

Chris McCurry

FIVE POEMS OF  
JOHN DONNE

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For Vanessa Williamson

Chris McCurry

## I At the round earth's imagined corners

Mezzo-Soprano

$\text{♩} = 64$

*p* 3

At the round earth's im-ag-ined cor-ners

Piano

4

*mf*

Mez. blow your trum-pets, an - gels, and a-rise, a-rise, from

Pno. *mf*

6

Mez. death, you num-ber-less in - fi ni-ties of souls, and to your scat-tered bo-dies

Pno.

8

Mez. *mp* 3

go: All whom the flood did, and fire shall o'er-

Pno.

*p*

10

Mez. 3

-throw, All whom war, dearth, age, a-gues, ty - ran-nies, Des

Pno.

13

Mez. 3

-pair, law, chance hath slain, and you whose eyes shall be-hold

Pno.

16 *f*

Mez. *f*

God, and ne - ver taste death's woe.

Pno. *p*

19 *mp*

Mez. *mp*

But let them sleep, Lord, and me mourn a space,

Pno.

22 *mp* *mf*

Mez. *mp* *mf*

For if a - bove all these my sins a - bound, 'Tis late to ask a -

Pno. *mp*

24

Mez. *mp*

- bun - dance of thy grace when we are there. Here on this

Pno. *p*

26

Mez.

low - ly ground teach me how to re - pent, for that's as good as

Pno.

28

Mez. *poco rit.*

if thou had'st sealed my par - don with thy blood.

Pno. *poco rit.* *p*

## II O to vex me (in two tone-rows)

Chris McCurry

Mezzo-Soprano

$\text{♩} = 60$   
*p*

O, to vex me con-tra-ries meet in one; in - con - stan-cy\_ un

Piano

$\text{♩} = 60$   
*p*  
*sim.*

Mez.

35

-na-tu-ral-ly hath be - got a con-stant ha-bit, that when I would not, I change in

Pno.

Mez.

39

vows and in de - vo-tion. As hu-mo-rous is my con

Pno.

*mp*  
*p*  
3

43

Mez. *sim.*

-tri-tion as my pro-fane love, and as soon for-got, as rid-dling-ly dis

Pno.

47

Mez. *mf*

-tem-pered, cold and hot; I durst not view hea-ven yes-ter-day, and to

Pno. *mf*

51

Mez. *mp*

- day in prayers and flat-ter-ing speech-es I court God; to-

Pno.

54

Mez. *p*

- mor-row I quake with true fear of his rod. So my de-

Pno. *p*

58

Mez. *mp*

vout fits come and go a - way like a fan - tas-tic a - gue, save that

Pno. *pp*

63

Mez. *poco rit.* *p*

here those are my best days when I quake with fear.

Pno. *poco rit.* *ppp*

# III Wilt thou forgive

Chris McCurry

Mezzo-Soprano

$\text{♩} = 72$   
*mp*

Wilt thou for - give that sin where I be - gun,

Piano

$\text{♩} = 72$   
*mp*

Mez.

70

which is my sin, though it were done be - fore? Wilt thou for - give those

Pno.

Mez.

74

*cresc.*

sins through which I run, and do run still, though still I do de-

Pno.

*cresc.*

77 *f* *mp*

Mez. *f* *mp*

plore? When thou hast done, thou hast not done, for I have

Pno. *f* *mp*

81 *p*

Mez. *p*

more. Wilt thou for-give that sin by which I won

Pno. *p*

86

Mez.

o-thers to sin, and made my sin their door? Wilt thou for - give that

Pno.

90 *cresc.*

Mez. 
  
sin which I did shun a year or two, but wal-lowed in a

Pno. 
  
*cresc.*

93 *f* *mp*

Mez. 
  
score? When thou hast done, thou hast not done, for I have more.

Pno. 
  
*mf* *p*

98 *p* *pp*

Mez. 
  
I have a sin of fear, that when I've spun my last thread, I shall pe-rish on the

Pno. 
  
*p* *pp*

104 *cresc.*

Mez. *mp* *mf*

shore; swear by thy - self that at my death thy Sun shall shine as it shines

Pno. *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

108 *f*

Mez. *f*

now, and here-to - fore; and hav-ing done that, thou

Pno. *f*

111 *mf* *rit.* *p*

Mez. *mf* *rit.* *p*

hast done, I fear no more.

Pno. *mf* *p*

# IV Batter my heart

Chris McCurry

**Mezzo-Soprano**

**Agitato** ♩ = 96

*f*

Bat-ter my heart, three -

**Piano**

**Agitato** ♩ = 96

*f*

118

**Mez.**

per-soned God, for you as yet but knock, breathe, shine, and seek to mend;

**Pno.**

123

**Mez.**

that I may rise and stand, o'erthrow me and bend your force to break, blow

**Pno.**

128

Mez. burn, and make me new. I,

Pno.

133

Mez. *mp* like an u - surp-ed town to an - o - ther due la - bour to ad - mit you, but

Pno. *mp*

138

Mez. O, to no end. *mf* Rea - son, your vi - ce-roy in

Pno. *mp*

143

Mez. me, me should de-fend, but is cap-tived and proves weak or un -

Pno.

148

Mez. - true. Yet dear-ly I love you, and would be loved

Pno. *pp* *mp*

154

Mez. fain, but am be-trothed un - to your e - ne-my. Di - vorce me, un - tie, or

Pno. *p* *f*

159

Mez.

Pno.

164

Mez.

Pno.

168

Mez.

Pno.

# V Death, be not proud

Chris McCurry

**Mezzo-Soprano**

*mf*  $\text{♩} = 64$  **Triumphant**

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee

**Piano**

*mf*  $\text{♩} = 64$  **Triumphant**

**Mez.**

175

might-y and dread-ful, for thou art not so, for

**Pno.**

**Mez.**

178

those whom thou think-est thou dost o-ver - throw die not, poor death, nor

**Pno.**

*f*

181

Mez. *mp*

yet canst thou kill me. From rest and sleep, which but thy pic - tures

Pno. *mp*

185

Mez.

be, much plea - sure, — then from thee much more must flow, —

Pno.

188

Mez.

— and soon-est our best men with thee do go, rest of their bones and souls' de-

Pno.

192

Mez. *mp*

- li - ve - ry... Thou art slave to Fate, Chance, kings, and

Pno. *mp*

195

Mez. *mf*

de - spe - rate men, - and dost with poi - son, war, and sick - ness dwell, and

Pno.

198

Mez. *f*

pop - py, or charms can make us sleep as well, and bet - ter, than thy stroke.

Pno. *mf*

202

Mez.

Pno.

*mp* *cresc.*

3

206

Mez.

Pno.

*f*

3

Why swel-lest thou then? One short sleep past, we wake e - ter-nal-ly, and

*f*

3

209

Mez.

Pno.

*ff* *molto rit.*

death shall be no more: death, thou shalt die.

*ff* *molto rit.*