

Jürg Frey

## Because I could not stop for Death –

Eight voices (SSBBTTBB)

2021/2022

Emily Dickinson (1830 – 1886)

Because I could not stop for Death –  
He kindly stopped for me –  
The Carriage held but just Ourselves –  
And Immortality.

We slowly drove – He knew no haste  
And I had put away  
My labor and my leisure too,  
For His Civility –

We passed the School, where Children strove  
At Recess – in the Ring –  
We passed the Fields of Gazing Grain –  
We passed the Setting Sun.

Or rather – He passed Us –  
The Dews drew quivering and Chill  
For only Gossamer, my Gown –  
My Tippet – only Tulle –

We paused before a House that seemed  
A Swelling of the Ground –  
The Roof was scarcely visible –  
The Cornice – in the Ground –

Since then – 'tis Centuries – and yet  
Feels shorter than the Day  
I first surmised the Horses' Heads  
Were toward Eternity

Bai Juyi (772 – 846)

*The grass is spreading out across the plain,  
Each year, it dies, then flourishes again.  
It's burnt but not destroyed by prairie fires,  
When spring winds blow they bring it back to life.  
Afar, its scent invades the ancient road,  
Its emerald green overruns the ruined town.  
Again I see my noble friend depart,  
My heart is crowded full of parting's feelings.*

# Because I could not stop for Death –

Jürg Frey

① ♩ = 54

Sopran 1  
Be - cause I could not stop for

Sopran 2

Alt 1

Alt 2

Tenor 1

Tenor 2

Bass 1  
(soft vocalise)

Bass 2  
The gras is sprea - ding - sprea - ding the

S 1 *Death for Death for Death He kindly stopped*

S 2

A 1

A 2

T 1

T 2

B 1 *grass is spreading out a a*

B 2 *grass is spreading out a a*

15

S 1  
 for me for me for me for me

S 2  
 but just

A 1  
 The Car - riage

A 2  
 The Car - riage held

T 1  
 The Car - riage held but

T 2

B 1  
 Each year each

B 2  
 a - cross the plain (soft vocalise)

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a choir, consisting of eight parts: Soprano 1 (S1), Soprano 2 (S2), Alto 1 (A1), Alto 2 (A2), Tenor 1 (T1), Tenor 2 (T2), Bass 1 (B1), and Bass 2 (B2). The score is written in treble clef for the upper parts and bass clef for the lower parts. The time signature is primarily 6/4, with some 7/4 measures. The lyrics are: 'for me for me for me for me' (S1), 'but just' (S2), 'The Car - riage' (A1), 'The Car - riage held' (A2), 'The Car - riage held but' (T1), 'Each year each' (B1), and 'a - cross the plain (soft vocalise)' (B2). There are some rests and vocalises indicated by lines. A circled '2' is at the top, and '15' is at the top left.

S 1  
but just Our selves And Im - mor - ta - li - ty

S 2  
Our selves and Im - mor - ta - li -

A 1  
held but just Our selves And Im - mor - ta - li - ty We

A 2  
but just Our selves and Im - mor - ta - li - ty Im - mor - ta - li - ty

T 1  
just Our selves And Im - mor - ta - li -

T 2  
but just Our selves And Im - mor - ta - li -

B 1  
year each year it dies each year

B 2

29

S 1 We slow - ly drove He knew no haste He knew

S 2 ty We slow - ly drove He knew no haste no

A 1 slow - ly drove He knew no haste

A 2 We slow - ly drove He knew

T 1 ty We slow - ly drove He knew

T 2 ty We slow - ly drove slow - ly drove He knew

B 1 it dies then flou - ri - shes a -

B 2 We slow - ly drove no

36

S 1 no haste no haste no haste no haste

S 2 haste no no haste no haste

A 1 no no

A 2 no haste no haste no haste no haste

T 1 8 no haste (soft vocalise)

T 2 8 no haste It's burnt it's burnt but not

B 1 gain

B 2 haste

Detailed description: This is a musical score for eight voices, arranged in four pairs (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass). The score is in 6/4 time and consists of 12 measures. The lyrics are: 'no haste no haste no haste no haste' (S1), 'haste no no haste no haste' (S2), 'no no' (A1), 'no haste no haste no haste no haste' (A2), 'no haste (soft vocalise)' (T1), 'no haste It's burnt it's burnt but not' (T2), 'gain' (B1), and 'haste' (B2). The music features various note values, rests, and dynamic markings like '(soft vocalise)'. The time signature changes from 6/4 to 7/4 and back to 6/4.



