili*

19 *mf*

rich - er fi - bre pat - tern its web with a

8<sup>va</sup>

21

rare de - vice. Give — a - way to the child of a

24

neigh - bor. This gold gown I was