

DT0057.3 | TRUMBORE  
MEZZO-SOPRANO & PIANO

# FOR THE DAUGHTER I MAY NEVER HAVE

Mezzo-Soprano & Piano

The logo for Dale Trumbore, featuring a stylized musical note above the letter 'd' in the word 'daletrumbore'.  
c o m p o s e r

## FOR THE DAUGHTER I MAY NEVER HAVE

What can I say to you,  
you who may never exist,  
you who would have my eyes,  
enjoy what I detest,  
you who would eat tomatoes like apples,  
love soccer and tennis,  
and pick the olives out of your salad?

Tell me how, as if this were simple:  
where to go for dinner and what to order.  
Never mind how anyone decides anything  
three days from an earthquake  
and barely one mile from the fire;  
I can hardly pick one dish,  
let alone upend my life  
for a girl who hates olives.

But wanting both lifetimes is not the same  
as not wanting you, my dear,  
who may or may not exist in the future,  
you who would wrinkle our sheets,  
sleep in, take large bowls of cereal  
up to your room and forget  
to bring them back down.

Tell me it's selfish, choosing  
airplanes and grand pianos  
over you, my dear.  
Tell me it's selfish, you who would  
inherit his teeth, smash glass on the stairs,  
spit out words you'd regret,  
and call me by my first name.

Sure, I would love you through broken glass,  
names, teeth, and regret. But I am as certain  
that I may not get the chance,  
may refuse to lend you my ribcage  
or say your name out loud.

(text, continued)

Teach me how to swallow a fate  
defined by the absence of you.  
Teach me what I would become,  
who you would be, if I were your  
tell me who I am. Give me  
a lifetime to decide. Give me the life  
I've chosen for both of us,  
then forgive me and give me another.

Dale Trumbore

#### PROGRAM NOTE

*For the Daughter I May Never Have* was commissioned by the Pennsylvania State University Glee Club, Dr. Christopher Kiver, Conductor. This commission was made possible in part by a Faculty Research Grant from the Penn State College of Arts and Architecture.

The 2023 art-song arrangement of this work is dedicated to mezzo-soprano Mairin Srygley.

#### PERFORMANCE NOTE

When two or more notes are marked in the vocal line, either choice is equally desirable. Stick with that higher or lower choice for the entire phrase.

The choral version of this piece was commissioned for the Pennsylvania State University Glee Club, Dr. Christopher Kiver, Conductor,  
and made possible in part by a Faculty Research Grant from the Penn State College of Arts and Architecture.  
The 2023 art-song arrangement of this work is dedicated to mezzo-soprano Mairin Srygley:

# For the Daughter I May Never Have

Mezzo-Soprano & Piano

Dale Trumbore

**Gently, with rubato throughout; ♩ = ca. 88**

The musical score is written for Mezzo-Soprano and Piano. It consists of three systems of music. The first system (measures 1-5) features a vocal line starting with a rest, followed by the lyrics 'What can I say to you, you who may'. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The second system (measures 6-9) continues the vocal line with 'nev - er ex - ist, you who would have my eyes, en - joy what I de - test,'. The piano accompaniment continues with similar patterns. The third system (measures 10-13) concludes the vocal line with 'you who would eat to - ma - toes like ap - ples, love soc - cer and ten - nis, and'. The piano accompaniment features a more complex texture with chords and moving lines in both hands. Dynamics include *mp*, *mf*, and *p*. The tempo is marked 'Gently, with rubato throughout' and the tempo is 'ca. 88'. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and the time signature is 4/4.

What can I say to you, you who may

nev - er ex - ist, you who would have my eyes, en - joy what I de - test,

you who would eat to - ma - toes like ap - ples, love soc - cer and ten - nis, and

For the Daughter I May Never Have  
PERUSAL SCORE

2

13 *mf* *mp*

pick the o-lives out of your sa-lad? Tell me how, as

17

if it were this sim-ple: where to go for din-ner and

21 *mf* *p* *mp*

what to ord-er, Nev-er-mind how a-ny-one de-cides an-y-thing three days from an

27 *mf* *p* *mf*

earth-quake and bare-ly one mile from the fire, I can hard-ly

For the Daughter I May Never Have  
PERUSAL SCORE

31

pick one dish, let a - lone up-end my life for a girl who hates o-lives. But

35

want - ing both life-times is not the same as not want - ing you, my

40

dear, my dear, who may or may not ex - ist in the fu - ture, -

45

you who would wrin-ple our sheets, sleep in take large bowls of ce - re - al

For the Daughter I May Never Have  
PERUSAL SCORE

4

49 *mp* *p* sub. *p*

up to your room and for - get\_ to bring them back down. Tell me it's self - ish choos-ing

54 *f* *mf*

air - planes\_ and grand pian - os\_ o - ver you my dear, my\_

54 *mp* *mf*

Red. ^

58 *mp* *mf*

dear. Tell me it's self - ish, you\_ who would in -

58 *p* *mf*

63 *p*

her - it his teeth, smash glass on the stairs, spit out words you'd re - gret, and

63 *p*

For the Daughter I May Never Have  
PERUSAL SCORE

67 *mf*  
call me\_\_ by my first\_ name. Sure, I\_\_ would love you through

67 *mf* *p*

72 *p* *mf*  
bro - ken glass, through\_ names, teeth, and re -

72 *p* *mf*

76 *p* *mf*  
gret, But I am as cer - tain that I may nev - er get the

76 *p* *mf* *p*

80 *f* *mp*  
chance, may re - fuse\_ to lend you my rib\_ cage. or say your name out

80 *mf* *p*

For the Daughter I May Never Have  
PERUSAL SCORE

6

*poco a poco rit.*

84

loud. Teach me how to swal-low a fate de-fined by the ab-sence, the

84 *poco a poco rit.*

Slower; ♩ = ca. 72

89

ab - sence of you. Teach me what I would be -

89 Slower; ♩ = ca. 72

*rit.* *Slow and deliberate; ♩ = ca. 60*

*poco accel.*

94

come if I were\_ your— tell me\_ who I am.

94 *rit.* *Slow and deliberate; ♩ = ca. 60* *poco accel.*

Ped.

For the Daughter I May Never Have  
PERUSAL SCORE

100 ♩ = ca. 80

*p*

Give me a life - time to de - cide,

100 ♩ = ca. 80

*pp*

105 *mf* *f* rit. . . . Slower; ♩ = ca. 60 *pp* *mp*

Give me the life I've cho-sen for both of us. Then for - give me,

105 rit. . . . Slower; ♩ = ca. 60 *p*

110 poco accel. ♩ = ca. 80 poco a poco rall. . . . .

*mp*

and give me an - oth - er.

110 poco accel. ♩ = ca. 80 poco a poco rall. . . . .

*mp*