

Popping Bubbles

Four Poems of Emily Bobo

for Dominick DiOrio
and NOTUS

the contemporary vocal ensemble
of the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music

Don Freund
2015

Freundworks Publishing

Don Freund:

Popping Bubbles:
Four Poems of Emily Bobo

for Mixed Chorus a cappella

*for Dominick DiOrio and NOTUS,
the contemporary vocal ensemble of the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music*

1. Sweethearts
2. Popping Bubbles: Baby's First Birthday
3. The Wall of Mexico
4. This is Just to Say

Sweethearts

A long, long love ago, a boy
carved a heart into Grandma

Irwin's apple tree, and kissed
me, sweet as August apples.

We each outgrew our little tree,
its wooden heart, and happily

carved onto the world a living
heart for our own true families.

But each August, that little tree
still bears the fruit of our first kiss,

in a hundred sweet, red hearts.

Sweethearts

Emily Bobo

Don Freund

♩ = ca. 60 ♩ = ca. 72

Soprano: solo *pp* [n] *mf* love [vv] *mf* a boy carved a

Alto: *p* long, long *mf* love a-go, *mp* a boy carved a

Tenor: *p* A long, long *mf* love a-go, *mp* carved

Bass: solo *pp* [n] *mf* love a-go, *mp* a

5

mf heart Grand - ma Ir-win's ap-ple tree, and

mf heart in-to Grand-ma Ir - win's ap-ple tree, and

p heart Grand-ma's ap-ple tree and

heart ap-ple tree,

caressed

♩ = ca. 60

9

f > *mf* *p* A long, A long, —

kissed me, — A A

f > *mf* *p* long love — long long

kissed me, — long — long

f > *mf* *mp* *p* a

kissed me, — Au - gust ap - ples. a - go,

sweet as Au-gust ap-ples.

14

— A long, — *p* *mp*

long, — each out - grew — its

love long love a-go, We each out - grew its

mf *mp* *p* *mp*

We each — out - grew — our lit-tle tree, — its wood-en heart,

mf *mp* *p* *p*

We each — out - grew — our lit-tle tree, — its wood-en heart,

18

wood - en heart, — *mf* carved — on - to the world a liv - ing

wood-en heart, — *mp* 3 hap - pi - ly carved on - to the world *mf* 3

and hap - pi - ly carved a liv - ing

21

Move forward slightly -----

heart for our own heart, heart true carved on-to the world a liv-ing heart true fam-i-lies.

26

Held back ----- // ♩ = ca. 72

But each Au-gust, But each Au-gust, a liv-ing heart heart But each But each Au-gust, Au-gust, mf

30

blooming -----

Au-gust, still bears the fruit of our first kiss, that lit-tle tree still bears the fruit of our first kiss, Au-gust, still bears the fruit of our first kiss,

Popping Bubbles: Baby's First Birthday

In the mist of happiness, her heart caught on some grumble in the distance, a truck
on the highway, a buzzing in the Dogwood, a rattle in the leaves—some sharp
stick caught in the imaginary ribs.

And all her joy popped like a bubble from the cheap, party-store, grab-bag bottle of dish
soap.

Not that anything had gone wrong, not that the world wasn't just-new-love-perfect.

But that it might.

And now she knew how much it all meant—how happy she could be—how
terrifying it was to be in love.

