

Tõnu Kõrvits

***St. Michael Songs***

*for mixed choir (S, MS, A, T, B, B)*

*lyrics by Emily Dickinson*

2021

*written for the Southern Chorale, Gregory Fuller  
and the St. Michael Church in Biloxi, MS.*

*To my sisters and brothers in blues.*

## I

On this wondrous sea,  
Sailing silently,  
Ho! Pilot, ho!  
Knowest thou the shore  
Where no breakers roar,  
Where the storm is o'er?

In the silent west  
Many sails at rest,  
Their anchors fast;  
Thither I pilot thee, —  
Land, ho! Eternity!  
Ashore at last!

## II

If I can stop one heart from breaking,  
I shall not live in vain;  
If I can ease one life the aching,  
Or cool one pain,  
Or help one fainting robin  
Unto his nest again,  
I shall not live in vain.

## III

An Hour is a Sea  
Between a few, and me—  
With them would Harbor be—

## IV

My River runs to thee:  
Blue Sea! Wilt welcome me?  
My River waits reply.  
Oh Sea, look graciously!  
I'll fetch thee Brooks  
From spotted nooks,—  
Say, Sea,  
Take Me!

## V

Adrift! A little boat adrift!  
And night is coming down!  
Will no one guide a little boat  
Unto the nearest town?

So Sailors say—on yesterday—  
Just as the dusk was brown  
One little boat gave up its strife  
And gurgled down and down.

So angels say—on yesterday—  
Just as the dawn was red  
One little boat—o'erspent with gales—  
Retrimmed its masts—redecked its sails—  
And shot—exultant on!

## VI

Our journey had advanced;  
Our feet were almost come  
To that odd fork in Being's road,  
Eternity by term.

Our pace took sudden awe,  
Our feet reluctant led.  
Before were cities, but between,  
The forest of the dead.

Retreat was out of hope,—  
Behind, a sealed route,  
Eternity's white flag before,  
And God at every gate.

# St. Michael Songs

Emily Dickinson

Tõnu Kõrvits

## I on this wondrous sea

♩ = ca 72

S  
MS  
A

T  
B  
B

*pp* *poco* *sim.*

Ho! Ho! Ho! Ho! Ho! Pi - lot,

Ho! Ho! Ho! Ho! Ho! Pi - lot,

Ho! Ho! Ho! Ho! Ho! Pi - lot,

7

*pp* *3* *3* *3*

On this won-drous sea sai - ling

On this won-drous sea sai - ling

On this won-drous sea sai - ling

Ho! Ho! Ho! Ho! Ho!

Ho! Ho! Ho! Ho! Ho!

Ho! Ho! Ho! Ho! Ho!

## II if I can stop one heart from breaking

$\text{♩} = \text{ca } 132$

S

MS *p*  
If I can stop one heart, can stop one heart from

A *p*  
Oh

T

B *p*  
Oh

B *p*  
Oh

6 *pp* *poco*  
I shall not live in vain,

brea - king, *pp* *poco*  
I shall not live in vain,

*pp* *poco*  
I shall not live in vain,

*pp* *poco*  
I shall not live in vain,

*pp* *poco*  
I shall not live in vain,

*pp* *poco*  
I shall not live in vain,

### III an hour is a sea

$\text{♩} = \text{ca } 80$

*pp* *pochissimo*

T  
An hour is a sea

B  
An hour is a sea

B

5

be - tween a few and me.

be - tween a few and me.

*pp*

me.

9

An hour is a sea, is a

An hour is a sea, is a

is a sea, is a

# IV my river runs to thee

♩ = ca 84

*pp*

S My ri - ver runs to thee, my ri - ver runs to thee, my

MS *pp* My ri - ver runs to

A *pp* My ri - ver

T Mm

B Mm

B Mm

5

ri - ver runs to thee, my ri - ver runs to thee, my

thee, my ri - ver runs to

runs to thee, my ri - ver

# V adrift! a little boat adrift!

♩ = ca 120

*ff*

S  
A - drift! A litt - le boat a - drift, a - drift and

MS  
A - drift! A litt - le boat a - drift, a - drift and

A  
A - drift! A litt - le boat a - drift, a - drift and

T  
A - drift! A litt - le boat a - drift, a - drift and

B  
A - drift! A litt - le boat a - drift, a - drift and

B  
A - drift! A litt - le boat a - drift, a - drift and

5

*p*

night is com-ing down, is com-ing down! A - drift! Will

*p*

night is com-ing down, is com-ing down! A - drift! Will

*p*

night is com-ing down, is com-ing down! A - drift! Will

*p*

night is com-ing down, is com-ing down! A-drift! Will

*p*

night is com-ing down, is com-ing down! A-drift! Will

# VI our journey had advanced

♩ = 48-52

*pp*

Our jour - ney had ad - vanced; our

Our jour - - - ney had ad - vanced; our

3

feet were al - most come to that odd fork in

feet al - most come to that odd fork in

*pp*

Oh

*pp*

Oh

*pp*

Oh

*pp*

Oh