

PERCUSSION

**Robert G. Patterson**

# **Life Signs**

*six songs on texts by Emily Dickinson*

Finger Cymbals  
Suspended Cymbal  
Medium Tam-tam  
Small Tam-tam (Water Gong)  
Vibraslap  
5 Temple Blocks  
Glockenspiel  
Vibraphone  
2 Bongos

F. Cym.  
Sus. Cym.  
M. Tam.  
S. Tam.  
Vslp.  
T. Blks.  
Glock.  
Vib.  
Bongos

# Life Signs

for mezzo-soprano, horn, percussion, & piano

Text by  
**EMILY DICKINSON**

Music by  
**R. G. PATTERSON**  
(1999)

## I.

Breezy and didactic (♩=120)

Vib. *mf* *Red.* *fz* *Red.* *fz* *Red.*

9 *fz* *Red.* *fz* *Red.* *fz* *Red.* *f* *Red.*

22 Sop. *p* *mf* *ff* *Red.* *(ff)* *pp sub.* *Red.* *\* Red. \* Red. \* etc.*

30 *ff* *Red.* *mf* *ffz* *\**

## II.

Deliberate and Reflective (♩=80)

Vslp. *fz* *(poco)* *fz* *(poco)*

8 S. Tam. *pp* *gliss. by dipping in water*

15 S. Tam. *pp*

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M. Tam.

Vslp. *(yarn mallet)*  
 T. Blks. *yarn mallets*  
*p* *p*

Sop. And ask— my Busi - ness there—  
 Sop. "My Busi-ness but a

30

T. Blks.

*(yarn mallets)*  
*mf fp più f fp n*

Life I left Was such re-main-ing there?" —

M. Tam.

*3*  
 Vslp. *(hand)*  
 T. Blks. *hard mallet*  
*f f* *tam-tam beater*

48

M. Tam.  
 Vslp. *ff*  
 T. Blks. *ffz*

60

M. Tam. *soft yarn mallet*  
 Vslp. *pp*  
 T. Blks. *(soft mallets)*  
*f pp*

74

Glock. *trgl. beaters*  
*pp*

III.

Breathless (♩=152)

F. Cym.  $\frac{9}{16}$   $\frac{6}{16}$  2  $\frac{9}{16}$   $\frac{6}{16}$  3  $\frac{9}{16}$   $\frac{6}{16}$  3  $\frac{9}{16}$

Sus. Cym.  $\frac{9}{16}$   $\frac{6}{16}$  2  $\frac{9}{16}$   $\frac{6}{16}$  3  $\frac{9}{16}$   $\frac{6}{16}$  3  $\frac{9}{16}$

15

F. Cym.  $\frac{9}{16}$   $\frac{6}{16}$  11  $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{9}{16}$   $\frac{6}{16}$  17  $\frac{9}{16}$

Sus. Cym.  $\frac{9}{16}$   $\frac{6}{16}$  11  $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{9}{16}$   $\frac{6}{16}$  17  $\frac{9}{16}$

wire brushes *pp* *l.v.*

51

F. Cym.  $\frac{9}{16}$   $\frac{6}{16}$  5

Sus. Cym.  $\frac{9}{16}$   $\frac{6}{16}$  5

Pno. *p* *f*

felt mallets *l.v.*

67

F. Cym. Sop. 4 4 8 9  $\frac{6}{16}$

Sus. Cym. for-get-ting Am-phi-trite— Pleads—  $\frac{9}{16}$   $\frac{6}{16}$

*p* *f*

93

F. Cym.  $\frac{6}{16}$   $\frac{9}{16}$   $\frac{6}{16}$

Sus. Cym.  $\frac{6}{16}$   $\frac{9}{16}$   $\frac{6}{16}$

w/ Pno. *fz* *fz* *fz* *fz* *fz*

dead stroke snare stick *fz* *fz* *fz* *fz* *fz*

felt mallet *fz* kill sound

IV.  
TACET

hands:  
x = heel  
• = fingers

V.

Primitive and throbbing (♩=120)

Bongos  $\frac{3}{4}$  *pp* *mf* *fz* *pp*

6 *pp* *pp*

11 *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *fz*

16 *p* *mp* *fz* *mf*

21 *fz* *pp* *mp*

28 *mf* *f*

33 *p* *mf* *fz*

39 *p* *pp*

45 *mf*

50 *fz* *fz p* *f* *ff*

55 *fp* *pp*

60 *mf* *pp* *ff*

VI.

Instrospective (♩=50)

3 Tam. tam. btr. Vib. bowed l.v. Pno. Tam. Vib. Sop. I should

*ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp*

10 Vib. medium mallets *ppp* *ppp* *pp* (red. sempre)

16 *mf* *pp*

22 Tam. tam. btr. Pno. *mf* *f* *ppp*

30 Vib. (medium mallets) *pp* (red. sempre)

34 Cym. (vib. mallet) Vib. *ppp* (*pp*)

40

43 *p* *mf* *f* *mf* (red. sempre)

50 Tam. Vib. *f* *mf*

52 Tam. Vib. *f* *mf* *f*

54 Vib. *mf*

Glock. soft rubber mallets

56 Vib. *mf* *pp* (red. sempre)

The musical score is written for Percussion VI and consists of 56 measures. It features multiple staves with various percussion instruments including Tambores (TAM.), Vibraphone (Vib.), Cymbals (Cym.), Glockenspiel (Glock.), and Piano (Pno.). The score includes dynamic markings such as ppp, pp, mf, f, and p, along with performance instructions like 'red. sempre' and 'songful'. The tempo is marked as 'Instrospective' with a quarter note equal to 50 beats per minute. The score includes various rhythmic patterns, including triplets and quintuplets, and articulation marks like accents and slurs.

8

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62

Glock.

Musical score for measures 62-66. The Glockenspiel part has rests. The Vibraphone part has a melodic line with triplets and dynamics *p* and *mf*.

67

Glock.

Musical score for measures 67-70. The Glockenspiel part has rests. The Vibraphone part has melodic lines with triplets and dynamics *mp* and *mf*.

71

Vib.

Musical score for measures 71-75. The Vibraphone part has melodic lines with triplets. The Tam-tam and Vibraphone parts have notes with dynamics *ppp* and *pp*.

76

Vib.

Musical score for measures 76-84. The Vibraphone part has melodic lines with triplets and dynamics *ppp*. The PIANO part has notes with dynamics *ppp* and markings "Pno. bowed l.v." and "sed. sempre".

85

Glock.

Musical score for measures 85-91. The Glockenspiel part has notes with dynamics *ppp*. The Vibraphone part has melodic lines with dynamics *ppp*.

92

Glock.

Musical score for measures 92-96. The Glockenspiel part has rests. The Cymbal part has notes with dynamics *ppp*. The PIANO and Vibraphone parts have notes with dynamics *ppp*.