Popping Bubbles: Baby's First Birthday

Emily Bobo

Don Freund

♩ = ca. 72

3 Solo Sopranos

Tutti: unfocused, confused — sounds of a party heard through a mist

p 3 3

mf In the mist *mp* In

In the mist *mf* of hap-pi-ness, *mp* hap-pi-ness,

In the mist of hap - pi-ness, hap-pi-ness,

mf In the mist of hap-pi-ness, *p* In the mist of hap - pi-ness,

mf In the mist of hap-pi-ness, *p* the mist of hap - pi-ness,

p In the mist of hap-pi-ness, *mf* In the mist of hap-pi-ness,

p In the mist of hap-pi-ness,

4

Solo 1 *f, very much in the foreground*

f 3 3

In the mist of hap - pi - ness, —

— the mist of hap - pi-ness,

p hap - pi - ness, *mp* hap - pi-ness, *p* hap - pi -

mp hap - pi-ness, hap - pi -

In the mist of hap - pi - ness, hap - pi-ness,

In the mist of hap - pi-ness,

In the mist

p In the mist of hap - pi - ness, In the

p In the mist of hap-pi-ness,

7

S solo 1 *f* her heart *p* her heart *f* her heart

S solo 2&3 *f* her heart *p* her heart *f* her heart

S In the mist of hap-pi-ness, the mist of hap-pi-ness,

A1 *mf* ness, In the mist *mf* of hap-pi-ness, *p* hap-pi-ness, *mp* In the mist *f* of hap-pi-ness,

A2 In the mist *mf* of hap-pi-ness, *p* hap-pi-ness, *mf* In the mist *f* of hap-pi-ness,

T1 *p* In the mist *mf* of hap-pi-ness, of hap *p* pi-ness, *f*

T2 of hap-pi-ness, *mf* In the mist *p* of hap-pi-ness, *f* In the mist *f* of hap-pi-ness,

B1 mist of hap-pi-ness, In the mist *p* In the mist *f* of hap-pi-ness, of hap-pi-ness,

B2 *p* the mist the mist of hap-pi-ness,

take time

ca. 88

10 *f* caught *p* caught

S solo 1 *f* caught *p* caught

S solo 2&3 *f* caught *p* caught

S

A

T

B1 *p, indistinct* on some grum-ble in the dis-tance, on some grum-ble in the dis-tance, on some grum-ble

B2 *p, indistinct* grum-ble dis-tance dis-tant grum-ble grum-ble

17

f caught

p

f caught

f caught

p caught

p caught

p nasal

a truck on the high-way,

p, dark

on some grum-ble in the dis-tance,

in the dis-tance, on some grum-ble in the dis-tance, on some grum-ble in the dis-tance,

dis - tance dis - tant grum - ble dis - tant grum - ble

23

f caught

f caught

p caught

pp 3

pp 3

pp 3

pp 3

mp

a buzz-ing buzz-ing buzz-ing buzz-ing buzz-ing in the

on some grum-ble in the dis-tance,

grum - ble dis - tance

28

S solo 1 *p* caught *mf* her heart *f* caught

S solo 2&3 *f* caught caught

S *f* a rat-tle in the leaves

A1 *pp* *f* rat-tle in the leaves

A2 *pp* *f* rat-tle in the leaves

T *mp* Dog - wood, *f* rat-tle in the leaves *mf* a

B *mp* *f* rat-tle in the leaves

zz ——— rat-tle in the leaves

32

S solo 1 *p* caught *f* some *ff* sharp stick caught

S solo 2&3 *p* caught *f* some *ff* sharp stick caught

S *pp* *f* *ff* mm - mu-oh - eh - ee - ah sharp stick caught

A *f* *pp* *p* *f* *ff* *pp* rat - tle rat - tle rat - tle rat - tle mm - eh - ee - ah sharp stick caught

T *f* *p* *f* *ff* rat - tle in the leaves some sharp stick caught

B *f* *pp* *ff* rat - tle rat - tle rat - tle rat - tle some sharp stick caught

38 (Soprano solos join tutti)

mp *fp*

S in the im - ag - i - nar - y ribs. And

A

T And

B *p* *f* *mp* *p*
im - ag - i - nar - y ribs.

43 ♩ = ca. 66

mf *f* *ff* *p, spoken*

S all her joy popped like a bubble from the

A And all her joy popped like a bubble like a bubble from the

T1 *f* *ff* *pp, floating solo cover mouth with hand* *tutti p, spoken*
ü popped from the

T2 *f* *ff* *pp, floating solo cover mouth with hand* *tutti p, spoken*
ü popped from the

