

A Year of Grace

Guy Stalnaker

Four poems on the seasons by four women poets.

- I. Edna St. Vincent Millay, " Song of a Second April "
- II. Christina Rossetti, " A Summer Wish "
- III. Amy Lowell, " Late September "
- IV. Sara Teasdale, " Winter Dusk "

In Memory of Phyllis Jean 'Penny' Osteen

A Year of Grace**I. Song of a Second April**

Edna St. Vincent Millay

J. G. Stalnaker

2m15s

Andante (♩ = 112)
mf

S
A

mp > *mp* >

1. April this year not otherwise Than April of a year a - go, Is full of whispers, full of

T
B

mf *mp* *f*

sighs, Of dazzling mud and dingy snow; He - pa-ticas that pleased you so Are here are here a - gain, and

p *mp* *mf* *mf*

Lightly

21 butterflies and butterflies and butterflies are here a - gain. 2. There rings a ham - merring all day And

mp > *mp* > *mf*

30 shingles lie a-bout the doors; In or-chards near and far a - way The grey woodpecker taps and bores;

40 *mp* *f* *p* Lightly *mp*

The men are merry at their chores are mer-ry at their chores and children earnest at their play and

48 *mf* *mf*

children earnest at their play. 3. The larger streams run still and deep, Noisy and swift the small brooks

57 *mp* *mp* *mf* *mf* *p*

run A-mong the mullein stalks the sheep Go up the hillside in the sun, Pensively Pensively

67 *pp* *mf* *mp* *p*

Wistfully, Slowing

On - ly you are gone, You that alone I cared to keep You that alone I cared to keep.

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II. A Summer Wish

Christina Rossetti

J. G. Stalnaker

2m05s

Adagio (♩ = 82)
Contemplatively
mf

S
A

1. Live all thy sweet life through Sweet Rose, dew sprent, Drop down thine ev - 'ning

T
B

dew To gather it a - new When day is bright: I fancy thou wast meant Chiefly to give de-light.

cresc. - - - - - *f* *mp* *Rallentando*

10 *mf*

2. Sing in the si-lent sky, Glad soaring bird; Sing out thy notes on high To sunbeam straying

by Or pass - ing cloud; Heedless if thou art heard Sing thy full song a - loud.

cresc. - - - - - *f* *mp* *Rallentando*

19 *mf*

3. O that it were with me As with the flower; Blooming on its own tree For butterfly and

23 *cresc.* - - - - - *f* *mp* *Rallentando*

bee Its summer morns: That I might bloom mine hour A rose in spite of thorns.

27 *mf*

4. O that my work were done As birds' that soar Re-joic-ing in the sun: That when my time is

32 *cresc.* - - - - - *f* *mp* *Rallentando*

run And day-light too, I so might rest once more Cool with re-fresh-ing dew.

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III. Late September

After W.A. Mozart

Amy Lowell

J. G. Stalnaker

2m30s

Andante (♩ = 102)
mf

S
A

1. Tang of fruit-age in the air; Red boughs bursting everywhere; Shimmering of

T
B

seeded grass; Hooded gentians all a'-mass. Warmth of earth, and cloudless wind Tear - ing

mp

mf

19

off the husky rind, Blowing feathered seeds to fall By the sunbaked, sheltering wall.

p *mf*

27

2. Beech trees in a golden haze; Har - dy su-machs all a-blaze, Glowing through the

cresc.

37 *mf* *mp* *mf*
 silver birches. How that pine tree shouts and lurches! From the sun - ny doorjamb high, Swings the

46 *mf* *p*
 shell of a butterfly. Scrape of in - sect vi - olins Through the stubble shrilly dins.

55 *mf* *cresc.*
 3. E - very blade's a min - a - ret Where a small mu - ezzin's set, Loudly calling

64 *mp* *mf*
 us to pray At the mir - a - cle of day. Then the pur - ple - lidded night West - ering

73 *mf* *Rallentando* *p*
 comes, her footsteps light Guided by the radiant boon Of a sic - kleshaped new moon.

A Year of Grace**IV. Winter Dusk**

Sara Teasdale

J. G. Stalnaker

1m35s

Andante (♩ = 80)
Introspectively
Soprano Solo

mf

Solo 1. I watch the great clear twilight Veiling the icebowed trees; Their branches tinkle faintly with

SS *p*
I watch the twilight Veil - - ling. Their branch - es tin- kle

A *p*
I watch the twilight Veil - - ling. Their branch - es tin- kle

T *p*
I watch the twilight Veil - - ling. Their branch - es tin- kle

BB *p*
I watch the twilight Veil - - ling. Their branch - es tin- kle

7 *mf* crystal me- lo - dies. The larches bend their sil- ver O- ver the hush of snow; One star is light- ed

mf faint - ly. The larches bend their sil- ver O- ver the hush of snow; One star is light- ed

mf faint - ly. The larches bend their sil- ver O- ver the hush of snow; One star is light- ed

mf faint - ly. The larches bend their sil- ver O- ver the hush of snow; One star is light- ed

mf faint - ly. The larches bend their sil- ver O- ver the hush of snow; One star is light- ed

14

in the west, Two in the zenith glow. For a moment I have forgotten Wars and women who
 in the west, Two in the zenith glow. For a mo - ment Those who
 in the west, Two in the zenith glow. For a mo - ment Those who
 in the west, Two in the zenith glow. For a mo - ment Those who
 in the west, Two in the zenith glow. For a mo - ment Those who mourn.

20

mourn- I think of the mother who bore me And thank her that I was born.
 mourn. Think of the mo - ther, And thank her that I was born.
 mourn. Think of the mo - ther, And thank her that I was born.
 mourn. Think of the mo - ther, And thank her that I was born.
 Think of the mo - ther, And thank her that I was born.