



# Sing to Me

Poem by

Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Music by

David Evan Thomas

SATB Chorus, unaccompanied

## Sing to Me (2019)

Commissioned by Kantorei in honor of Founder-Director Axel Theimer.

### Text

Sing to me! Something of sunlight and bloom,  
I am so compassed with sorrow and gloom,  
I am so sick with the world's noise and strife,  
Sing of the beauty and brightness of life –  
Sing to me, sing to me!

Sing to me! Something that's jubilant, glad!  
I am so weary, my soul so sad.  
All my earth riches are covered with rust,  
All my bright dreams are but ashes and dust.  
Sing to me, sing to me!

Sing me a song full of hope and of truth,  
Brimming with all the sweet fancies of youth!  
Say, though my sorrow I may not forget,  
I have not quite done with happiness yet.  
Sing to me, sing to me!

Lay your soft fingers just here, on my cheek;  
Turn the light lower – there – no, do not speak,  
But sing! My heart thrills at your beautiful voice;  
Sing till I turn from my grief and rejoice.  
Sing to me, sing to me!

Ella Wheeler Wilcox



Ella Wheeler Wilcox (1850–1919) grew up on a farm east of Janesville, Wisconsin, the youngest of four children. The family appreciated literature, and Ella began writing poetry at age eight. Her most famous poem, “Solitude,” which opens with the lines “Laugh, and the world laughs with you; / Weep, and you weep alone,” was published in the *The New York Sun* in 1883. After marrying Robert Wilcox that year, Wheeler Wilcox became interested in theosophy. “Sing to Me” appeared in *Poems of Reflection*, published in 1905 by M.A. Donohue & Co., Chicago. Ella Wheeler Wilcox died of cancer on October 30, 1919 in Short Beach, Connecticut.

David Evan Thomas has been honored with two McKnight Foundation Artist Fellowships, an Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and commissions from the Minnesota Orchestra and Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. Born in Rochester, New York in 1958, Thomas studied at Northwestern University, Eastman School of Music, and with Dominick Argento at the University of Minnesota. His music is published by ALRY, ECS, MorningStar, Augsburg Fortress, Tritone-Tenuto and several other publishers. Thomas lives in Minneapolis. More: [www.davidevanthomas.com](http://www.davidevanthomas.com).

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# Sing to Me

Ella Wheeler Wilcox (1850-1919)

David Evan Thomas

**Con moto** ♩ = 63

*p*

Soprano  
Sing to me! Some-thing of sun - light and bloom, I am so

Alto  
Sing to me! Some-thing of sun - light and bloom, I am so

Tenor  
Sing to me! Some-thing of sun - light and bloom, I am so

Bass  
Sing to me! Some-thing of sun - light and bloom, I am so

For rehearsal

5

*rall.* *a tempo*

S  
com-passed with sor - row and gloom, I am so sick with the

A  
com - passed with sor - row and gloom, sick with the

T  
com - passed with sor - row and gloom,

B  
com - passed with sor - row and gloom, sick with the

5

*rall.* *a tempo*

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9

S world's noise and strife, \_\_\_\_\_ Sing of the beau - ty and bright-ness of

A world's noise \_\_\_\_\_ and strife, Sing of the beau - ty, the

T sick \_\_\_\_\_ with the world's noise and strife, \_\_\_\_\_ Sing of the

B world's noise \_\_\_\_\_ and strife, Sing of the beau - ty, the

8

9

3

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

3

3

3

14

S life \_\_\_\_\_ Sing to me, sing \_\_\_\_\_ to me! \_\_\_\_\_

A beau - ty and bright-ness. Sing to me, \_\_\_\_\_ sing to me! \_\_\_\_\_

T beau - ty and bright - ness. Sing to me, \_\_\_\_\_

B beau - ty and bright-ness. Sing to me, sing to me!

14

f

mf

rall.

f

mf

f

mf

rall.

*a tempo* 3

20 *p*

S Ah, ah, I am so

A *p* Ah, ah, I am so

T *mf* *marcato* 3 Sing to me! Some-thing that's ju-bi-lant, glad! \_\_\_\_\_

B *p* *mp* 3 Sing to me! I am so

20 *a tempo*

24

S wear - y, so sad, ah, \_\_\_\_\_

A *mp* wear - y, so sad, All my earth rich - es are cov - ered with

T \_\_\_\_\_

B *p* wear - y, my soul so sad. ah, \_\_\_\_\_

24

4 29

*cresc.*

S All my bright dreams are but ash - es,

A rust, All my bright dreams are but ash - es,

T All my bright dreams are but ash - es and

B

29

33

Div. *f* Unis. *mf* *accel.* *p*

S dust. Sing to me, O

A dust. Sing to me, O

T dust. Sing to me,

B dust. Sing to me, Sing to me,

33

*f* *mf* *espress.* *Div. p* *espress.* *accel.*

Più mosso, quasi allegretto (♩ = 74-78)

39 *mf* *f* 5

S Sing me a song full of hope and of truth, \_\_\_\_\_ 0

A Sing me a song full of hope, Brim - ming with all the sweet fan - cies of youth!

T Sing me a song full of hope and of truth, \_\_\_\_\_ of truth, \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_ brim - ming with all the sweet fan - cies of youth!

Più mosso, quasi allegretto (♩ = 74-78)

39

46

S \_\_\_\_\_ though my sor - row I may not for - get, I have not quite done with

A Say, though my sor - row I may not for - get, I have not quite done with

T Say, though my sor - row I may not for - get, I have not quite done with

B Say, though my sor - row I may not for - get, I have not quite done with

52 *dim.*

S hap - pi - ness yet.

A hap - pi - ness yet.

T hap - pi - ness yet. *Div. mp* Sing to me, *p* sing to me!

B hap - pi - ness yet. *mp* Sing to me, *p* sing to me!

52

58 **Slower than at first** *pp* *poco hesitante*

S Turn the light low - er— there—

A Lay your soft fin - gers just here, on my cheek; Turn the light low - er— there—

T Sing to me, *pp* sing to me! *Unis.* Turn the light low - er— there—

B Sing to me, *pp* sing to me! Turn the light low - er— there—

58 **Slower than at first** *poco hesitante*



Con anima

64

S no, But sing!

A *ppp* no, do not speak, But sing! My heart thrills at your beau - ti - ful

T *ppp* no, do not speak, But sing! Oh

B *ppp* no, do not speak, But sing! Oh

*f* *Div. f* Unis.

64

Con anima

69

S Sing till I turn from my grief and re - joice.

A voice; Sing till I turn from my grief and re - joice.

T *f* sing! My heart thrills at your beau - ti - ful voice; Sing till I

B sing! Oh sing! My

69

Con anima



Tempo primo ♩ = 63

83 *pp* *f* Div.

S Sing \_\_\_\_\_ to me, \_\_\_\_\_ oh \_\_\_\_\_

A *pp* *f* Div. Sing \_\_\_\_\_ to me, \_\_\_\_\_ oh \_\_\_\_\_

T *pp* *f* Div. Sing \_\_\_\_\_ to me, \_\_\_\_\_ oh \_\_\_\_\_

B *pp* *f* Sing \_\_\_\_\_ to me, \_\_\_\_\_ oh \_\_\_\_\_

83 **Tempo primo** ♩ = 63

91 *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

S sing! \_\_\_\_\_ sing! \_\_\_\_\_

A *pp* *pp* Unis. sing! \_\_\_\_\_ sing! \_\_\_\_\_

T *pp* *pp* sing! \_\_\_\_\_

B *pp* *pp* Div. sing! \_\_\_\_\_

91