

The Yellow Wallpaper

Stephen Dickman: music
Charlotte Perkins Gillman: story

Piano
♩ = 62

Soprano
♩ = 62 *mf*
It is ve - ry sel - dom that mere or - din - ar - y peo - ple like

Violoncello
♩ = 62 *pizz* *mp* *arco*

Pno.
mf

S
4 John and my - self se - cure an - ces - tral halls for the sum - mer. I would say a

Vlc
4 *pizz* *arco*

Pno.
7

S
7 haun - ted house, but that would be ask - ing too much of fate! Still I will

Vlc
7 *3* *3* *3* *3*

10

Pno.

S

proud-ly de-clare that there is some-thing queer a-bout it. Else, why should it be let so cheap-ly?

Vlc

13

S

And have stood so long emp - ty? John laughs at me, of

Vlc

16

Pno.

S

course, but one ex - pects that in mar - riage. John is prac - tic - al in the ex - trem.

Vlc

19

Pno.

S

John is a phy - sic - ian, and PER - HAPS (I would not say it to a

Vlc

pizz

in a whisper

22

Pno.

S

liv - ing soul, of course, but this is dead pa - per and a great re - lief to my mind) PER - HAPS

Vlc

normal voice

25

Pno.

S

that is one rea - son I do not get well fas - ter. You see he does not be - lieve I am sick!

Vlc

arco

28

Pno.

S

And what is one to do? I am ab-so-lute-ly for bid-den to "work" un-til I am well a-gain.

Vlc

32

Pno.

S

But what can one do? There is some-thing strange a-bout this house I can

Vlc

f *mp* *p*

pizz *p*

36

Pno.

S

feel it. I e-ven said so to John one moon-lite eve-ning, but he said what I

Vlc

mf *p* *arco*

39

S

felt was aDRAUGHT, and shut the win-dow. But John says that if I feel that

39 *pizz* *arco*

Vlc

42

Pno.

Pno.

42

S

way, I shall ne-glect pro-per self-con-trol: so I take pains to con-trol my-self be-fore

42

Vlc

45

Pno.

Pno.

45

S

him, at least, and that makes me ve-ry tired. I don't like our room.

45

Vlc

Pno.

S

mf

I wan - ted one down - stairs that o - pened on the pi - az - za and had ros - es all o - ver

Vlc

p

Pno.

S

f

the win - dow! But John would not hear of it. *mf*

He is ve - ry care - ful and lov - ing,

Vlc

Pno.

S

and hard - ly lets me stir with - out spe - cial dir - ec - tion so I

Vlc

Pno.

S

57 *3*
 feel un-grate-ful not to val-ue his help more. He said we came here sol-ely on my ac-count,

Vlc

57

Pno.

S

60
 that I was to have per-fect rest and all the air I could get. So we took the

Vlc

60

Pno.

S

63 *3* *3* *f*
 nur-sery at the top of the house. I ne-ver saw worse pa-per

Vlc

63 *3* *3* *pizz* *f* *arco*

67

Pno. *mf*

S

in my life. One of those sprawl - ing flam - bou - ant pat - terns com - mit - ting ev - ery ar - tis - tic sin.

Vlc

70

Pno.

S

The co - lor is re - volt - ing; a smould - dering un - clean yel - low, strange - ly

Vlc

f

73

Pno.

S

fad - ed by the slow - turn - ing sun - light. There comes John. I must put this a - way, he

Vlc

mp

76

Pno.

f

S

mf

hates it when I write. We have been here two weeks. I am sit-ting by the

Vlc

mf

79

Pno.

S

mf

win-dow now, in this a - tro - cious nur - sery, and there is no - thing to hin - der my

83

Pno.

mp

S

mp

writ - ing, save lack of strength. John is a - way all day, e - ven

Vlc

mp

85

Pno.

S

nights when his cas - es are ser - i - ous. I am glad my case is not ser - i - ous!

Vlc

88

Pno.

S

But these ner - vous trou - bles are dread - ful - ly de - pres - sing. John does not

Vlc

mf

91

Pno.

S

know how much I real - ly suf - fer. He knows there is no rea - son to suf - fer,

Vlc

mf

94

Pno.

