

You Shall Above All Things

For the wedding of Christine Owens to David Stiller

Text by e. e. cummings (1894–1962)*

Music by Peter Owens
(b. 1960)

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

You shall a - bove all things be glad

S
A
T
B

and young, be glad

S
A
T
B

and young. For if you're young, what -
if you're if you're

12 *mf*

S ev - er life you wear it will be - come you; what - ev - er life you wear it will be -

A *mf*
young, what - ev - er life you wear it will be - come you, be -

T *mf*
8 young, what - ev - er life you wear it will be - come you, it will be -

B *mf*
what - ev - er life you wear, what - ev - er life you wear it

15 *p sub* *mf*

S come you; and if you are glad, what - ev - er's liv - ing will your - self be -

A *p sub* *mf*
come you; and if you are glad, are glad what -

T *p sub* *mf*
8 come you; and if you are glad, are glad, what - ev - er's liv - ing

B *p sub* *mf*
will be - come you; and if you are glad, what - ev - er's liv - ing, what -

18 *f*

S come, what - ev - er's liv - ing will your - self be - come. You shall a - bove

A *f*
ev - er's liv - ing will your - self be come, be - come. You shall a - bove

T *f*
8 will your - self be - come, your self be - come. You shall a - bove

B *f*
ev - er's liv - ing will your self, your - self be - come. You shall a - bove

21 *ff*

S all things be glad and young.—

A all things be glad and young.—

T all things be glad and young.—

B all things be glad and young.—

26 *mp*

S Girl-boys may no-thing more than boy-girls.—

A Girl-boys may no-thing more than boy-girls.—

T Girl-boys may no-thing more than boy-girls

B Girl-boys may no-thing more than boy-girls

29 *mf* *mp*

S need, girl-boys may no-thing more

A need, girl-boys may no-thing more

T need, girl-boys may no-thing more than

B need, girl-boys may no-thing more than

32

S *mf* *p sub*
 than boy - girls need: I can en - tire - ly her on - ly

A *mf* *p sub*
 than boy - girls need: I can en - tire - ly her on - ly

T *mf* *p sub*
 boy - girls need: I can en - tire - ly her on - ly

B *mf* *p sub*
 boy - girls need: I can en - tire - ly her on - ly

35

S *pp*
 love whose an - y mys - te - ry makes ev' - ry man's

A *pp*
 love whose an - y mys - te - ry makes ev' - ry man's

T *pp*
 love whose an - y mys - te - ry makes ev' - ry man's

B *pp*
 love whose an - y mys - te - ry makes ev' - ry man's

39

S *f*
 flesh put space on;

A *f* *mf*
 flesh put space on; and his mind take off

T *f* *mf*
 flesh put space on; and his mind

B *f* *mf*
 flesh put space on; and his

42 *mf*

S
may god for - bid and

A
time that you should ev - er think, may god for -

T
8 take off time that you should — ev - er think, may god for - bid and

B
mind take off time that you should ev - er think may

44 *f*

S
in his mer - cy you true lov - er spare; for that way

A
bid and you true lov - - - er spare; for that way

T
8 you true — lov - er spare; —

B
god you true lov - er spare;

46

S
know-ledge lies — the foe - tal grave called pro-gress, and —

A
know-ledge lies — the foe - tal grave called pro-gress, and —

T
8 for that way know-ledge lies — the foe - tal grave called pro-gress

B
for that way know-ledge lies — the foe - tal grave called pro-gress

49 *mp*

S (and) ne - ga - tion's dead un - doom. I'd ra - ther learn from

A (and) ne - ga - tion's dead un - doom. I'd ra - ther learn from

T and ne - ga - tion's dead un - doom. I'd ra - ther learn from

B and ne - ga - tion's dead un - doom. I'd ra - ther learn from

53 *mf* *f* *mf*

S one bird how to sing *gliss.* than teach ten thou - sand

A one bird how to sing than teach ten thou - sand

T one bird how to sing than teach ten thou - sand

B one bird how to sing *gliss.* than teach ten thou - sand

56 *f* *ff*

S stars how not to dance.

A stars how not to dance.

T stars how not to dance.

B stars how not to dance. *gliss.*

that you should ever think, may god forbid. and (in his mercy) your true lover spare: for that way knowledge lies, the foetal grave.Â Here, Cummings speech act is a command. He is telling you that before you do anything else in life, you should be glad and young. By using the word glad, Cummings is saying to be happy. If you do nothing else, smile. Well, the way things stood lately, Molly did not feel any sort of fellowship with her colleagues. Ever since the erstwhile deceased consulting detectiveâ€“â€“publicly absolved and reputation restoredâ€“â€“resurfaced on the Twittersphere and then along Barts' corridors, quiet and unassuming Molly Hooper became the subject of rumours. Speculation abound, among local press and hospital staff, as to what her role was exactly in Sherlock Holmes's supposed death and subsequent resurrection. Molly herself anticipated as much. And Sherlockâ€“â€“who, neither for the first nor the last time, demonstrated that a heart did in fact reside in his chestâ€“â€“even warned her during their reunion in the ladies' locker room. "People mightâ€“ talk," he said, guilt and apology hidden just at the edge of his voice. Girlboys may nothing more than boygirls need: i can entirely her only love whose any mystery makes every man's flesh put space on;and his mind take off time that you should ever think,may god forbid and (in his mercy) your true lover spare: for that way knowledge lies,the foetal grave called progress,and negation's dead undoom.Â One of the most popular poets of the 20th century, his verses have inspired countless readers. His total body of work includes nearly 3,000 poems. He preferred his name abbreviated in all lowercase letters. Read more â†'. Browse all Famous poems > By e.e. cummings.