

Strong As Death (Three Songs on Love)

for Medium Voice and Piano

1. An Evening Song

Paul Gibson

Attributed to Esther Mathews

$\text{♩} = 90$

Voice

Piano

mp

p

5

can't be talk-in' of love, dear, I can't be

p

10

cresc. talk-in' of love, *mf* if there be *dim.* one thing I

cresc. *mf* *dim.*

The musical score is written for voice and piano in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 90. The score is divided into three systems. The first system shows the beginning of the piece with a piano dynamic of *mp* and a voice part starting with a *p* dynamic. The second system begins at measure 5 and includes the lyrics 'can't be talk-in' of love, dear, I can't be'. The piano part has a *p* dynamic. The third system begins at measure 10 and includes the lyrics 'talk-in' of love, if there be one thing I'. This system features dynamic markings of *cresc.*, *mf*, and *dim.* for both the voice and piano parts.

15

p *pp*

can't talk of, that one thing do be love.

p *pp*

21

poco rit. *a tempo* *mp*

I

a tempo

molto legato *cresc. poco a poco* *mf* *poco rit.* *mp*

26

cresc.

can't be talk-in' of love, dear, I can't be

cresc.

31

mf *dim. poco a poco*

talk-in' of love, if there be one thing I

mf *dim. poco a poco*

3

2. Infinite Fires

The Song of Songs *

Marcia Lee Falk, tr.

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 72$ $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

Voice

Piano

p *f*

Stamp — me in your

mf

8

9

heart, Up — on your limbs, , *mf* *intenso* Sear — my em — blem

mp

8

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 Excerpted from *The Song of Songs*:
A New Translation and Interpretation (Harper, 1990).
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12

poco f

deep In - to your skin. _____ For love _____ is strong - as

15

death, _____ Harsh _____ as the grave. _____ Its tongues are

18

flames, a fierce And ho - ly blaze. _____

cresc.

20

f _____ *p* _____ *mp*

3. He Fumbles At Your Spirit

Emily Dickinson, alt.

Slow, intense, sustained * ♩ = c. 100

Voice

Piano

mp

He fum - bles at your

f *mp* *p sostenuto sempre* *mp*

6

p *mf*

spir - it As play - ers at the keys Be - fore they drop full

p *mf*

10

pp *cresc. poco a poco*

mus - ic on; He stuns you by de - grees, Pre - pares your brit - tle

pp *cresc. poco a poco*

* Additional interpretive suggestions: resigned, rarefied, purified, somewhat detached, incredulous.

The tempo should be felt as a very slow two.

14 *f* *mp* *p*

sub - stance For the e - the - real blow, By faint - er ham - mers,

18 *cresc.* *f*

fur - ther heard, Then near - er, then so slow Your breath has time to

22 *dim. poco a poco* *(no rit.)* *p* *Slower*

straight - en, Your mind to bub - ble cool, Deals

27 *short pp* *molto rit.* *ppp*

one im - pe - rial thun - der - bolt That scalps your na - ked soul.