

I Would Follow You

A Ghost Story in Four Songs for Tenor and Piano

(2025)

MARK KIM-MULGREW

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Duration: 16 minutes

Score revision in October 2025

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Instrumentation

Tenor

Piano

Program Notes

"I Would Follow You" is a song cycle for tenor and piano that tells a story of falling in love with a phantom. This song cycle was written for Blake Friedman.

The idea of piecing together unrelated poems to harness an emergent narrative came from an observation that Sophie Jewett's "A Song In Summer" could potentially be interpreted as the narrator *wishing* to let go of their corporeal constraints to be with their lover. After experimenting with grouping a few poems about love and longing with the Jewett poem, I realized that a ghost story could be created by piecing together poems about supernatural phenomena (Radcliffe), lost love (Rossetti), desiring physically impossible acts for love (Jewett), and wanting to disappear with your lover (Joyce).

Subsequently, I chose the form and the overall texture of each song to serve the narrative arc of (1) encountering the phantom, (2) falling in love with the phantom, (3) affirming the narrator's love for the phantom, (4) deciding to be with the phantom.

Original Text

1. To The Visions of Fancy

by Ann Radcliffe

from *The Romance of the Forest: Interspersed with Some Pieces of Poetry* (1792)

Dear, wild illusions of creative mind!
Whose varying hues arise to Fancy's art,
And by her magic force are swift combined
In forms that please, and scenes that touch the heart:
Oh! whether at her voice ye soft assume
The pensive grace of sorrow drooping low;
Or rise sublime on terror's lofty plume,
And shake the soul with wildly thrilling woe;
Or, sweetly bright, your gayer tints ye spread,
Bid scenes of pleasures steal upon my view,
Love wave his purple pinions o'er my head,
And wake the tender thought to passion true.
O! still—ye shadowy forms! attend my lonely hours,
Still chase my real cares with your illusive powers!

3. A Song In Summer

by Sophie Jewett

from *The Poems of Sophie Jewett* (1910)

If I were but the west wind,
I would follow you;
Cross a hundred hills to find
Your world of green and blue;

In your pine wood linger,
Whisper to you there
Stories old and strange, and finger
Softly your bright hair.

2. Echo

by Christina Rossetti

from *Goblin Market and Other Poems* (1862)

Come to me in the silence of the night;
Come in the speaking silence of a dream;
Come with soft rounded cheeks and eyes as bright
As sunlight on a stream;
Come back in tears,
O memory, hope, love of finished years.

Oh dream how sweet, too sweet, too bitter sweet,
Whose wakening should have been in Paradise,
Where souls brimfull of love abide and meet;
Where thirsting longing eyes
Watch the slow door
That opening, letting in, lets out no more.

Yet come to me in dreams, that I may live
My very life again though cold in death:
Come back to me in dreams, that I may give
Pulse for pulse, breath for breath:
Speak low, lean low,
As long ago, my love, how long ago!

4. Chamber Music XVI

by James Joyce

from *Chamber Music* (1907)

O cool is the valley now
And there, love, will we go
For many a choir is singing now
Where Love did sometime go.
And hear you not the thrushes calling,
Calling us away?
O cool and pleasant is the valley
And there, love, will we stay.

3 *with anticipation*

16 *p* *mp*

And by her ma - gic force are swift com - bined In forms that please, and

8^{va} *pp* *p*

20 *mf* 4 *f*

scenes that touch the heart: Oh! wheth - er at her voice ye soft as - sume

8

25 *f* *p* 5 *p* *f*

The pen - sive grace of sor - row droop - ing low; Or rise

p *mf col canto* *f*

29 *p*

sub - lime on ter - ror's loft - y plume, And shake the soul: with wild - ly thrill - ing

8^{va} *pp sub.*

2. Echo (Christian Rossetti)

1 Allegretto ♩ = 112

like you just fell in love
f ————— **p**

Come to me _____ in the si - lence _____ of the night

like an echo, with plenty of space and resonance throughout the piece

8 **f** — **p** **p** — **f**

_____ Come in the speak - ing _____ si - lence of a dream; Come _____ with soft round - ed

15 **2** **f**

cheeks and eyes as bright As sun - light _____ on a stream; Come back _____ in

20 *desperately*
dim. poco a poco

tears, _____ O _____ mem - o - ry, hope, _____ love _____ of

dim. poco a poco

25 *p dim. al niente*

fin - ished years. _____

pp *p* *f*

3

unwilling to accept the certain doom of falling in love with a phantom

32 *f* _____ *p* *f* > *p*

Oh dream _____ how sweet, too sweet, _____ too bit - ter sweet, _____ Whose wak - en - ning should have _____ been in

p *f* *p*

38 *p* _____ *f*

Par - - a - dise, Where souls brim - full of love _____ a - bide _____ and meet; _____ Where

p *f*

4

3.A Song In Summer (Sophie Jewett)

Andantino ♩ = 80

Piano introduction in G major, 4/4 time. The right hand features a melodic line with sixteenth-note runs, each marked with a '6' for a six-fingered chord. The left hand provides a simple accompaniment. The tempo is marked 'Andantino' with a quarter note equal to 80 beats per minute. The dynamic is *pp* (pianissimo). The text '*pp* like the summer breeze' is written below the first few notes.

1

3

Longingly
p

If I were but the west wind,

Vocal line starting at measure 3. The piano accompaniment continues with sixteenth-note runs in the right hand and simple chords in the left hand. The dynamic is *pp*.

5

mp

I would fol - low

Vocal line starting at measure 5. The piano accompaniment continues with sixteenth-note runs in the right hand and simple chords in the left hand. The dynamic is *mp*.

7 *mf*

you; Cross a hun - dred

9 hills to find Your

11 *f*

world of green and

p

4. Chamber Music XVI (James Joyce)

Andante moderato $\text{♩} = 96$ *losing the grip on reality*1 *p*

O cool is the val - ley now And there, love, _____ will we

Somberly throughout the piece, like dancing towards death

go _____ For man - y a choir is sing - ing _____ now Where _____ Love _____

17 **2** *fully delusional*

did some - time go. And hear you not the thrush - es call - ing, Call - -

24

- ing us _____ a - way O cool _____ and pleas - ant is the val - ley