



SATB Voices A Cappella

SATB2510

If I Can Stop One Heart From Breaking

Words by EMILY DICKINSON

Music by PATTI DRENNAN

Preview Only
Excelcia Music Publishing

About the Composer



Patti Drennan earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree at Oklahoma State University and a Masters of Music Education degree at the University of Oklahoma. She taught Choral Music for twenty-eight years in Norman Public Schools, the first twenty years at West Mid-High School, where she was voted "Teacher of the Year", and eight years at Norman High (OK). In 2004, she was awarded the coveted "Director of Distinction Award" given by OCDA. In 2018 she received the "Maestro Award" given by the Ambassadors Concert Choir. Patti was awarded the 2021 "Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Honoree". In 2022, she was awarded the Oklahoma State University College of Arts and Sciences "Distinguished Alumni Award" for the Greenwood School of Music. Additionally that year she was awarded the "William S Roche' Award" for commitment, dedication and excellence by the Ambassadors Concert Choir. In 2023, she became a "Recording Academy / GRAMMY® Member and Voter". Her recently released choral album "Echoes of Grace" charted #1 on Billboard, as well as won the World Entertainment Award for "Best Choral Album".

An active composer and arranger, Patti has over 875 choral octavos and piano books published with ten major publishers. She has served as a clinician for school and church workshops in 23 states, numerous times in Canada, and has presented 4 sessions at MMA. She has guest directed at numerous "Composer Weekends" and has adjudicated choral contests in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Kansas.

Patti retired in 2004 in order to compose and serve as a clinician and reading session presenter for her publishers. She served for almost ten years as Music/Worship Arts Director at First Baptist Church, Norman and served for over 3 years as Music Director at NorthHaven Church, Norman. She and her late husband have two grown children, a son-in-law and two amazing grandsons. She enjoys spending time recording and performing with her daughter in numerous symphonic performances. Her music can be accessed through many distributors, publishers and at www.pattidrennan.com.

If I Can Stop One Heart From Breaking

"If I Can Stop One Heart from Breaking," arranged by Patti Drennan, is a heartfelt choral setting of one of Emily Dickinson's poignant poems. This beautiful arrangement captures themes of empathy and compassion, offering a reflective and moving performance for concerts or services. Part of a set of three poems by Dickinson, it brings emotional depth and timeless meaning to any program.

This piece is part of a set of three Emily Dickinson poems.

It can easily be paired with:

Heart, We Will Forget Him (SSAA) - SSAA2506

Hope is the Thing With Feathers (TTBB) - TTBB2505



Recordings are available on all major streaming services.

If I Can Stop One Heart From Breaking

Words by
EMILY DICKINSON

for a cappella SATB Voices

Music by
PATTI DRENNAN

With emotion, rubato ♩ = 72-76

mf

Soprano
If I can stop one heart from break-ing, — I shall not live in

mf

Alto
If I can stop one heart from break-ing, — I shall not live in

mf

Tenor
If I can stop one heart from break-ing, I'll no live in —

mf

Bass
If I can stop one heart from break-ing, I'll not live in

4

vain; can ease one life the ach-ing,

vain; If I can ease one life the ach-ing,

vain; — I can ease — one life the ach-ing,

vain; — I can ease one — life the ach-ing,

7 *cresc.*
 or I can cool one pain, or help one
cresc.
 or I can cool one pain, or help one
cresc.
 8 I can cool one pain, or help one
cresc.
 I can cool one pain, or help one

10 *f* 3
 faint - ing rob - in un - to his nest a - gain,
 faint - ing rob - in un - to his nest a - gain, a - gain,
 8 *f* 3
 faint - ing rob - in un - to his nest a - gain,
f 3
 faint - ing rob - in un - to his nest a - gain,

13 *mf*

If I can stop one heart from break - ing,

mf

If I can stop one heart from break - ing,

mf

If I can stop one heart from break - ing,

mf

If I can stop one heart from break ing,

15 *mp*

I shall not live in vain. If I help one

mp

I shall not live in vain. If I help one

mp

I shall not live in vain. If I help one

mp

I shall not live in vain. If I help one

cresc.
3

18

f *rit.*

faint - ing rob - in un - to his nest a - gain, a - gain, —

f *rit.*

faint - ing rob - in un - to his nest a - gain, a - gain, —

f *rit.*

8 faint - ing rob - in un - to his nest a - gain, a - gain, —

f *rit.*

faint - ing rob - in un - to his nest a - gain, a - gain, —

21

a tempo *mf*

if I can stop one heart from break - ing, I shall not

a tempo *mf*

if I can stop one heart — from break - ing, I shall not

a tempo *mf*

8 if I stop one heart from break - ing, I shall not

a tempo *mf*

if I stop one heart from break - ing, I shall not

24

cresc. *f*

live in vain, in vain.

cresc. *f*

live in vain, in vain.

cresc. *f*

live in I'll not live in vain.

cresc. *f*

live in I'll not live in vain.

27

dim. *mp* , *rit.*

I shall not live in vain, not in vain.

dim. *mp* , *rit.*

I shall not live in vain, not in vain.

dim. *mp* , *rit.*

I shall not live in vain, not in vain.

dim. *mp* , *rit.*

I shall not live in vain, not in vain.



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Patti Drennan

Patti's knowledge of festivals, concerts, and contest makes her familiar with what "works" and will help ensure a choir's success. She incorporates unusual harmonies and creative melodies in her writing and always has an accompaniment that is enjoyable to play.

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Want to inform this composer that you are playing their piece?



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