

'Twas Just This Time Last Year I Died

(from "The Emily Cycle")

Poem by
Emily Dickinson

Music by
Glenn Mehrbach

Lightly ♩ = 88

mp

'Twas just this time, last year, I died.

mp

This system contains the first four measures of the piece. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Lightly' with a quarter note equal to 88 beats per minute. The dynamics are marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The lyrics are: "'Twas just this time, last year, I died."

5

I know I heard the corn When I was car-ried by the farms It had the tas - sels

This system contains measures 5 through 8. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "I know I heard the corn When I was car-ried by the farms It had the tas - sels". The piano accompaniment features a consistent rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The key signature remains B-flat major. The system concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

9

on *mf* I thought how yel-low it would

This system contains measures 9 through 12. The vocal line begins with the word "on" and continues with the lyrics: "I thought how yel-low it would". The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern. The dynamics are marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). The key signature changes to C major (no sharps or flats) starting in measure 10. The system concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

'Twas Just This Time Last Year I Died

12

look When Rich-ard went to mill And then I want-ed to get out But some-thing held my will

15

I thought just how Red Ap-ples wedged The stub-ble's joints be-tween

17

And carts went stoop-ing 'round the fields To take the pump-kins in

20

I won-dered which would miss me least And when Thanks-giv-ing

'Twas Just This Time Last Year I Died

24

came If Fath - er'd mul-ti-ply the plates To make an e - ven

f

f

Detailed description: This system contains measures 24 through 27. The vocal line begins with a whole rest in measure 24, followed by a half note 'came', a quarter note 'If', a quarter note 'Fath - er'd', a quarter note 'mul-ti-ply', a quarter note 'the plates', and a quarter note 'To make an e - ven'. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a dotted quarter-note pattern in the left hand. A dynamic marking of *f* is present at the start of measure 25 and again at the start of measure 27.

28

sum_____ And if my stock-ing hung too high Would it

mp

mp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 28 through 31. The vocal line starts with a whole rest in measure 28, then a quarter note 'sum', followed by a quarter note 'And if my stock-ing hung', a quarter note 'too high', and a quarter note 'Would it'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic patterns as the previous system. A dynamic marking of *mp* is placed above the vocal line in measure 29 and below the piano accompaniment in measure 29.

32

blur the Christ - mas glee That not a San - ta Claus could reach The al - ti-tude of

mf

mf

Detailed description: This system contains measures 32 through 35. The vocal line begins with a whole rest in measure 32, followed by a quarter note 'blur the Christ - mas glee', a quarter note 'That not a San - ta Claus could reach', a quarter note 'The al - ti-tude of'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic patterns. A dynamic marking of *mf* is placed above the vocal line in measure 33 and below the piano accompaniment in measure 33. The system concludes with a double bar line and a 4/4 time signature change.

'Twas Just This Time Last Year I Died

35 **A bit slower**
p

me But this sort grieved my-self, and so

8va

p

39 **poco a poco ritard.**
mp

I thought how it would be When just this time Some per-fect year

loco

mp

43 **A tempo**
p

Them-selves should come to me

8va

p