

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

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.*