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A Sonnet for Daphne

WALTER SAUL

A Sonnet for Daphne might be described as a completely hand-crafted love song for my wife of 28½ years. I wrote the sonnet for my wife on March 19, 2008, to complement the wonderful sonnets my elder daughter, Charity S. McCallum, wrote for both of us in 2004. She cherished it so much that she wanted it set to music. I did so, and gave her the new song on July 5, 2008, in celebration of our 28th wedding anniversary and her birthday, which fall quite close to each other.

The lyrics use “thee” and “thy,” the King James personal forms for “you” and “your,” to represent the closeness of our relationship. Quakers and others have addressed God using these personal pronouns to indicate God’s closeness to them and, thereby, their equality to each other. In my family, we have always addressed my parents, siblings, and children with “thee” and “thy” for the same reasons. Far from being a formal and archaic way to address the love of my life, these personal pronouns, used in most other languages, profoundly illustrate our oneness in the LORD.

A Sonnet for Daphne

words and music by Walter Saul

Flowing

(♩ = 126)

p

mp

From

chance ac-quain-tance now there comes a friend, And

mf

mp

sim.

yet, to be with thee, it seems ordained.

p

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3

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. The first system shows the vocal line and piano accompaniment in 4/4 time, with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The lyrics are "A joy to bear my - self that's". The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment, with dynamics ranging from *f* to *rit.* and *mf*. The lyrics are "not ex - - plained, I share with thee in missives". The third system features a piano solo with dynamics *pp* and *mf*, and includes the instruction "pedal each beam" and "p accel. - - - - - a tempo". The lyrics are "that we send,". The fourth system is a piano solo in 3/4 time, with dynamics *mp* and *mf marc.*. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

mp
A joy to bear my - self that's

f *rit.*
not ex - - plained, I share with thee in missives

pp *mf*
pedal each beam
that we send, - - - - - a tempo

mp *mf marc.*

4

From my best dreams... there comes a passion fire.

The touch, e - lec - tric, from thy hand to mine, Scares us at

first; we flee a - way, yet pine

p dolce

while. Is there per - haps a

più p

pp

stealth de - sire?

rall. - - Slower mp

(♩=84) Our heavenly Fa - ther has un - veiled to

p

mf cresc.

us each other for the other for all life. What

sim.

mp cresc.

pedal each measure

6

ff
joy to see my friend— and bride,

f
mp *cresc.*

because I'm thine, thee's mine, we're ever husband,

p *8va*

f accel. — — — *Tempo I*

wife!

mf *8va*!!

And yet a great - er Love is here made

mp

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system shows the vocal line starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic and the piano accompaniment. The second system features a *rall.* (rallentando) section followed by a return to *a tempo* and a piano (*pp*) dynamic. The third system includes a *rit.* (ritardando) section and ends with a pianissimo (*ppp*) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings. A signature '7/5/2008 AD' and a logo are visible at the bottom right of the score.

known, For - e - ver now our Lord -
 makes us His own.
 rit. *ppp*

From chance acquaintance now there comes a friend,
 And yet, to be with that, it seems ordained.
 A joy to bear myself that's not explained,
 I share with that in raptures that we send.

From my best dreams there comes a passionate fire.
 The touch, electric, from thy hand to mine,
 Scars us at first, we flit away, yet pine
 Awhile. Is there perhaps a stealthy desire?

Our heavenly Father has unveiled to us
 Each other for the other for all life.
 What joy to see my friend and bride, because
 I'm thine, thou's mine, we're ever husband, wife!

And yet a greater Love is here made known
 Forever now our LORD - makes us His own.