B And all her joy popped like a bubble like a bubble from the

pp cover mouth with hand

2 Bass solos ü

pp, floating solo cover mouth with hand

stagger breaths

48

supersweet

S cheap, par - ty - store, grab-bag bot-tle of dish soap. *p mf p mf > p*

A1 cheap, par - ty - store, grab-bag bot-tle of dish soap. *p mf p mf > p*

T1 cheap, par - ty - store, grab-bag bot-tle of dish soap. *p mf p mf > p*

T2 cheap, par - ty - store, grab-bag bot-tle of dish soap. *p mf p mf > p*

B cheap, par - ty - store, grab-bag bot-tle of dish soap. *p mf p mf > p*

B2 solos

52

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 80$

S *mp, simply*
Not that an-y-thing had gone wrong, —

A1 *p* — caught *mp, simply*
No - thing had gone wrong

T1 *mp* 3
not that the world wasn't just-new-love -

B *Solo mp, simply* 3 *Tutti mp* 3
Not that an-y-thing had gone wrong, not that the world just-new-love -

58 *push ahead* *mp* *held back* *f*

S Not that an-y-thing had gone wrong, But that it

A Not that an-y-thing had gone wrong, But that it

T1 per-fect. had gone wrong. But that it

T2 per-fect. But that it

B1 per-fect. No - thing. But that it

B2 per-fect. But that it

62 ♩ = ca. 60 ♩ = ca. 120, *flowing* *ff* *mp*

S might. how

A might. And now. how

T might. And now she knew how much it all meant—

B might. And now knew how much it meant—

69 *marcato* *f* *ff* *stay ff* $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 50$ *p*

S hap - py she could be— how ter - ri - fy - ing it was to be in

A *marcato* *f* *ff* *stay ff* *p*

A hap - py she could be— how ter - ri - fy - ing it was to be in

T1 *f* *ff* *stay ff* *p*

T1 how ter - ri - fy - ing it was

T2 *f* *ff* *stay ff* *p*

T2 how ter - ri - fy - ing it was to be in

B *f* *ff* *stay ff* *p*

B how ter - ri - fy - ing it was to be in

76 $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 72$ *pp* *pp*

S solos *pp*

S love. In the mist of hap - pi - ness, In the mist of

S *pp*

S love.

A *pp*

A love. In the mist of hap - pi - ness, hap - pi - ness, In the mist

A2 *pp*

A2 love. In the mist of hap - pi - ness, hap - pi - ness, In the

T1 *pp*

T1 love.

T2

T2 love.

B1

B1 love.

The Wall of Mexico

the rich do not escape
window-pictures of
razor wire walls
and mountains against
squatting
a boy crumbling
Styrofoam snow over
two girls dancing
midnight in the street
all the permanent poor

the permanent
squatting
the rich do not escape
wires and
walls
in the street
two girls dancing
mountains
Styrofoam snow
crumbling

crumbling boy
the rich do not escape
midnight
girls dancing
against
all the poor
windows
pictures of
walls and

the poor
escape
midnight
walls
dancing over
the rich

The Wall of Mexico

Emily Bobo

Don Freund

♩ = ca. 72

6

Soprano solo

Mezzo solo

Tenor solo

Baritone solo

3 solos (SAT)
pale, disembodied, but always clearly audible
mp

f, natural text projection

the rich do not es-cape

the rich do not es - cape

impassive, granite blocks
mf

S
A

Tutti

T
B

mf

9

S solo

M solo

T solo

B solo

Trio

S
A

T
B

f, natural text projection

the poor

f, natural text projection

crum-bling boy

f, natural text projection

the per-ma-nent

f

win-dow-pic-tures of

mf

es - cape

win - dow - pic - tures

mf

17

20

S solo

M solo *f* 5 the rich do not es-cape

T solo *f* 8 squat-ting

B solo *f* 3 ra-zor wire— walls

Trio *mp* the rich do not es - cape

S A *mf incisive* of ra - zor wire walls

T B *mf*

24

27

S solo

M solo *f, stark* mid - night

T solo *f* 5 the rich do not es-cape

B solo *f, foreground* and moun-tains a-against

Trio *mp* the

S A *mf* *grand!* *f* *mf* and moun - tains

T B *mf* *grand!* *f* *mf*

31

34

S solo

M solo

T solo

B solo

Trio

S A

T B

wires

girls

danc-ing

es-cape

and

squat-ting

rich

do not

es - cape

a - gainst

(st)

