

WITCH-WIFE

for a cappella SSAA choir
3 min



Commissioned by Choir Matrix Women's Ensemble,
sponsored by Consonare Choral Community
Sarah Kaufold, Artistic Director

2020

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She is neither pink nor pale,
And she never will be all mine;
She learned her hands in a fairy-tale,
And her mouth on a valentine.

She has more hair than she needs;
In the sun 'tis a woe to me!
And her voice is a string of colored beads,
Or steps leading into the sea.

She loves me all that she can,
And her ways to my ways resign;
But she was not made for any man,
And she never will be all mine.

—Edna St. Vincent Millay

From *Renascence: And Other Poems* (1917)

Cover image: portrait of Edna St. Vincent Millay
by Arnold Genthe (1914)



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Witch-Wife

Poem by Edna St. Vincent Millay

Melissa Dunphy

Moderato espressivo ♩=c.60

SOPRANO 1 *p* tenderly
She is neith-er pink nor pale, and she nev - er will be all mine;

SOPRANO 2 *p* tenderly
She is neith-er pink nor pale, and she nev - er will be all mine;

ALTO 1 *p* tenderly
She is neith-er pink nor pale, and she nev - er, nev - er will be all

ALTO 2 *p* tenderly
She is neith-er pink nor pale, and she nev - er, nev - er will be all

Moderato espressivo ♩=c.60

Piano (Rehearsal only)

8

she learned her hands in a fair - y - tale, and her mouth on a val - en - tine.

she learned her hands in a fair - y - tale, and her mouth on a val - en - tine.

mine; she learned her hands in a fair - y - tale, and her mouth on a val - en -

mine; she learned her hands in a fair - y - tale, and her mouth on a val - en -

16 *mp*

O she has more hair, more hair_ than she needs; in the sun _____ 'tis a woe to_

mp

O she has more hair_ than she needs; _____ in the sun 'tis a woe_ to_

mp

tine. O she has more hair_ than she needs; _____ sun 'tis a woe, _____ a

mp

tine. O she has more hair, more hair_ than she needs; in the sun 'tis a

23

me! _____ And her voice is a string of_ col-ored, col-ored beads, or_

me! _____ And her voice is a string of_ col - ored_ beads, or_

woe, _____ voice is a string of_ col-ored, col-ored beads, or_

woe, _____ woe_ _____ col - ored beads,

29

steps_ lead-ing in - to the sea, in - to the sea. O_

steps_ lead-ing in - to the sea, to the sea, in - to the

steps_ lead-ing in - to the sea, to the sea.

steps lead-ing to the sea. to the sea.

35

mf exultant
She is neith - er pale nor pink nor pale, and she nev - er

mf exultant
sea. She is neith - er pink nor pale, and she nev - er

mf exultant
She is neith-er pink nor pale, neith - er pink nor pale, and she

mf exultant
She is neith-er pink nor pale, and she nev - er will be all

mf exultant

41

will be mine; she learned her hands in a fair - y - tale, and her mouth
 will be mine; she learned her hands in a fair - y - tale, and her mouth
 nev - er will be all mine; hands in a fair - y - tale, and her mouth
 mine; she learned her hands in a fair - y - tale, and her mouth on a

48

on a val - en - tine. O she has more hair, more hair than she
 on a val - en - tine. O she has more hair than she needs;
 on a val - en - tine. O she has more hair than she needs;
 val - en - tine. She has more hair, more hair than she

54

needs; in the sun 'tis a woe to me! And her
 in the sun 'tis a woe to me! And her
 in the sun 'tis a woe, a woe! And her
 needs; in the sun, 'tis a woe to me!

59

voice is a string of colored, colored beads, or steps lead-ing
 voice is a string of colored beads, or steps lead-ing
 voice is a string of colored, colored beads, or steps lead-ing
 Woe, woe, woe! Steps

64 *poco rit.* *p* *Meno mosso* ♩=c.56

in - to the sea. She loves me all that she can,
in, lead - ing in - to the sea. All that she can,
in - to the sea. She loves me all she can,
lead - ing to the sea. She loves me all she can,

poco rit. *p* *Meno mosso* ♩=c.56

70 *mp*

and her ways to my ways re - sign; but she was not made for
and her ways to my ways re - sign; but she was not made for
and her ways to my ways re - sign; but she was not made for
and her ways re - sign; but she was not made for

mp

77

an - y, an - y, an - y, an - y, man, an - y man, and she nev - er will

an - y man, an - y, an - y man, and she nev - er will

an - y man, an - y man, and she nev - er will

an - y man, an - y, an - y man, nev - er will

rit.

83

be all mine; she nev - er will be all mine.

be all mine; she nev - er will be all mine.

be all mine; she nev - er will be all mine.

be all mine; she nev - er will be all mine.

pp