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An Amethyst Remembrance

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An Amethyst Remembrance

(2019)

poem by Emily Dickinson

DUO

For Soprano and Piano

Op.10

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Emily Dickinson

J#245

I held a Jewel in my fingers
And went to sleep
The day was warm, and winds were prosy
I said, "Twill keep"

I woke - and chide my honest fingers,
The Gem was gone
And now, an Amethyst remembrance
Is all I own

An Amethyst Remembrance is one of Emily Dickinson's poems that most vividly depicts the sense of loss. She is good at portraying this kind intriguing emotions at times, when summer slipped away, she would feel emptiness and sigh, "As imperceptibly as Grief/ The Summer lapsed away / Too imperceptible at last." At others, she seemed to come to terms with this incompleteness, and would say, "That it will never come again/ Is what makes life so sweet." Nonetheless, in *An Amethyst Remembrance* she turned the fleeting sense of loss into an eternal memory, transforming it into a noble compensation. This is a poem that shows great changes both in the plot and in the inner voice. Consequently, when composing the song, I put a lot of efforts into depicting this stark contrast.

At the beginning of the song, the soprano whispers the most important motions in each phrase of the poem: sleep, keep, gone, own. Everything is gratifying, and she talks to herself in such a tranquil and calm manner that no one can see what's coming next. Because overnight, the gem that really exists during the day is gone! From being frightened, angry, desperate, to gradually relieved, the soprano is no longer simply "singing," but making the protagonist who hides behind the poem come to life. Those emotional ups and downs are what really impressed me.

An Amethyst Remembrance

(2019)

Poem : Emily Dickinson
Yi-Fan CHEN

(whisper) *pp* *p* *(mutter)* *mp* *p* *mf*

sleep keep sleep gone keep own

S G K O S G K O K G S O S K S K K S G S K O S G K

S = sleep
G = gone
K = keep
O = own

7 *f*

ow n

12 *mp*

I held a jew-el in my fin- gers.

p *mp*

3 5 3

16 *mf*

I held a jew-el in my fin- gers.

mf *f*

3 5 5

19 *f* *sub.p* *f* *ff* *f*

I held, I held a jew - el in my hon

23 *mf* *mp* *p*

est fin - gers and went to sleep.

28 *p*

The day was warm and winds were pro - sy.

pp

32 *mp*

I held a jewel in my fingers and went to sleep went to sleep. the day I said

p

36 *mf* *f* *sub. mp*

I said the day the day I said I said

mp *f* *sub. mp*

41 *mp* *p* *pp*

Twill keep will keep. (hm)

mp *p* *pp*

46 *ppp* *port.* *p* *mp*

I woke. I woke.

p *mp accel.*

51 *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *f*

I woke I woke I woke I (Oh)

mf *f* *mp* *mf* *f*

53 *ff* *fff* *sub. mp* *accel.*

(Ah) I woke The gem was gone. I held a jew-el I said Twill keep I said Twill keep_ I held a jew-el

57 *fff* *fff* *sigh* *mp*

I chid my hon-est_ hon-est fin-gers. I chid my hon-est_ hon-est fin-gers. The gem was gone was

61

gone. and now,

mp

mp

mf

mp *rit.*

65

An am-e-thyst re-mem-brance is all is all I own.

p

pp *perdendosi*

pp

ppp *perdendosi*