S

and that sat-is-fies him. I meant to be such a help to John, such a

Vlc

pizz

98

Pno.

S

rest and com - fort, and here I am a bur - den! It is for-tun - ate Mar - y is so

Vlc

arco

mp

102

Pno.

mp

S

good with the ba - by. Such a dear ba - by! And yet I CAN-NOT be with him, -

Vlc

f

105

Pno. *mp* *mf*

S *mp* *mf*

Vlc

in makes me so nerv-ous. John laughs at me so a -

109

Pno.

S *mf*

Vlc

bout this wall-pa-per! Then he takes me in his arms and calls me his bless-ed lit-tle goose. This

113

Pno. *f*

S *mf*

Vlc *mf*

pa-per looks to me as if it KNEW what a vis-cious in-flu-ence it had!

116

Pno.

S

Vlc

There is a re-cur-rent spot where the pat-tern lolls like a bro-ken neck and two bul-bous eyes stare at you

119

Pno.

S

Vlc

up-side down. Up and down and side-ways they crawl, and those ab-surd, un-

122

Pno.

S

Vlc

blink-ing eyes are eve-ry-where. There comes John's sis-ter. such a dear girl she is,

mf *p*

126

Pno.

S

Vlc

mp

and so care-ful of me! I must not let her find me writ-ing. She is a per-fect

130

Pno.

S

Vlc

house-keep-er, and hopes for no-thing more. I be-lieve she thinks it is the

pizz

133

Pno.

S

Vlc

writ-ing which made me sick! But I can write when she is out, and see

f *mp* *f* *mp*

arco

136

Pno.

136

S

her a long way off from these win - dows. This wall - pa - per has a sub - pat - tern in a

136

Vlc

139

Pno.

139

S

dif - ferent shade, a par - tic - u - lar - ly ir - ri - ta - ting one, for you - can on - ly see it in cer - tain

139

Vlc

142

Pno.

142

S

lights, and not clear - ly then. But in the pla ces where it is - n't

142

Vlc

145

Pno.

145

S

fad - ed and where the sun is just so, I can see a strange, pro - vok - ing,

Vlc

147

Pno.

147

S

form-less sort of fig-ure, that seems to sulk a - bout be-hind that sil - ly and con - spic - u - ous front de - sign.

Vlc

150

Pno.

p

150

S

p There's sis - ter on the stairs! *mf* I cry at no - thing and cry

Vlc

p *mf*

154 *rit.*

S most of the time when I am a - lone. And I am a-lone a good de-al now.

Vlc 154 *rit.*

159 *♩=60*

Pno. *♩=60*

159 *♩=60*

S So I walk in the gar - den or down that lov - ely lane, sit on the porch un - der the

Vlc 159 *♩=60*

162 *3* *accel.*

Pno. *accel.*

162 *3* *3* *accel.* *3* *3*

S ro-ses, and lie down up here... I'm get-ting real-ly fond of the room in spite of the wall-pap-er.

Vlc 162 *3* *accel.*

167 Pno. *a tempo*

167 S *f* *a tempo* *mp*

Per - haps BE-CAUSE of the wall-pap - er. - - - I lie here on this great im - mov - a - ble bed,

167 Vlc *a tempo*

170 Pno. *mp*

170 S

it is na-iled down, and fol-low that pat - tern a - bout by the ho - ur.

170 Vlc

173 Pno.

173 S

It makes me tired to fol-low it. I will take a nap I guess. It's

178 S

get-ting to be a great ef-fort for me to think straight. Just this ner-vous weaki-ness I sup-

178 Vlc *pizz*

181

Pno.

181

S

pose. And dear John gath-ered me up in his arms, and just car-ried me up-stairs and laid me

Vlc

185

Pno.

185

S

on the bed, and sat by me and read to me till it tired my head.

Vlc

185

arco

mf

190

Pno.

190

S

He said I was his dar-ling and com-fort and all he had, and that

Vlc

190

193

Pno.

193

S

I - must take care of my - self for his sake and keep well. There's one com - fort, the

Vlc

196

S

ba - by is well and hap - py, and does not have to oc - cu - py this nur - sery with the hor - rid

200

S

wall - pap - er. *p* There are things in that pa - per that no - bo - dy knows but me, or

Vlc

200

p

205

Pno.

mp

205

S

e - ver will. *mf* Be - hind the out - side pat - tern the dim shapes get clear - er e - very day.

