

How Close I'd Love to Be  
GP-L003  
mezzo-soprano, piano

Isaac Lovdahl

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# Isaac Lovdahl

## How Close I'd Love to Be

for mezzo-soprano and piano



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## Text:

### How Close I'd Love to Be

: closer than the reproductions, the reports,  
the dirty windows, closer than my own eyes  
allow. I can hear gunshots in the alley,  
a woman's voice yelling in the apartment building  
next door; I can see the moon  
in the tree branches  
turn rooftops a sooty purple.  
If I could truly be with you,  
then the songs that come out of  
my body would touch your skin and still  
be warm.

*-Anna George Meek*

## From the Composer:

“How Close I'd Love to Be” was the first place winner at Minneapolis SongSLAM 2020, a team competition featuring original art songs. The poetry is by Anna George Meek. It was also the winner of the competition's Living Poet Prize. Meek's evocative poem paints a picture of a bustling, hectic city before the narrator notices and fixates on the moon shining through the tree branches. This moment of stillness captivates them as it reminds them of a past love that is now lost, but not forgotten. The narrator yearns for that love again, but knows it is now only behind them. When you love in a big way, you fall much harder on the way down. This piece is for all who have loved and lost: “If I could truly be with you, then the songs that come out of my body would touch your skin and still be warm.”

*- Isaac Lovdahl, 2022*

## Isaac Lovdahl



Isaac Lovdahl is an award-winning composer, conductor, educator, and vocalist based in Fargo, ND. He directed high school, church, and community choirs in Minnesota after graduating from Concordia College in 2015, and is now finishing a DMA in Choral Conducting at North Dakota State University where he was named the first ever Challey School of Music Choral Conducting Fellow. Along with his doctoral studies, Isaac directs the campus tenor-bass ensemble and teaches ear training. Additionally, he serves as the Assistant Conductor of the Fargo-Moorhead Choral Artists.

His choral compositions and art songs have been performed internationally by collegiate, community-based, and professional ensembles and soloists among others. Isaac and his team took first-place at Minneapolis SongSLAM 2020, an art song composition competition hosted by Source Song Festival in conjunction with Sparks and Wiry Cries. In 2021, he was named the winner of the Yale Glee Club Emerging Composer Competition and the Bellevue Chamber Chorus Emerging Composer Competition. Most recently, Isaac's piece "Freedom" earned second-place at the 43rd Annual Ithaca College Choral Composition Festival and he was named a finalist in the 2023 Young New Yorkers' Chorus Competition for Young Composers.

Isaac's original music can be found online through Graphite Publishing, Santa Barbara Music Publishing, NewMusicShelf, VocalEssence Music Press, MusicSpoke, and his own website.

For all who have loved and lost.

# How Close I'd Love to Be

mezzo-soprano and piano

Anna George Meek

Isaac Lovdahl

Freely Longing  $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 60$

*p* *mp*

How Close I'd Love to Be \_\_\_\_\_ How

*p* *mp*

pedal harmonically

5 *mf*

Close I'd Love to Be \_\_\_\_\_ How Close I'd Love to

*mp* *mf*

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Con moto

♩ = c. 80

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9 *mp* 3

Be I'd Love to Be

*mp* *mf*

with light pedal

13 *mf*

: clos-er than the re - pro - duc - tions, — the re-ports, the dirt-y

16 *f*

win - dows, — clos - er than my — own eyes at -

19 *mf*

low. \_\_\_\_\_ I can hear gun - shots

*f*

pedal harmonically

22

in the al - ley, — a wo - man's voice — yell - ing in the a - part - ment build - ing

*mf*

25

next door; I can see the moon the

*p* *mp*

*rit.*  $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 64$

28 *mf*

moon \_\_\_\_\_ the moon \_\_\_\_\_

*mf*

32 *mp* *mf*

I \_\_\_\_\_ can \_\_\_\_\_ see \_\_\_\_\_ the moon in \_\_\_\_\_ the

*mp* *mf*

35

tree \_\_\_\_\_ branch-es \_\_\_\_\_ the tree \_\_\_\_\_ branch-es

*mf*

38

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*p* turn roof-tops a soot-y purp-le. *mp* How

*sub. p* *mp* notable. elevated.

42

Close I'd Love to Be — How Close I'd Love to Be — How

*mf* *mf*

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46

Slower

Close I'd Love to Be — If I could tru-ly be with you, with you, then the

*f* *mp* *mf*

*f* *mp* notable. elevated.

\*glissando evenly and somewhat slowly

50 a tempo

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songs — that come out of my bod - y would

*mf*

Graphite

notable. elevated.

52

touch your skin and still be warm. (mm)

Graphite

notable. elevated.

55

Molto rit. -----

*mp*

*mp*

Graphite

notable. elevated.