43

S 1 I had put a way my la - bor and

S 2 And I had put a way

A 1 I had put a - way

A 2 I had put a - way my la - bor and

T 1

T 2 de - stroyed but not de - stroyed by prai -

B 1 And I had put a - way my la - bor and my sei - sure

B 2 And I had put a - way my la - bor and my lei - sure to my lei -

50

S 1  
 my lei - sure For His Ci - vi - li - ty the \_\_\_\_\_

S 2  
 my lei - sire too For His Ci - vi - li - ty We \_\_\_\_\_ where

A 1  
 my lei - sure Ci - vi - li - ty School \_\_\_\_\_

A 2  
 my lei - sure Ci - vi - li - ty passed \_\_\_\_\_

T 1  
 \_\_\_\_\_ When spring

T 2  
 rie fires not de - stroyed

B 1  
 For His Ci - vi - li - ty

B 2  
 sure too For His Ci - vi - li - ty \_\_\_\_\_

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for eight voices. The page is numbered 8 at the top left and 4 in a circle at the top right. The score begins at measure 50. The voices are arranged in two parts: Soprano (S1, S2) and Alto (A1, A2) in the upper staves, and Tenor (T1, T2) and Bass (B1, B2) in the lower staves. The lyrics are: S1: "my lei - sure For His Ci - vi - li - ty the \_\_\_\_\_"; S2: "my lei - sire too For His Ci - vi - li - ty We \_\_\_\_\_ where"; A1: "my lei - sure Ci - vi - li - ty School \_\_\_\_\_"; A2: "my lei - sure Ci - vi - li - ty passed \_\_\_\_\_"; T1: "\_\_\_\_\_ When spring"; T2: "rie fires not de - stroyed"; B1: "For His Ci - vi - li - ty"; B2: "sure too For His Ci - vi - li - ty \_\_\_\_\_". The music features various time signatures including 6/4, 7/4, and 4/4. There are rests and melodic lines for each voice part.

57

S 1 strove \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ Ring \_\_\_\_\_ We \_\_\_\_\_ passed

S 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Re - cess We \_\_\_\_\_ passed \_\_\_\_\_

A 1 \_\_\_\_\_ At \_\_\_\_\_ Ring \_\_\_\_\_ We \_\_\_\_\_

A 2 Child - ren \_\_\_\_\_ in We \_\_\_\_\_ passed \_\_\_\_\_

T 1 winds blow blow blow \_\_\_\_\_ they bring it

T 2

B 1

B 2

64

S 1  
the \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ Fields \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

S 2  
the \_\_\_\_\_ Fields \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Ga - zing

A 1  
passed \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ Fields \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

A 2  
\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ Fields \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

T 1  
*back* \_\_\_\_\_ *to* \_\_\_\_\_ *life* \_\_\_\_\_ *they* \_\_\_\_\_ *bring* \_\_\_\_\_ *it* \_\_\_\_\_ *bac*

T 2

B 1

B 2

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a SATB choir. It consists of eight staves. The vocal parts are Soprano 1 (S 1), Soprano 2 (S 2), Alto 1 (A 1), Alto 2 (A 2), Tenor 1 (T 1), Tenor 2 (T 2), Bass 1 (B 1), and Bass 2 (B 2). The score is in 7/4 time and features a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: 'the Fields of the Fields of Ga-zing passed the Fields of the Fields of back to life they bring it bac'. The lyrics are distributed across the vocal parts: S 1 and S 2 sing 'the Fields of'; A 1 and A 2 sing 'passed the Fields of'; T 1 sings 'back to life they bring it bac'. The instrumental parts (T 2, B 1, B 2) are mostly rests. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, time signatures (7/4 and 6/4), and dynamic markings like '8'.

5

71

S 1 Ga - zing Grain We \_\_\_\_\_ passed the Set ting Sun

S 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Grain We passed \_\_\_\_\_ the Set - ting \_\_\_\_\_

A 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Ga - zing Grain We passed \_\_\_\_\_ the Set - ting

A 2 Ga - zing \_\_\_\_\_ Grain *A - far A - far its*

T 1 *to life*

T 2

B 1

B 2

78

S 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Or \_\_\_\_\_ ra - ther He \_\_\_\_\_ passed Us The

S 2 Sun Or ra - ther He passed Us The \_\_\_\_\_

A 1 Sun \_\_\_\_\_ He \_\_\_\_\_ passed Us The \_\_\_\_\_ Dews

A 2 *scent* \_\_\_\_\_ *scent* in - vades the an - cient

T 1

T 2

B 1

B 2

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a SATB choir. It consists of eight staves. The top four staves are for Soprano 1 (S 1), Soprano 2 (S 2), Alto 1 (A 1), and Alto 2 (A 2). The bottom four staves are for Tenor 1 (T 1), Tenor 2 (T 2), Bass 1 (B 1), and Bass 2 (B 2). The music is written in treble clef for the upper parts and bass clef for the lower parts. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 6/4. The lyrics are: "Or rather He passed Us The Sun Or rather He passed Us The Dews scent scent in vades the ancient". The lyrics are distributed across the vocal parts: S 1 and S 2 have the first line; S 2 has the second line; A 1 has the third line; A 2 has the fourth line; T 1, T 2, B 1, and B 2 have the fifth line.

