



AMERICAN COMPOSERS EDITION

MICHAEL DELLAIRA

NOBODY

for mixed chorus and oboe

2011

American Composers Alliance (BMI)

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nobody

for chorus and oboe

after four poems by Emily Dickinson

michael dellaira

Nobody

was commissioned in 2011 by
The Syracuse Vocal Ensemble,
Robert Cowles, Artistic Director,
and had its first performance on March 3, 2012
at St. Charles Church, Syracuse, New York

I'm Nobody! Who are you?
Are you - Nobody - too?
Then there's a pair of us!
Don't tell! they'd advertise - you know!

How dreary - to be - Somebody!
How public - like a Frog -

To tell one's name - the livelong June -
To an admiring Bog!

Have you got a Brook in your little heart,
Where bashful flowers blow,
And blushing birds go down to drink -
And shadows tremble so -

And nobody knows, so still it flows,
That any brook is there,
And yet your little draught of life
Is daily drunken there -

Why - look out for the little brook in March,
When the rivers overflow,
And the snows come hurrying from the hills,
And the bridges often go -

And *later*, in *August* it may be,
When the meadows parching lie,
Beware, lest this little brook of life,
Some burning noon go dry!

When they come back - If Blossoms do -
I always feel a doubt
If Blossoms can be born again
When once the Art is out -

When they begin, if Robins may,
I always had a fear
I did not tell, it was their last Experiment
Last Year,

When it is May, if May return,
Had nobody a pang
Lest in a Face so beautiful
He might not look again?

If I am there - One does not know
What Party - One may be
Tomorrow, but if I am there
I take back all I say -

On such a night, or such a night,
Would anybody care
If such a little figure
Slipped quiet from its chair,

So quiet - Oh how quiet,
That nobody might know
But that the little figure
Rocked softer - to and fro -

On such a dawn, or such a dawn -
Would anybody sigh
That such a little figure
Too sound asleep did lie

For Chanticleer to wake it -
Or stirring house below -
Or giddy bird in Orchard -
Or early task to do?

There was a little figure plump
For every little knoll,
Busy needles, and spools of thread -
And trudging feet from school -

Playmates, and holidays, and nuts -
And visions vast and small.
Strange that the feet so precious charged
Should reach so small a goal!

Emily Dickinson

NOBODY

after four poems by Emily Dickinson

Michael Dellaira

Adagietto
espressivo

Oboe

p

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

5

Ob.

5

S

p *mf* *p* *mp*

I'm No-bo-dy! Who are you? Are you No-bo-dy

A

T

B

9

Ob.

S

A

T

B

too?

No - bo-dy,

No - bo-dy,

No - bo -

No - bo -

pp

p < *fp*

p < *fp*

p

p

14

Ob.

S

A

T

B

no - bo - dy knows, no - bo - dy knows,

no - bo - dy knows, no - bo - dy knows,

- dy, no - bo - dy knows, no - bo - dy, Have you

- dy, no - bo - dy knows, no - bo - dy knows,

p *mp*

p *mp*

p *mp*

mp

19 *accel.*

Ob. *mp*

S
no - bo - dy knows,

A
no - bo - dy knows, Have you,

T
Have you, have you, have you, no -

B
no, no - bo - dy,

23

Ob.

S

A
have you got, have you, have you got, have you,

T
bo - dy, no - bo - dy, knows, no -

B
Have you, have you, have you got a Brook,

Moving briskly

[♩ = 120 - 160]

27

Ob.

S

A

T

B

mf Have you got a Brook in your

mf have you, no - bo - dy, no - bo - dy

mf bo - dy knows, no - bo - dy, no - bo - dy,

mf no - bo - dy knows, you got a Brook in your

mp

mp

mp

mp

31

Ob.

S

A

T

B

p lit-tle heart, Where bash - ful flo - wers blow,

p knows, no - bo - dy no - bo - dy

p no, bash - ful flow - ers blow,

p lit-tle heart, bash - ful flow - ers blow,

6

36

Ob.

S

mp

blush - ing birds go down to drink,

A

mp

no - bo - dy, no - bo - dy, no - bo - dy, no - bo - dy,

T

mp

And blush - ing birds go down to

B

blow, blush - ing birds go down to

40

Ob.

S

p

and sha - dows trem - ble, trem - ble so,

A

p

And sha - dows trem - ble so,

T

p

drink, And sha - dows trem - ble, and sha - dows

B

drink, And sha - dows trem - ble so,

ritenuto -----

44

Ob.

