

I Shall Forget You Presently, my Dear

I shall forget you presently, my dear,
So make the most of this, your little day,
Your little month, your little half a year,
Ere I forget, or die, or move away,
And we are done forever; by and by
I shall forget you, as I said, but now,
If you entreat me with your loveliest lie
I will protest you with my favorite vow.
I would indeed that love were longer-lived,
And vows were not so brittle as they are,
But so it is, and nature has contrived
To struggle on without a break thus far,
Whether or not we find what we are seeking
Is idle, biologically speaking.

—*Edna St. Vincent Millay*

I Shall Forget You Presently, My Dear

(SONNET IV)

Text: Edna St. Vincent Millay
(1892–1950)

Music: Karim Al-Zand
(2023)

Slowly; steady, tranquil $\text{♩} = 44$

p pulsing quietly throughout
(sim.) I shall for-get you

chanté, mp molto legato

p (sim.)

pres-ent-ly, my dear, so make the most of this, your lit-tle day, your lit-tle month, your

cresc.

lit-tle half a year, ere I for-get, or die, or move a-way, and

mp *p*

poco f *p* *mf* *mf*

we are done for-ev-er, for-ev-er; by and by I shall for-

Suddenly quicker; carefree $\text{♩} = 60$

14 *molto rit.* - - - - - *tempo primo*
pp
 - get you, as I said, but now, but now, if you en-treat me with your

18 *mf*
 lov - - 'liest lie. I will pro-test you with my fav - - 'rite vow I would in-

21
 - deed that love were long - er - lived, and vows were not as brit-tle as they are.

24 *Suddenly quicker; as before*
mf
 But so it is and na - ture has con - trived to strug - gle

28 *rit.* - - - - - *ad libitum*
p
 on with - out a break thus far, wheth - er or not we find what we are seek - ing

32

rit. ----- tempo primo

is id-le, bi-o - log-i-cal-ly speak-ing.

pp *mp*

35

rit. -----

[3'15"]