

Because I could not stop for Death

Emily Dickinson
(1830-1886)

Robert Train Adams
(1988)

♩ = 120

1 2 3 4

Soprano
mp Be-cause I could not stop for Death— He kind - ly stopped for me—

Alto
mp Be-cause I could not stop for Death— He kind - ly stopped for me—

Tenor
mp Be-cause I could not stop for Death— He kind - ly stopped for me—

Bass
mp Be - cause I could not stop for Death— He kind - ly stopped for me— The

5 6 7 8 9

S
cresc. The Car - riage held but just Our - selves— And *dim.* Im - mor - tal - i - ty. *p* (Be

A
cresc. The Car - riage held but just Our - selves— And *dim.* Im - mor - tal - i - ty. *p* (Be

T
cresc. The Car-riage held but just Our - selves—Our - selves— And *dim.* Im - mor - tal - i - ty. *p* (Be

B
cresc. The Car-riage held but just Our - selves— just Our - selves— And *dim.* Im - mor - tal - i - ty. *p* (Be -

Car-riage held but *cresc.* just Our - selves— just Our - selves— And *dim.* Im - mor - tal - i - ty. *p*

10 11 12 13 14

S
cause I could not stop) *mp* We slow - ly drove— He *cresc.* knew no haste And *poco* I had put a -

A
cause I could not stop) *mp* We slow - ly drove— He *cresc.* knew no haste And *poco* I had put a-way My

T
cause I could not stop) *mp* We slow - ly drove— He *cresc.* knew no haste And *poco* I had put a-way My

B
cause I could not stop) *mp* We slow - ly drove— He *cresc.* knew no haste And *poco* I had put a-way My

cause I could not stop) *mp* We slow - ly drove— He *cresc.* knew no haste And *poco* I had put a-way My

15 16 17 18

S way My la - bor and my lei - sure too, For His Ci - vil - i - ty—

A la - bor and my lei - sure too, For His Ci - vil - i - ty—

T la - bor and my lei - sure too, For His Ci - vil - i - ty—

B la - bor and my lei - sure too, For His Ci - vil - i - ty—

a *poco*

19 20 21 22

S (He kind - ly) We passed the School, where Chil - dren strove At Re-cess— in the

A (He kind - ly) We passed the School, where Chil - dren strove At Re-cess— in the

T (He kind - ly) We passed the School, where Chil - dren strove At Re-cess— in the

B (He kind - ly)

p *mp*

23 24 25 26 27

S Ring— We passed the Fields of Gaz-ing Grain— We passed the Sun, the Set-ting

A Ring— We passed the Fields of Gaz-ing Grain— We passed the Sun, the Set-ting

T Ring— We passed the Fields of Gaz-ing Grain— We passed the Sun, the Set-ting

B Ring— We passed the Fields of Gaz-ing Grain— We passed the Set - ting

mp

28 29 30 31 32

S Sun— Or ra-ther— He passed Us— The Dews drew qui-ver-ing and *dim.*

A Sun— Or ra-ther— He passed Us— The Dews drew qui-ver-ing and *dim.*

T Sun— ra-ther— He passed Us— The Dews drew qui-ver-ing and *dim.*

B Sun— Or ra-ther— He passed Us— The Dews drew qui-ver-ing and *dim.*

33 34 35 36 37

S chill— For on - ly Gos - sa - mer, my Gown— My Tip - pet— on - ly Tulle—

A chill— For on - ly Gos - sa - mer, my Gown— My Tip - pet— on - ly Tulle—

T chill— For on - ly Gos - sa - mer, my Gown— My Tip - pet— on - ly Tulle—

B chill— For on - ly Gos - sa - mer, my Gown— My Tip - pet— on - ly Tulle— We

38 39 40 41 42

S We pausedbe - fore a House that seemed A Swel - ling of the Ground— The

A We pausedbe - fore a House that seemed A Swel - ling of the Ground— The

T We pausedbe - fore a House, a House that seemed A Swel - ling of the Ground— The

B We pausedbe - fore a House, a House that seemed A Swel - ling of the Ground— The

paused be - fore, be - fore a House that seemed A Swel - ling of the Ground— The

cresc. *dim.* *dim.* *dim.*

43 44 45 46 47

S Roof was scarce - ly vis - i - ble— The Cor - nice— in the Ground—

A Roof was scarce - ly vis - i - ble— The Cor - nice— in the Ground—

T Roof was scarce - ly vis - i - ble— The Cor - nice— in the Ground— Since

B Roof was scarce - ly vis - i - ble— The Cor - nice— in the Ground— Since

48 49 50 51 52

S and yet Feels short - er short - er

A and yet Feels short - er, Feels short - er, short - er

T then— tis Cen - tu - ries— and yet Feels short - er, Feels short - er, short - er

B then— tis Cen - tu - ries— and yet Feels short - er, Feels short - er, Feels short - er,

53 54 55 56 57 58

S than the Day the Day I first sur - mised the Horse - s' Heads Were toward E - ter - ni - ty—

A than the Day the Day I first sur - mised the Horse - s' Heads Were toward E - ter - ni - ty—

T than the Day the Day I first sur - mised the Horse - s' Heads Were toward E - ter - ni - ty—

B than the Day the Day I first sur - mised the Horse - s' Heads Were toward E - ter - ni - ty—

Feels short - er than the Day I first sur - mised the Horse - s' Heads Were toward E - ter - ni - ty—

cresc. *dim. e rall.*