

Therefore



*for unaccompanied
vocal quartet or chamber choir*

Joelle Wallach

Therefore

Nothing exists that is not marred; therefore
we are obliged to imagine how things might be:
the sea
at its green uttermost, the shore
white to exaggeration, white before
it was checked and clouded by its spent debris.

Nothing exists that does not end, and so
to knowledge we must deliberately be untrue:
you
murmuring that your will not go, when you will go,
promising to do always what you cannot do:
hold the sun steady, and the sky new.

No one exists who can be loved the same
by day as by dark; it is that sleeping place,
lame,
we attempt to follow into, and cannot trace,
that makes us lie, saying we know his face,
as if we knew even half of his true name.

William Dickey

William Dickey

Joelle Wallach

♩ = 63

No - thing ex - ists that is not marred; ah,

No - thing ex - ists that is not marred; ah,

No - thing ex - ists that is not marred; ah,

No - thing ex - ists that is not marred; ah,

3

No - thing ex - ists, no - thing ex -

No - thing ex - ists, no - thing ex -

No - thing ex - ists ah, that is not marred;

No - thing ex - ists ah, that is not marred;

5

ists that is not marred; ah, there - fore

ists that is not marred, that is not marred; ah, there - fore

that is not marred; ah, there - fore

that is not marred; ah, there - fore

8

we are ob - liged to i - ma - gine things as they might be: *dolcis.*

we are ob - liged to i - ma - gine things as they might be: *dolcis.*

we are ob - liged to i - ma - gine things, ah, as they might be: the *dolcis.*

we are ob - liged to i - ma - gine things, ah, as they might be: the *dolcis.*

10

the sea at its ut - ter - most green, the shore

the sea at its ut - ter - most green, ex - ists

sea, the sea no - thing ex - ists, the shore

sea, the sea, no - thing ex - ists

12

white be - fore it was checked and cloud-ed by its spent de - bris. _

white be - fore it was checked and cloud-ed by its spent de - bris. _

white _____ be - fore it _____ was checked _____ and cloud - - - ed

white _____ be - fore it _____ was checked and cloud - - - ed

14

subito p dolce

mp

No - thing _____ ex - ists that does not end, ah, _____

subito p dolce

mp

No - thing _____ ex - ists that does not end, ah, _____

subito p dolce

mp

No - thing _____ ex - ists, _____ ex - ists that does not end, ah, _____

subito p dolce

mp

No - thing _____ ex - ists, ex - ists, ex - ists that does not end, ah, _____

16

ah, _____ ah, _____ No-thing _____ ex - ists that does not

ah, _____ ah, _____ No-thing _____ ex - ists that does not

ah, _____ ah, No-thing, _____ ah, no-thing _____ ex - ists, no - thing ex - ists that does not

ah, _____ ah, No-thing, _____ ah, no-thing _____ ex - ists, no - thing ex - ists that does not

19

end, and so to knowledge we must be un - true: ah, _____

end, to knowledge we must be un - true: ah, _____ ah, _____

end, to knowledge we must be un - true: ah, _____ ah, _____ ah, _____

end, and so to knowledge we must be un - true: ah, _____ ah, _____ ah, _____

21

ah, _____ you _____ mur-mur-ing that you will not go,

ah, _____ you _____ mur-mur-ing that you will not go,

ah, _____ No - thing ex - ists, you _____ mur-mur-ing that you will not go,

No - thing ex - ists, you _____ go,

24

when you will go, pro - mis - ing _____ to do al - ways _____ what you

when you will go, pro - mis - ing _____ al - ways _____ what you

when you will go, pro - mis - ing, ah, _____ al - ways, _____ what you

when you will go, ah, to do al - ways, what you

26 *mf* *subito p* *dolce* *poco* *sfp dolce*

can - not do: hold the sun stea - dy and the sky new. Ah

mf *subito p* *dolce* *poco* *sfp dolce*

can - not do: hold the sun stea - dy and the sky new. Ah

mf *mp* *subito p* *dolce* *poco* *sfp dolce*

can - not do: oh, hold the sun stea - dy and the sky new. Ah

mf *subito p* *dolce* *poco* *sfp dolce*

can - not do: hold stea - dy and the sky new. Ah

29 *mp* *sffz subito p*

ah, ah, No - one exists that

mp *sffz subito p*

ah, No - one exists that

mp *sffz subito p*

ah, ah, No - one exists that

mf *sffz subito p*

ah, ah, No-one exists that

32 *dolcis.* *mf* 3

can be loved the same by day as by dark; it is that

dolcis. 3

can be loved the same by day as by dark; it is that

dolcis. 3

can be loved the same by day, dark; it is that

dolcis. 3

can be loved the same by day, dark; it is that

42 *pp lontano* *A tempo* *mp*

No-thing — ex - ists that is not marred; ah, —

pp lontano *mp*

No-thing — ex - ists that is not marred; ah, —

that is not marred; ah, — ah, —

that is not marred; ah, — ah, —

45 *p* *mp* *p*

ah, — ah, — ah, —

p *mp* *(mp)* *p*

ah, — ah, — ah, — ah, —

mp *p* *mp* *p*

ah, — ah, — ah, — ah, —

mp *p* *mp* *p*

ah, — ah, — ah, — ah, —

48 *ppp*

ah. —

pp *ppp*

ah. —

p *ppp*

ah, — ah. —

p *ppp*

ah, — ah. —

42 *pp* *lontano* *A tempo* *mp*

No-thing — ex - ists that is not marred; ah, —

No-thing — ex - ists that is not marred; ah, —

that is not marred; ah, — ah, —

that is not marred; ah, — ah, —

45 *p* *mp* *p*

ah, — ah, — ah, —

ah, — ah, — ah, —

ah, — ah, — ah, —

ah, — ah, — ah, —

48 *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *p* *pp* *ppp*

ah. —

ah. —

ah, — ah. —

ah, — ah. —

34

sffz mf *fp dolcis.*

sleep-ing place, lame, we at-tempt but can-not trace. Ah, _____

sleep-ing place, lame, we at-tempt but can-not trace. Ah, _____

sleep-ing place, — lame, ah, — we at-tempt but can - not trace. Ah, _____

sleep-ing place, — lame, ah, — we at-tempt but can - not trace. Ah, _____

37

pp mp

ah, — say - ing we know, — we know his face, as —

ah, — say - ing we know, — we know his face, as —

say - ing we know, — we know his face, as —

say - ing we know, — we know his face, as

39

ben f poco ritenuto

if we knew — e - ven half his true name. *ben f*

if we knew — e - ven half his true name. *ben f*

if we knew — e - ven half his true name. *ben f* *ppp* Ah, _____

if we knew — half his name. *ben f* *ppp* Ah, _____

42 *pp lontano* *A tempo* *mp*

No-thing — ex - ists that is not marred; ah, —

No-thing — ex - ists that is not marred; ah, —

that is not marred; ah, — ah, —

that is not marred; ah, — ah, —

45 *p* *mp* *p*

ah, — ah, — ah, —

ah, — ah, — ah, — ah, —

ah, — ah, — ah, — ah, —

ah, — ah, — ah, — ah, —

48 *ppp*

ah. —

ah. — *pp* *ppp*

ah, — ah. — *ppp*

ah, — ah. — *ppp*

45

48

48

ah.

pp

ppp

pp

ppp

pp

ppp

pp

ppp

ah,

ah.

ah,

ah.

ppp