S *mf* And no - bo - dy knows, *f* *p*

A no - bo - dy, no - bo - dy knows, *f* *p* so still it flows,

T trem - ble, *mf* no - bo - dy knows, *f* *p* so sill it flows,

B *mf* no - bo - dy, no - bo - dy knows, *f* *p* so sitll it flows,

50 ----- *a tempo*

Ob.

S *mf* That a - ny brook is there, And yet your lit - tle

A That a - ny brook is there, no, no,

T *mf* no - bo - dy knows a - ny brook is there, no, no,

B *mf* a - ny brook is there, yet your lit - tle

56 *mf*

Ob. *mf*

S draught of life Is dai - ly drunk - en there.

A no, drunk - en there.

T lit-tle draught of life, dai - ly drunk - en there.

B draught of life, dai - ly drun - ken there.

61 *mp*

Ob. *mp*

S

A *mp* No, knows, knows,

T *mp* No - bo-dy, no - bo-dy knows,

B *mp* And no - bo - dy knows,

Tempo Primo

accel.

66

Ob.

66

S

A

T

B

mp

p

no - bo - dy knows,

no - bo - dy knows,

no - bo - dy, no - bo - dy knows,

no - - - bo - dy knows,

Briskly, as before

70

Ob.

70

S

A

T

B

mp

mp

mp

Why, look out for the lit-tle brook in March,

look out, look out, look out, When the

look out, look out for the lit - tle brook in March, When the ri - ver

74

Ob. *mp* *mf*

S

A *mf*
ri - vers o - ver - flow,

T *mf*
When the ri-vers o - ver - flow,

B *mf*
o - ver-flow, When the ri-vers o - ver - flow,

78

Ob. *mf*

S *mf*
o - ver-flow, the snows come, the snows come, the snows come

A *mf*
And the snows come hur - ry - ing from the hills,

T *mf*
And the snows come hur - ry - ing from the hills,

B *mf*
And the snows come hur - ry - ing from the hills,

82

Ob.

p

S

hur-ry-ing, brid - ges o - ften go.

A

p

and brid - ges of - ten go.

T

8

B

p

brid - ges oft - en go, go.

Meno mosso

86

Ob.

ppp

S

And la - ter, in Au - gust it may be, When the mea-dows

A

p

And la - ter, in Au - gust,

T

p

Au - gust And la - ter, in Au - gust,

B

p

Au - gust, when the mea - dows

91

Ob.

S

A

T

B

par - ching lie, Be - ware, lest this

mea - dows, Be - ware, be - ware, be - ware,

mea - dows parch - ing, Be - ware, this lit - tle,

parch - ing lie, Be - ware, lest this

95

Ob.

S

A

T

B

lit - tle brook of life, Some burn - ing noon go

be - ware, some noon, some noon, go

be - ware, lest this lit - tle brook, Some burn - ing noon go

lit - tle brook of life, Some burn - ing noon go

99

Ob. *mp* *mf*

S *p*

A *p*

T *mp*

B *p*

dry! go dry! dry! go dry! go dry! go dry!

dry! burn - ing noon go dry!

105

Ob. *Vivace* *mf*

S *mf*

A *mf*

T *mf*

B *mf*

Have you got a Brook in your lit - tle heart,

Have you got a Brook in your

14

109

Ob.

S

A

T

B

a Brook in your
 your lit - tle heart, Where bash - ful flow - ers blow,
 lit-tle heart, Where bash - ful flow - ers blow,

113

Ob.

S

A

T

B

And blush - ing birds
 lit - tle heart, And blush - ing birds go down to
 blow, And blush - ing birds go

117

Ob.

S

A

T

B

go down to drink,

drink, and

and sha - dows, and sha - dows trem - ble

down to drink, and sha - dows trem - ble

Adagietto

121

Ob.

f

S

A

T

B

and I, I'm No-bo-dy! Who are you? Are you

and I, I'm No-bo-dy! Who are you? Are you

trem - ble I, I'm No-bo-dy! Who are you? Are you

so, and I, I'm No-bo-dy! Who are you? Are you

125

Ob. *p* *f* *pp* *p*

S
No - bo - dy too? No - bo - dy! No - bo - dy! When

A
No - bo - dy too? No - bo - dy! No - bo - dy!

T
No - bo - dy too? No - bo - dy! No.

B
No - bo - dy too? No - bo - dy! No.

131

Ob.

S
they come back, If blos-soms do, I al - ways feel a doubt If

A
come back, come back, al ways feel a doubt,

T
come, come, come, doubt,

B
they come back, they come back, al - ways feel a doubt,

135

Ob.

S

A

T

B

Blos - soms can be born a - gain When once the Art is out.

Blos - soms can be born a - gain once the Art is out. When

Blos - soms can be born a - gain once the Art is out. When

Blos - soms can be born a - gain once the Art is out.