Vlc

205

209

S

It's like a wo - man stoop - ing down and creep - ing a - bout be - hind that pat - tern. I don't like it a

Vlc

209

p

Pno. *p*

S *mf*

bit. I wish John would take me a - way from here! It's so hard to

Vlc

S *mp*

talk with John, be - cause he is so wise, be - cause he loves me so. But I tried last

Vlc *mf*

S

night. It was moon - light. John was a - sleep and I ha - ted to wake him, so I kept

Pno. *mp*

S

still and watched the moon - light on that un - du - la - ting wall - pa - per till I felt creep - y.

S

The faint fig - ure be - hind seemed to shake the pat - tern, as if she want - ed to get out.

Vlc *mp*

233

Pno.

pp

233

S

I got up soft-ly and went to feel and see if the pa-per DID move, when

Vlc

238

Pno.

p

238

S

I came back John was a-wake. "What is it, lit-tle girl?" he said. "Don't go

Vlc

pizz

p

242

S

walk-ing a-bout like that... you'll get cold." I told hin that I wish he would take me a-

Vlc

242

246

S

way. "Why dar-ling!" said he, "our lease will be up in three weeks, and

Vlc

246

arco

249

S I can't see how to leave be - fore. Of course if you were in dan - ger, I

Vlc

252

S could and would, but you are real - ly bet - ter, wheth - er you can see it or not.

Vlc

255

Pno.

255

S I am a doc - tor and I know." "I don't weigh a bit more," said I. "Bless her lit - tle heart!"

Vlc

260

Pno.

260

S said he with a big hug, "she shall be as sick as she pleas - es! Let's im - prove the shin - ing ho - urs

Vlc

264

Pno.

264

S

by go - ing to sleep, and talk a - bout it in the morn - ing!"

Vlc

268

Pno.

268

S

The pat - tern is tor - tur - ing. It's like a bad dream. The out - side pat - tern re - minds me of

Vlc

271

Pno.

271

S

a fun - gus. If you can i - mag - ine a toad - stool in joints, an in - term - in - a - ble string of toad - stools,

Vlc

275

Pno.

275

S

bud - ding and sprout - ing in end - less con - vo - lu - tions. It chan - ges as the light chan - ges.

Vlc

278

Pno.

278

S

That is why I watch it al - ways. At night it be - comes - bars! The

Vlc

282

Pno.

282

S

out - side pat - tern I mean, and the wo - man be - hind it is as plain as can be.

Pno.

S

mp *mf*

286

The fact is I am get-ting a lit-tle a - fraid of John. He seems ver-y-queer some-times, and

Vlc

286

mp

Pno.

S

f

290

e - ven Jen-nie has an in - ex - plic - a - ble look. It strikes me that per - haps it is the pa - per!

Vlc

290

f

Pno.

S

mf

294

Life is ver - y much mor ex - cit - ing than it used to be. You see,

Vlc

294

297

Pno.

S

I have some - thing more to ex - pect, to look for - ward to, to watch.

300

Pno.

S

I real - ly do eat bet - ter, and am more qui - et than I was.

304

Pno.

S

mf John laughed a lit - tle the o - ther day, and said I seemed to be

307

Pno.

S

fleur - iish - ing in spite of my wall - pa - per. - I turned it off with a smile. I

311

Pno.

S

had no in - ten - tion of tell - ing him - it was be - cause of the wall - pa - per

313

Pno.

S

he would make fun of me. He might e - ven want to take me a - way.

315

Pno.

S

I'm feel - ing so much bet - ter! There are al - ways new shoots

318

Pno.

S

on the fun - gus, and new shades of yel - low all o-ver it. It is the strang - est yel - low...

Pno.

S

321 *p cres poco a poco*

But there is some - thing else a - bout that pa - per.. the smell! It creeps all o - ver the house.

Pno.

S

324

I find it hov - er - ing in the din - ing room, sulk - ing in the par - lor, hid - ing in the hall,

Pno.

S

326

ly - ing in wait for me on the stairs. It gets in - to my hair. Ev - en when I go to ride,

Vlc

326

p

329

Pno.