84

S 1  
— Dews drew qui - ve - ring and Chill Goss - a - mer on -

S 2  
Dews \_\_\_\_\_ drew \_\_\_\_\_ qui - ve - ring and Chill for on - ly my Gown Tip - pet

A 1  
drew \_\_\_\_\_ qui - ve - ring and Chill My \_\_\_\_\_

A 2  
*road* in - vades the an - - - cient

T 1

T 2

B 1

B 2

6

90

S 1  
ly We be fore

S 2  
paused

A 1  
Tulle Its e - - - me - rald green green

A 2  
road a House

T 1  
8 that seemed

T 2  
8 A

B 1

B 2

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a choir with 8 parts. The vocal parts are Soprano 1 (S1), Soprano 2 (S2), Alto 1 (A1), Alto 2 (A2), Tenor 1 (T1), Tenor 2 (T2), Bass 1 (B1), and Bass 2 (B2). The lyrics are: 'ly We be fore', 'paused', 'Tulle Its e - - - me - rald green green', 'road a House', 'that seemed', and 'A'. The music features complex time signatures, including 6/4 and 7/4. There are various musical notations such as notes, rests, and slurs. A circled number '6' is at the top, and '90' is written above the first staff. The number '8' appears below the Tenor 1 and Tenor 2 staves.



97

S 1

S 2

A 1  
its e - me - rald green o - ver -

A 2

T 1  
8

T 2  
8 — Swel - ling

B 1  
of the Ground — The Roof

B 2  
was scarce-ly

104

S 1

S 2

A 1

A 2

T 1

T 2

B 1

B 2

Since 'tis

A - gain

runs the ru - ined town then 'tis

in the ground since 'tis

Cor nice

The

vi - si - ble 'tis

*III*

S 1  
Cen - tu - ries 'tis Cen - - - tu -

S 2  
*I see my nob - le friend I*

A 1  
Cen - tu - - - ries 'tis Cen - tu - ries Feels \_\_\_\_\_

A 2  
Cen - - - tu - - - ries Feels \_\_\_\_\_ shor -

T 1  
8 and \_\_\_\_\_ yet \_\_\_\_\_ Feels \_\_\_\_\_ shor -

T 2  
8 and \_\_\_\_\_ yet \_\_\_\_\_

B 1  
'tis Cen - tu - ries Feels \_\_\_\_\_ shor - ter

B 2  
Cen - - - tu - - - ries and yet Feels \_\_\_\_\_ shor - ter

117

S 1  
ries Feels shor - ter than the Day \_\_\_\_\_

S 2  
see my nob - le friend d - - - part

A 1  
shor - ter I first sur - mised the

A 2  
ter than \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ The \_\_\_\_\_ Hor -

T 1  
8 - ter than the Day I first sur - mised the Hor - ses' Heads \_\_\_\_\_ were to - ward

T 2  
8 Feels \_\_\_\_\_ shor - ter than the Day I first sur - mised the Hor - ses' Heads were to - ward E -

B 1  
I first sur - mised the Hor - ses' Heads Were \_\_\_\_\_ to - ward E -

B 2  
I first sur - mised the Hor - ses' Heads Were \_\_\_\_\_ tp - ward E -

123

S 1  
to - ward E - ter - ni - ty My heart

S 2  
de - - part de - - part to -

A 1  
Hor - ses' Heads Were to - ward E - ter - ni - ty my heart

A 2  
- - - ses' Heads were to - - - ward

T 1  
8 E - ter - ni - ty E ter ni ty

T 2  
8 - - - ter - ni - - ty my

B 1  
- ter - ni - ty E - ter - ni - ty

B 2  
- ter ni ty

129

S 1  
my heart is crowded full of par -

S 2  
ward E - ter - ni - ty to - ward

A 1  
my heart my heart my heart my

A 2  
E - ter - ni - ty E - ter -

T 1  
8 E - ter - ni - ty my heart

T 2  
8 heart E - ter - ni - ty my heart

B 1  
E - ter - ni - ty

B 2  
my heart my heart

136

S 1  
ting's fee - lings my heart my heart

S 2  
E - ter - ni - ty

A 1  
heart my heart my heart my heart

A 2  
ni - ty E - ter - - - ni - ty

T 1  
E - - - ter - - - ni - ty my

T 2  
E - ter - - - ni - ty my

B 1  
E - ter - ni - ty

B 2  
my heart heart my heart

143

A musical score for eight parts: Soprano 1 (S 1), Soprano 2 (S 2), Alto 1 (A 1), Alto 2 (A 2), Tenor 1 (T 1), Tenor 2 (T 2), Bass 1 (B 1), and Bass 2 (B 2). The score is in 7/4 time and consists of two measures. The lyrics are "my heart" for S 1, "my heart" for A 1, "my heart" for A 2, and "heart" for T 1 and T 2. S 1 and S 2 have whole notes. A 1 and A 2 have quarter notes. T 1 has a half note with a slur. T 2 has a whole note. B 1 and B 2 have whole rests.

S 1  
*my* *heart*

S 2

A 1  
*my* *heart*

A 2  
*my* *heart*

T 1  
*heart*

T 2  
*heart*

B 1

B 2