139

Ob.

S

A

T

B

When they be - gin, if Ro - bins may, al - ways had a fear

they be - gin, if Ro - bins may, I al - ways had a fear I did not tell, *mf*

they be - gin, if Ro - bins may, al - ways had a fear I did not tell, it

When they be - gin, if Ro - bins may, al ways had a fear I did not tell,

143

Ob.

S

A

T

B

p

f

f

p

f

Last Year, Last Year, if May re-turn, Had

was their last Ex - pe-ri-ment Last Year, When it is May, May re-turn, Had

Last Year, if May re-turn, Had

148

Ob.

S

A

T

B

ff

mp

pp

p

ff

mp

mp

ff

mp

pp

p

no - bo-dy a pang, no-bo-dy, so beau - ti - ful,

no - bo-dy a pang, no, Lest in a Face so beau-ti - ful he

no - bo-dy a pang, no, so beau - ti - ful,

no - bo-dy a pang, no, so beau - ti - ful,

Andante, dolce

153

Ob.

S

A

T

B

mp *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *mp*

might not look a - gain? If I am there, If I am there, One

might not look a - gain? If I am there, If I am there, One

might not look a - gain? If I am there, one does not know not

look a - gain? If I am there, one does not know not

159

Ob.

S

A

T

B

mf *mf* *mf* *p*

does not know What Par - ty One may be To - mor - row,

does not know What Par - ty One may be To - mor - row,

know What Par - ty One may be To - mor - row,

know What Par - ty One may be To - mor - row, to

164

Ob. *fp*

S *pp* *mp*

A *pp* *mp*

T *pp* *mp*

B

mor-row,

* 'ow' as in tomorrow

169

Ob.

S *p*

A *mp* *p*

T

B *p*

If I am there,

am there,

take back

174

Ob.

S

A

T

B

mf *p*

say, all I say.

mf *p*

say, take back all I say. On such a

say, say.

mf

all I say.

Allegro con brio

182

Ob.

S

A

T

B

f *mp*

night, or such a night, such a night,

f *mp*

such a night, such a night,

f *mp*

or such a night, such a night,

187

Ob. *p*

S

A *pp* a night, *p* a night, *mp* night,

T *pp* such a night, *p* such a, such a, such a,

B *pp* such a night, *p* such a, such a night, on

193

Ob. *mp*

S *mf* On such a night, or

A *mf* night, *mf* On such a night,

T such a, such a night,

B *mf* such a night, or such a night,

196

Ob.

S

such a night, Would a - ny - bo - dy care If

A

on such a night, a - ny - bo - dy, a - ny - bo - dy care,

T

night, a - ny - bo dy care If

B

such a night, a - ny - bo - dy care, care,

199

Ob.

S

such a lit - tle fi - gure Slipped qui - et from its

A

a - ny - bo - dy care, a - ny, a - ny - bo - dy,

T

such a lit - tle fi - gure Slipped qui - et, slipped

B

a - ny bo - dy, a - ny -

202

Ob.

fp

S

chair,

p

A

a - ny - bo - dy, qui - et, qui - et, no - bo - dy

p

T

qui - et, So qui-et, Oh how qui et, That no - bo - dy might

p

B

bo - dy, qui - et, qui - et, That no - bo - dy might

206

Ob.

p

S

But that the lit - tle fi - gure Rocked sof - ter, to and

A

no - bo - dy, no - bo - dy, no bo dy might know,

p

T

know, no - bo dy might know, no - bo - dy

B

know, qui - et, no - bo - dy might

210

Ob.

mp

S

fro.

A

no - bo - dy, On such a dawn, or such a dawn,

mf *mp*

T

might know, Such a dawn, such a dawn,

mf *mp*

B

know, On such a dawn, or such a dawn,

215

Ob.

mp *pp*

S

On such a dawn, or

pp

A

bo - dy sigh, Such a dawn, such a dawn,

pp

T

a - ny - bo - dy sigh, A - ny - bo - dy sigh,

pp

B

a - ny - bo - dy sigh, dawn, On such a

219

Ob.

S

such a dawn, Would a - ny - bo - dy sigh, a - ny - bo - dy,

A

such a dawn, a - ny bo - dy sigh, that such a lit - tle

T

a - ny bo - dy sigh, such a lit - tle

B

dawn, would a - ny - bo - dy sigh,

pp

p

223

Ob.

S

fi - gure Too sound a - sleep, sound a - sleep,

A

fi - gure Too sound a sleep did lie, sound a - sleep, too

T

fi - gure Too sound a sleep did lie For Chan - ti - cleer to

B

sound a - sleep did lie For Chan - ti - cleer to

mp

mp

mf

227

Ob.