329

S

if I turn my head sud-den-ly and sur-prise it... there is that smell!

f

Vlc

332

Pno.

332

S

It used to dis-turb me at first. I thought ser-i-ous-ly of burn-ing down the house...

Vlc

334

Pno.

334

S

to reach that smell. But now I am used to it. The on-ly thing I can think of

Vlc

337

Pno.

337

S

that it is like is the CO-LOR of the pa-per! A yel-low smell. I

Vlc

337

pizz *arco*

341

Pno.

341

S

real - ly have dis - cov - ered some - thing at last. The front pat - tern DOES move! the

Vlc

341

343

Pno.

343

S

wo - man be - hind it shakes it! She crawls a - round fast, and her crawl - ing

Vlc

343

346

Pno.

S

shakes it all - o - ver. And she is all the time try - ing to climb through. But no -

Vlc

349

Pno.

S

bo - dy could climb through that pat - tern... it strang - les so; I think that is why it has soman - y

Vlc

352

S

heads. They get through, and then the pat - tern strang - les them off

Pno.

S

and turns them up - side down and makes their eyes white!

Vlc

Pno.

S

358

If those heads were cov - ered or tak - en off it would not be half so bad.

Vlc

Pno.

S

361

mp

I think that wo - man gets out in the day - time! I can see her out of eve - ry

Vlc

361

pizz

mp

Pno.

S

366

win - dow! It is the same wo - man wo - man, I know, for she is

Vlc

366

Pno.

S

al - ways creep - ing, and most wo - men do not creep by day - light. I

Vlc

Pno.

S

see her on that long road un - der the trees, creep - ing a - long, and

Vlc

Pno.

S

when a car - riage comes she hides un - der the black - ber - ry vines.

Vlc

379

Pno.

S

I don't blame her a bit. It must be ve-ry hu-mil-i-a-ting to be caught creep-ing by

Vlc

382

Pno.

S

day - light! I have watched her some - times a - way off in the o - pen coun - try,

Vlc

arco

p

386

Pno.

S

creep - ing as fast as a cloud sha - dow in a high wind. I

Vlc

mf

f

mf

Pno. *mp*

S
al - ways lock the door when i creep by day - light. I can't do it at night, for I

Vlc

Pno.

S
know John would sus - pect some - thing at once. And John is so queer now, I

Vlc

Pno.

S
don't want to ir - ri - tate him. I wish he would take an - o - ther room! Be -

Vlc

S
sides, I don't want an - y - bo - dy to get that wo - man out at night but my -

Vlc *pizz*

Pno.

S
self. *mf*

Vlc
arco *mf*

399 There are on-ly two more days to get this pa-per off, and

S

Vlc

402 I be-lieve John is be-gin-ing to no-tice. I don't like the look in his eyes.

S
mf

Vlc

405 He asked me all sorts of ques-tions and pre-ten-ded to be ve-ry lov-ing and kind.

Pno.

S
f

Vlc
mf

408 As if I could-n't see through him! Hur-ray! This is the last day.

412 *mf*

Pno.

412

S
John is to stay in town o - ver night, and won't be out till this eve - ning.

Vlc

415

Pno.

415

S
Jean - nie wan - ted to sleep with me.. the sly thing! but I told her

Vlc

417

Pno.

417

S
I should un - doubt - ed - ly rest bet - ter for a night all a - lone. That was

Vlc

420

Pno.

420

S

cle - ver, for real - ly I was - n't a - lone a bit! As soon as it was moon - light

Vlc

423

Pno.

423

S

and that poor thing be - gan to crawl and shake the pat - tern, I got up and ran to help her.

Vlc

426

S

I pulled and she shook, I shook and she pulled,

Vlc

426 *pizz*

428

S

and be - fore morn - ing we had peeled off yards of that pa - per. And

Vlc

428

430

S then when the sun came and that aw - ful pat - tern be - gan to laugh at me, I de - clared I would

Vlc

432

Pno.

mf

432

S fin - ish it to - day! We go a - way to - mor - row, and they are

Vlc

arco *mf*

435

Pno.

435

S mov - ing all my fur - na - ture down a - gain to leave things as they were be - fore. Jean - nie

Vlc

437

S looked at the wall in a - maze - ment, but I told her mer - ri - ly that I did it out of

Vlc

439

Pno.

