

A GIRL'S GARDEN*

A neighbor of mine in the village
Likes to tell how one spring
When she was a girl on the farm, she did
A childlike thing.

One day she asked her father
To give her a garden plot
To plant and tend and reap herself,
And he said, 'Why not?'

In casting about for a corner
He thought of an idle bit
Of walled-off ground where a shop had stood,
And he said, 'Just it.'

And he said, 'That ought to make you
An ideal one-girl farm,
And give you a chance to put some strength
On your slim-jim arm.'

It was not enough of a garden,
Her father said, to plow;
So she had to work it all by hand,
But she don't mind now.

She wheeled the dung in the wheelbarrow
Along a stretch of road;
But she always ran away and left
Her not-nice load,

And hid from anyone passing.
And then she begged the seed.
She says she thinks she planted one
Of all things but weed.

A hill each of potatoes,
Radishes, lettuce, peas,
Tomatoes, beets, beans, pumpkins, corn
And even fruit trees.

And yes, she has long mistrusted
That a cider apple tree
In bearing there today is hers,
Or at least may be.

Her crop was a miscellany
When all was said and done,
A little bit of everything,
A great deal of none.

Now when she sees in the village
How village things go,
Just when it seems to come in right,
She says, '*I* know!

'It's as when I was a farmer —'
Oh, never by way of advice!
And she never sins by telling the tale
To the same person twice.

Robert Frost

To the Townspeople of Amherst, Massachusetts, 1759-1959

A Girl's Garden*

for three-part chorus of women's voices with piano or band or orchestra

Robert Frost

Randall Thompson

Allegro con brio (♩ = 126)

SOPRANO

ALTO I

ALTO II

PIANO

Allegro con brio (♩ = 126)

SOPRANO, ALTO I, ALTO II in unison 5

A neigh-bor of mine in the vil-lage Likes to tell how one spring When

5

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she was a girl on a farm, She did a child-like thing. One

10
day she ask'd her fa-ther To give her a gar-den plot To

plant and tend and reap her-self, And he said, 'Why not?'

15
simile staccato 15
In

Allegro

when I was a farm-er-
Oh, nev-er by way of ad-

when I was a farm-er-
Oh, nev-er by way of ad-

when I was a farm-er-
Oh, nev-er by way of ad-

Allegro

Lento

rall. *pp* *p* *f* 80
vice! And she nev-er sins by tell-ing the tale-

rall. *pp* *p* *f* 80
vice! And she nev-er sins by tell-ing the tale-

rall. *pp* *p* *f* 80
vice! And she nev-er sins by tell-ing the tale-

(rall.) Lento 80
p *f*