

Alec Roth – “HOPE” (a lullaby) – words by Emily Dickinson

for mezzo-soprano and keyboard or harp

commissioned by Vanessa Bernstein for her grand-daughter Bronwen Flora Bernstein

first performed for a private recording by Susannah Waters (voice) and Alec Roth (piano), December 1996

first public performance: Marieta Vulkova (voice), Sosie Chifchyan (piano), Municipal Gallery of Art, Sofia, Bulgaria, 18 November 2001

“Hope” is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the words
And never stops at all,
And sweetest in the gale is heard;
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little bird
That kept so many warm.
I’ve heard it in the chillest land,
And on the strangest sea;
Yet, never, in extremity,
It asked a crumb of me.

Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

DURATION

ca. 4 minutes

FORCES REQUIRED

Mezzo-soprano with Keyboard or Harp

PERFORMANCE MATERIALS

Vocal Score (Keyboard and Harp play from the Vocal Score)

SCORE SAMPLE

Click here for a sample page of the [Vocal Score](#)