

Kathryn Rose

I would not paint — a picture —

Many thanks to Catherine Fox for suggesting
the following poem by Emily Dickinson:

I would not paint — a picture —
I'd rather be the One
It's bright impossibility
To dwell — delicious — on —
And wonder how the fingers feel
Whose rare — celestial — stir —
Evokes so sweet a torment —
Such sumptuous — Despair —

I would not talk, like Cornets —
I'd rather be the One
Raised softly to the Ceilings —
And out, and easy on —
Through Villages of Ether —
Myself endued Balloon
By but a lip of Metal —
The pier to my Pontoon —

Nor would I be a Poet —
It's finer — Own the Ear —
Enamored — impotent — content —
The License to revere,
A privilege so awful
What would the Dower be,
Had I the Art to stun myself
With Bolts — of Melody!

1 Corinthians 14:15

What is it then? I will pray with the spirit,
and I will pray with the understanding also:
I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

Performance Note: Where the natural stress of the words conflicts with the natural stress of the measure, give preference to the stress of the words.

Composed for the Chapel Choir of King's College, Aberdeen, for St Cecilia's Day 2017

I would not paint — a picture —

Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)
1 Corinthians 14:15

Kathryn Rose (b. 1980)

$\text{♩} = 80$ (approx)

mp

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

p

p

mp

mp

One

a pic- ture -- I'd rath- er be the One It's

I'd rath- er be the One It's

I would not paint -- One

$\text{♩} = 80$ (approx)

For rehearsal only

4

p

de - li - cious -- And

p

bright im - pos - si - bi - li - ty ____ To dwell -- And

bright im - pos - si - bi - li - ty ____ To dwell --

p

on --

8 **A**

won-der how those fin-gers feel Whose rare -- stir --

won-der how those fin-gers feel Whose rare -- stir --

ce - les - tial --

ce - les - tial -- E -

A

13 **B**

Such sump-tu-ous -- Des pair -- I would not talk like

Such sump-tu-ous -- Des pair -- I would not talk like

What is it then? like

vokes so sweet a tor-ment -- Des pair --

B

19

Cor - nets -- I'd rath - er be the One Raised soft - ly to the Ceil -

Cor - nets -- Ceil -

Cor - nets -- I will pray

I will pray with the spir - - - -

22

ings -- And out, and ea - sy on--

ings -- with the spir - - - - it;

And out, and ea - sy on--

- - - - it;

C

25

And I will pray _____ Bal-loon Met-al --

Through Vill-a-ges of Eth-er -- Bal-loon By but a lip of Met-al -- The

Vill-a-ges Eth-er -- My-self en-dued Bal-loon By but a lip of Met-al -- The

and I will pray _____ with the un-der-stand-

C

30

Pon toon -- Nor would I be a Po-et -- It's fi-ner -- Own the Ear --

pier to my Pon toon -- It's fi-ner -- Own the Ear --

pier to my Pon toon -- I will sing _____ Ear --

ing al - so. I will sing _____ with the

36

mf

mf

I will sing con- tent -- Li - cense I
 im-po- tent-- and I will sing
 En-am- ored-- With the spir - it; The Li - cense to re-vere,
 spir - - - - it;

41

E

will sing, I will sing, Dow - er Had I the
 with the un - der -- stand - ing al - so.
 What would the Dow - er be, Had I the
 A pri - vi - lege so aw - ful And I will sing,

E

allargando

45

Art I will sing, with Bolts -- of Mel - o - dy! *ff* *f* *ff*

Art I will sing, with Bolts -- of Mel - o - dy! *ff* *f* *ff*

Art to stun my - self with Bolts -- Bolts of Mel - o - dy! *ff* *f* *ff*

Art with the un - der - stand - ing al - - - so. *f* *ff*

allargando

The musical score consists of five systems. The first four systems are vocal staves with lyrics and piano accompaniment. The fifth system is a grand staff for piano. Performance markings include *allargando*, *ff*, and *f*. The lyrics are: 'Art I will sing, with Bolts -- of Mel - o - dy!', 'Art I will sing, with Bolts -- of Mel - o - dy!', 'Art to stun my - self with Bolts -- Bolts of Mel - o - dy!', and 'Art with the un - der - stand - ing al - - - so.' The piano part features chords and melodic lines in both hands.