S

A

T

B

sound a - sleep, too sound a sleep, too sound a sleep, *f* gid - dy bird in

wake it, Or stir ring house be low, too sound a - sleep, too

wake it, Or stir ring house be low, gid - dy,

231

Ob.

S

A

T

B

Or - chard Or ear - ly task to do? *mf* lit - tle

Or - chard, ear - ly task, *mf* lit - tle fi - gure,

sound a - sleep, Too sound a - sleep did lie, There *mf* was a lit - tle

Or - chard, ear - ly task to do? *mf* was a lit - tle

235

Ob.

mp

S

fi - gure, fi - gure plump Bu - sy nee - dles, and

mp

A

lit - tle knoll, lit - tle knoll, e - v'ry lit - tle knoll,

p

T

fi - gure plump for e - v'ry lit - tle knoll,

B

fi - gure plump for e - v'ry lit - tle knoll, bu - sy need - dles,

p

239

Ob.

f

S

spools of thread Play - mates, and

f

A

spools, And trudg - ing feet from school, Play - mates, and

f

T

Play - mates,

B

spools of thread, And trudg - ing feet from school, Play - mates, and

f

243

Ob.

S

ho - li - days, and nuts, And vi - sions vast and

A

ho - li - days, and play - mates, and ho - li - days and nuts and

T

ho - li - days, and nuts, and nuts, vi -

B

ho - li - days, and nuts, ho - li - days, and

rit. -----

246

Ob.

S

small. Strange that feet so prec-ious charged Should reach so small a

A

vi - sions vast and small. reach so small a

T

sions, vi - sions, small. reach so small,

B

vi - sions vast and small.

mp

p

p

p

Ob. *f* *f*

S

A *f* *mf*
goal! would a - ny bo - dy sigh,

T *f* *mf*
reach so small a goal! a - ny bo - dy sigh, no -

B *f* *mf*
No - bo - dy, No - bo - dy might know,

Ob. *mf* *f*

S

A would a - ny bo - dy sigh, no - bo - dy, no - bo - dy,

T bo - dy might know, no bo dy might know, might

B would sigh, might know, would sigh, might know,

259

Ob.

p

259

S

A

mf

No - bo - dy might know, would a - ny - bo - dy sigh,

T

mf

know, might know, would a - ny - bo - dy sigh,

B

mf

might know, would sigh,

rit. ----- *Adagietto*

263

Ob.

p *f* *pp*

263

S

mp *p* *f* *pp*

I'm No - bo - dy!

A

mp *p* *f* *pp*

No - bo - dy, No, I'm No - bo - dy!

T

mp *p* *f* *pp*

no - bo - dy might know, No, I'm No - bo - dy!

B

mp *p* *f* *pp*

no - bo - dy-might know, No, I'm No - bo - dy!

più mosso

accel.

269

Ob.

pp

solo (tempo libero)

269

S

Are you No - bo - dy too?

A

T

B

Allegro con brio

274

Ob.

f

tutti

f

274

S

Then there's a

f

A

fp

Then there's a

T

Then there's a

B

fp

Then there's a

277

Ob.

S

A

T

B

pair of us! a pair, then there's a pair of us!

pair of us! a pair of us! there's a pair,

pair, then there's a pair, then there's a pair,

pair, then there's a pair of us! there's a pair,

p

fp

f

f

f

281

Ob.

S

A

T

B

Don't tell! They'd ad-ver-tise you know! How

Don't tell! How

Don't tell! How

Don't tell! How

f solo

mf

f tutti

pp

pp

pp

pp

f

f

f

f

287

Ob.

287

S

A

T

B

mp

p

f

drea - ry, drea - ry, to be Some - bo - dy!

drea - ry, drea - ry, Some -

drea - ry, drea - ry, Some -

drea - ry, drea - ry,

pp

pp

♩ = 72

Maestoso

292

Ob.

292

S

A

T

B

f solo

f tutti

mf

f

f

f

How pub - lic, like a Frog. one's name,

bo - dy, Some - bo - dy! like a Frog. To tell one's name,

bo - dy, Some - bo - dy! like a Frog. To tell one's name,

How pub - lic, like a Frog. To tell one's name,

308

Ob.

S

A

T

B

mp *mf* *f* *p*

I'm I'm No - bo - dy! Who are

mp *mf* *f* *p*

I'm I'm No - bo - dy! Who are

mp *mf* *f* *p*

I'm I'm No - bo - dy! Who are

312

Ob.

S

A

T

B

you? you?

you? you?

you? you?