S

Vlc

pure spite at that vic - ious thing. She laughed and said she would - n't mind do - ing it her - self,

441

Pno.

S

Vlc

but I must not get tir - ed. How she be - trayed her - self that time! But no per - son

443

Pno.

S

Vlc

touch - es this pa - per but me... not A - LIVE!

445

Pno.

445 *mf*

S

We shall sleep down - stairs to - night, and take the boat home to - mor-row. I quite en - joy the

Vlc

mf

447

Pno.

447

S

room, now that it is bare a - gain. But I must get to work.

Vlc

pizz

mf

449

Pno.

449

S

I have locked the door and thrown the key down in - to the front path.

Vlc

449

451

S I don't want to go out, and I don't want to have an - y - bo - dy come in, till

Vlc *arco*

Pno.

453

S John comes. I want to a - ston - ish him. I've got a rope up here.

Vlc

Pno.

457

S If that wo - man get's out, and tries to get a - way, I can tie her!

Vlc

Pno.

S

mf

460

I peeled off all the pa-per I could reach stand - ing. It sticks hor - ri - bly and the pat - tern

Vlc

Pno.

S

463

just en - joys it! All those strang - led heads and bul - bous eyes and

Vlc

Pno.

S

465

wad - dling fun - gus groths just shriek with der - i - sion! I am get - ting

Vlc

468

Pno.

S

Vlc

an - gry e - nough to try some - thing des - per - ate. To jump out of the win - dow

471

Pno.

S

Vlc

would be ad - mir - a - ble ex - er - cise, but the bars are too strong e - ven to try.

475

Pno.

S

Vlc

Be - sides I would - n't do it. Of course not. I know well e - nough

478

Pno.

478

S

that a step like that is im - pro - per and might be mis - con - strued.

478

Vlc

481

S

I don't like to LOOK out of the win - dows... There are so ma - ny of those

481

Vlc

483

S

creep - ing wo - men, and they creep so fast. I

483

Vlc

485

S

won - der if they all come out of that wall - pa - per as I did? But

485

Vlc

487

S

I am se - cur - e ly fast - ened now by my well - hid - den rope... You don't get ME out

487

Vlc

490

Pno. *mf*

S

Vlc

in that road. I sup - pose that I shall have to get back be -

493

Pno. *mp*

S

Vlc *mp*

hind the pat-tern when night comes. It is so pleas - ant to be out in this great

495

Pno.

S *mf*

Vlc

room and creep a - round as I please! Why there's John at the door! It's no use young man,

497

Pno.

S

Vlc

you can't o - pen it! How he does call and pound! Now he's cry - ing for an axe.

499

Pno.

S

Vlc

It would be a shame to break down that beau - ti - ful door! "John

ppp

501

S

Vlc

dear!" said I in the gen - tl - est voice, "the key is down by the front steps, un - der a

p

504

S

Vlc

plan - tain leaf!" That si - lenced him for a few mo - ments. Then he said... ve - ry qui - et - ly in -

mp

p

508

Pno.

mp

508

S

deed, "O - pen the door, my dar - ling!" "I can't", said I. "The key id down by the

Vlc

p *mf*

513

Pno.

513

S

front door un - der a plan - tain leaf!" And then I said it a - gain,

Vlc

mp

519

S

se - veral times, ve - ry gent - ly and slow - ly. and

Vlc

mp

522

S

said it so of - ten that he had to go and see, and he got it of course. and

Vlc

524

Pno.

S

Vlc

came in. He stopped short by the door. "What is the mat - ter?"

f

527

Pno.

S

Vlc

he cried. "For God' sake, what are you do - ing?" I

mf

pizz

mf

530

S

Vlc

kept on creep - ing just the same, but I looked at him o - ver my shoul - der.

533

S

Vlc

"I've got out at last," said I, "in spite of you and Jane.

f *mf* *f*

arco

538 *mf*

S And I've pulled off most - of the pa - per, so you can't put me back!" Now

Vlc

544

S why would that man have faint - ed? But he did, and right a - cross my path by the

547

Pno.

mf

547

S wall, so that I had to creep o - ver him ev - ery time!

Vlc

mf