



TTBB Voices & Piano

TTBB2505

Hope Is the Thing With Feathers

Words by EMILY DICKINSON

Music by PATTI DRENNAN

For Preview Only
Excelcia Music Publishing



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Music that Inspires

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 TMEA. 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 about 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.

Hope is the Thing With Feathers

"Hope is the Thing with Feathers", based on Emily Dickinson's poignant poem set to music by Patti Drennan is a serene and uplifting choral piece. With its gentle, flowing melodies and evocative text, it captures the enduring strength and comfort of hope. This setting brings a sense of peace and inspiration to performances, offering a reflective moment for both singers and audiences.

This piece is part of a set of three Emily Dickinson poems.
It can easily be paired with:

If I Can Stop One Heart From Breaking (SATB) - SATB2510
Heart, We Will Forget Him (SSAA) - SSAA2506

Featured on the
award winning album
Echoes of Grace
2025 Global Music Award
Gold Winner
2025 World Entertainment Award
Best Choral Music



Recordings are available on all major streaming services.

Hope Is the Thing With Feathers

for TTBB Voices with Piano Accompaniment

Words by
EMILY DICKINSON

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In a lilting style ♩ = ca. 53

Piano

mf

3

Tenor I/II
mf

5

Bass I/II
mf

Hope is the thing with feathers that
Hope is the thing with feathers that

The musical score is presented in a standard format with a grand staff for piano accompaniment and two vocal staves. The piano part features a lilting melody in the right hand and a steady accompaniment in the left hand. The vocal parts enter at measure 5, with the Tenor I/II and Bass I/II parts singing the lyrics. The score is marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and includes a tempo indication of approximately 53 beats per minute.

7

8 *f*

per - ches in the soul, _____ and sings the tune with -

per - ches in the soul, _____ and sings the tune with -

10

8

out the words, and nev - er stops at all, _____ and

out the words, and nev - er stops at all, _____ and

13

sweet - est in the gale is heard; and sore must be the

sweet - est in the gale is heard; and sore must be the

16

mf storm that could a - bash the lit - tle bird that

mf storm that could a - bash the lit - tle bird that

mf

19

kept so man - y warm.

kept so man - y warm.

21

24

mp

I've heard it the chill - est land, and

mp

I've heard it in the chill - est land, and

mp

26 *mf*

on the strang - est sea; _____ Yet,

on the strang - est sea; _____

28 *mp*

nev - er, in ex - trem - i - ty, it

nev - er, in ex - trem - i - ty,

mf

30

asked a crumb of

mp

it asked a crumb of

mp

33

p *rit.*

me.

p

me.

rit. *p*

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