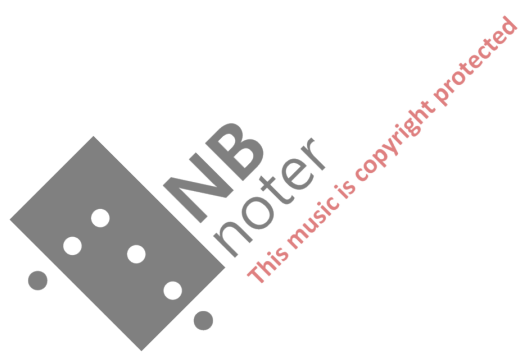


Marilena Zlatanou

THREE WOMEN

for mezzo-soprano solo



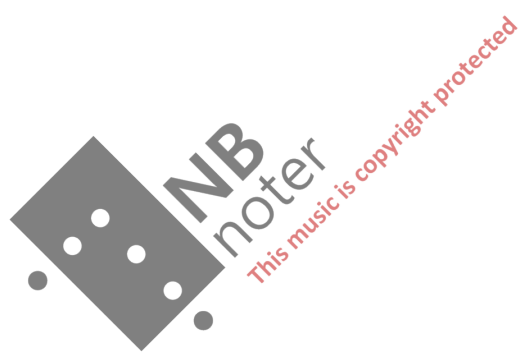


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Two lyricists: **1.** American poet Emily Dickinson (1830 – 1886): *Hope, I' nobody*, *Compensation*
2. African-American poet and playwright Georgia Douglas Johnson (1880–1966): *The Heart of A Woman*
and **3.** One composer: Greek-Norwegian Marilena Zlatanou

All four poems were originally composed for SATB a cappella choir and rearranged for solo voice by the composer

The singer may use a tuning fork when needed.

OPTIONAL: She may also use discreet percussive body effects (ex.: clapping, trumping, finger-snapping), or small percussive instruments (ex.: small wood blocks) at the places marked by X, if she wishes to do so.

Duration ca 7'45"

Emily Dickinson

Marilena Zlatanou (2023)

SOPRANO $\text{♩} = 100$ *mp*

Hope is the thing with fea - thers____ That per - ches in the soul,

6 *mf*

S. And sings the tune with-out the words, And ne - ver stops at all_____

11 *mp*

S. _____ And ne - ver stops at all And ne - ver stops at all.____

18 *mf*

S. And_____ swee - test in the gale is heard; And sore_____ must be the

27 X

S. storm,_____ the storm_____ That could a - bash the lit - tle bird That_____

36

S. kept so ma - ny warm._____ so ma - ny war - m_____

48 *(mf)*

S. I've heard it in the chil - - lest cold And_____ on the_____

57 X *f*

S. stran - gest sea_____ Yet,_____ ne-ver in ex - tre - mi - ty, it asked a

69 *p*

S. crumb of me ne - ver asked a crumb_____ of_____

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77
S. *(p)*
me._____ Hope is the thing with fea - thers_____ That per - ches in the

83
S. *mf*
soul And sings the tune with-out the words, And ne - ver stops at all_____

89
S. *mf*
_____ And ne - ver stops at all And ne - ver stops Hope is the

94
S. *f* *sub p* *mf* *a tempo*
thing with fea - thers_____ And ne - ver stops at all. Hope_____

Emily Dickinson

103
S. *♩=100* *mp* *3* *mf*
I'm nobody! Who are you? - spoken freely, randomly,
humorously and varied, and even perhaps addressing the public? ... Are you no-bo-dy too? Then

111
S. *mf*
there's a pair of us, then there's a pair of us, Then there's a pair of _____

116
S. *sub pp* *mf* *mp* *f*
us._____ don't tell! They'd ba - nish us, you know. They'd

123
S. *mf*
ba - nish us, How drea - ry to be some - bo - dy! How pub - lic, like a

128
S. *mf*
frrr - o - g To tell your name the live - long day to an ad - mi - ring

132
S. *f*
bo - g! To_____ tell your name the live - long day to an ad - mi - -

138
S. *non rit*
- ring bo - - - - - g!

Emily Dickinson

144 *mf*
S. For each ec - sta - tic in - stant We must in an - guish

151 *p* *mf*
S. pay must in an - guish pay in keen and qui - ve - ring

158 *ff*
S. ra - tio to the ec - sta - cy ec - sta - cy ec -

166 *mp* *mf*
S. - sta - cy For each be - lo - ved hour

175 *3*
S. Sharp pit - tan - ces of years Bit - ter con - te - sted far - things and

183 *p* *pp parlando*
S. cof - fers heaped with tears tears tears tears

Georgia Douglas Johnson

190 *♩=100* *mp* *mf*
S. The heart of a wo - ma - n goes forth with the dawn,


196 *mp* *p* *mp*
S. As a lone bird, soft win - ging so rest - les - sly on, so


202 *mf*
S. rest - les - sly on A - far o'er life's tur - rets and vales does it roam,

207 *p*
S. A - far o'er life's tur - rets and vales does it roam, roam,

213 *mf* *pp* *mf*
S. In the wake of those e - choes, e - choes, the heart calls home

220
S. 
e - choes the heart calls home _____ The

226
S. 
heart of a wo - ma - n falls back _____ with the night _____ And en - ters some

233 *mf*
S. 
a - lien cage in its plight, _____ And tries to for - get _____ it has dreamed of the

240
S. 
stars _____ the stars, _____ the stars, _____ while it

248 *sub p parlando mf*
S. 
breaks, breaks, breaks, breaks, breaks, breaks on the shel - te - ring,

253 *f mp pp a niente*
S. 
shel - te - ring bars. _____ The heart of a wo - ma - n _____

*HOPE is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the words,
And never stops at all,*

*And sweetest in the gale is heard;
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little bird
That kept so many warm.*

*I've heard it in the chillest land,
And on the strangest sea;
Yet, never, in extremity,
It asked a crumb of me.*

*I'M NOBODY
I'm nobody! Who are you?
Are you nobody, too?
Then there's a pair of us-don't tell!
They'd banish us, you know.*

*How dreary to be somebody!
How public, like a frog
To tell your name the livelong day
To an admiring bog!*

*COMPENSATION
For each ecstatic instant
We must an anguish pay
In keen and quivering ratio
To the ecstasy.*

*For each beloved hour
Sharp pinnacles of years,
Bitter contested farthings
And coffers heaped with tears.*

*THE HEART OF A WOMAN
The heart of a woman goes forth with the dawn,
As a lone bird, soft winging, so restlessly on,
Afar o'er life's turrets and vales does it roam
In the wake of those echoes the heart calls home.
The heart of a woman falls back with the night,
And enters some alien cage in its plight,
And tries to forget it has dreamed of the stars
While it breaks, breaks, breaks on the sheltering bars.*