squat - ting

f

f

f

f

mp

mf

fp

pp

mf

mf

fp

pp

mf

36

40

S solo

M solo

T solo

B solo

Trio

S A

T B

mid - night

walls

a - gainst

walls

in the street

a boy

crum-bling

crum - bling

a boy

crum - bling

f, stark

f

f

f

f

f

f

f

f

mp

mf static

mf

42

47

S solo

M solo

T solo

B solo

Trio

S A

T B

f, bright win - dows

f two girls danc-ing

Sty-ro-foam snow o-ver

mp the rich do not es - cape

mf static Sty - ro - foam

mp snow

p two

mf o - ver

mp

p

50

53

S solo

M solo

T solo

B solo

Trio

S A

T B

f pic-tures of

f, bright moun - tains

f, bright two girls danc-ing

two girls

f two girls danc-ing

mid-night

mp two girls

mf > p danc - ing

mf > p danc - ing

f, stark mid - night

mf

f, stark

mf

f, bright
danc - ing danc - ing

Sty-ro-foam snow

in the street

mf
the rich do not es - cape

fp in the street *mf* *p*

fp *mf* *p*

f, bright
danc - ing o-ver

f, stark
the rich

walls and

crum-bling

S & A a2
f, foreground
all the per - ma - nent poor

the per - ma - nent poor

mf all the per - ma - nent poor *mf*

mf *mf*
col 8ba ad lib.

This is just to say

I have eaten
the heart you left
on my shoulder

and which
you were probably
saving
for someone taller

Forgive me
it was chocolate
so bitter
and so dark

This is just to say

Emily Bobo

Don Freund

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 66$

3 Mezzo Solos

S
A
T
B

mf *mf* *p* *p*

This is jus - ta say jus - ta say jus - ta say

3 solos (a3)

5
Mzs
S
A
T
B

f *f* *mf* *mf* *mf* *p*

I have eat - en I have eat - en Bup! jus - ta Bup!

9
Mzs
S
A
T
B

f *mf* *fp* *p (echo)* *mp*

the heart you left on my shoul - der This is jus - ta say heart you left on my This is jus - ta say

13

Mzs *f* I have eat - en the heart you left on my

S *mf* > *p* jus - ta *f* Bup! *mf* This is jus - ta say *fp*

A *f* Bup! *mf* This is jus - ta say *fp*

T *f* Bup! *mf* This is jus - ta say *fp*

B *f* Bup! *mf* This is jus - ta say *fp*

17

Mzs *f* shoul - der and which you were prob-a-bly sav - ing

S *mf* heart you left on my shoul - der

A heart you left on my shoul - der

T heart you left on my shoul - der

B heart you left on my shoul - der

jus - ta

21

Mzs *Solo 1* *Spoken, dry:* Forgive me *Solo 2 f* For - give me For -

for some-one tall - er *mf, dramatic!* For - give me For -

S *f* Boop! *f* For - give me For - give me

A *f* Boop! *f* For - give me For - give me

T *f* Boop! *f* For - give me For - give me

B *f* Boop! *f* For - give me For - give me

mf, dramatic!

(Solo 2)
drammatico

♩ = ca. 60

Solo 3
f

Mzs
give me For-give me For-give me For - give me

S
A
For - give me
For - give me
For - give me

T
B
For - give me

♩ = ca. 100

(Solo 3)
molto drammatico

♩ = ca. 66

33
Mzs
give me

S
A
For - gi - i - ive me

T
B
For - gi - i - ive me For -

37

Mzs
it was choc - 'late so bit - ter

S
A
For - give me

T
B
give me For - give me For - give me For - give me

f ^{a3} *mf* *f*

♩ = ca. 56

41 *ff* Solo 1

Mzs

S
A

T
B

For - give me For-give me For give me
and so dark

For - give me For-give me For - give me
ffp *ff*

45 $\text{♩} = 66$

Mzs

S
A

T
B

This is jus - ta say
This is jus - ta say

Bloomington, IN
8/12/15