Vasken Ohanian

Eve

For Solo Soprano and Piano

- 1. God's World
- 2. Eve
- 3. The Garden



Text

1. God's World by Edna St. Vincent Millay

O World, I cannot hold thee close enough!

Thy winds, thy wide grey skies!

Thy mists, that roll and rise!

Thy woods, this autumn day, that ache and sag

And all but cry with colour! That gaunt crag

To crush! To lift the lean of that black bluff!

World, World, I cannot get thee close enough!

Long have I known a glory in it all,

But never knew I this;

Here such a passion is

As stretcheth me apart, —Lord, I do fear

Thou'st made the world too beautiful this year;

My soul is all but out of me, —let fall

No burning leaf; prithee, let no bird call.

2. Eve by Ella Higginson

Close to the gates of Paradise I flee;

The night is hot and serpents leave their beds,

And slide along the dark, crooking their heads, —

My God, my God, open the gates to me!

My eyes are burning so I cannot see;

My feet are bleeding and I suffer pain;

Let me come in on the cool grass again—

My God, my God, open the gates to me!

I ate the fruit of the forbidden tree,

And was cast out into the barren drouth;

And since – the awful taste [in] my mouth!

My God, my God, open the gates to me!

Duration: c.a. 11:00

Eve (continued)

Am I shut out for all eternity?

I do repent me of my one black sin,
With prayers and tears of blood...

Let me come in!

My God, my God, open the gates to me!

Let me come in where birds and flowers be;

Let me once more lie naked in the grass

That trembles when the long wind-ripples pass!

Lord God, Lord God, open the gates to me!

3. The Garden by Jones Very (ed. Vasken Ohanian)

I saw the [place] where our first parents dwelt; And yet it wore to me no face of change, For while amid [the] fields and groves, I felt As if I had not sinned, nor thought it strange;

My eye seemed but a part of every sight, My ear heard music in each sound that rose; Each sense forever found a new delight, Such as the spirit's vision only knows;

Each act some new and ever-varying joy
Did my [Mother's] love for me prepare;
To dress the [place] my ever fresh employ,
And in the glorious whole with [the world/Her] to
share;

No more without the flaming gate to stray, No more for sin's dark stain the debt of death to pay.

Composer's Note:

The inspiration for *Eve* originated in a late-night poetry binge, after coming across Ella Higginson's poem of the same name. The poem left me realizing that the Judeo-Christian creation story is almost always told from a cold, aloof perspective. It never really goes into the motivations and emotions of the two human beings (whether real or imaginary) involved, Adam and Eve. If we do, it seems that it's always from Adam or a male-lead religious organization's perspective.

I wanted to take this song cycle as an opportunity to try to reimagine the Judeo-Christian creation story from Eve's perspective. *Eve* begins with "God's World" encompassing the innocence and wonder of the Garden of Eden, a seemingly perfect place. "Eve" is a depiction of the fall from grace, full of horror, confusion, and perhaps even feelings of being betrayed by the divine. The final song, "The Garden", shifts the perspective to a modern woman who is reflecting on the aftermath of Eve's experience. We take the opportunity to remember the oppression that followed the fall from grace, and look ahead to the road, paved by the mothers who came before us, to a brighter future.

About the Composer:

As a composer and conductor, Vasken Ohanian is known for the expressivity in his music making. He strives to compose music that is relevant to the human experience, often incorporating elements of his Armenian heritage in his compositions. He is a former winner of the *Annual Kris Getz Composition Competition* and a recipient of the *Dean Emeritus Luis Costa Award for Music*. As a conductor, he formerly served as Co-director and Resident Conductor for the 4th Annual *Hot Air Music Festival*.



Vasken Ohanian received his Bachelor of Music in Composition from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, studying under Elinor Armer. He holds a double Master of Music in Composition and Choral-Conducting from the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music, studying with Dr. Martin Herman (Composition) and Dr. Jonathan Talberg (Choral-Conducting).

Learn more at: www.vaskenohanian.com

Performing a work by Vasken Ohanian in your upcoming recital or concert?

We'd love to hear about it! Contact us at: www.vaskenohanian.com/contact

This is a digital perusal score. Unauthorized reproduction of this work is illegal. To purchase complete editions, visit: www.vaskenohanian.com/store.

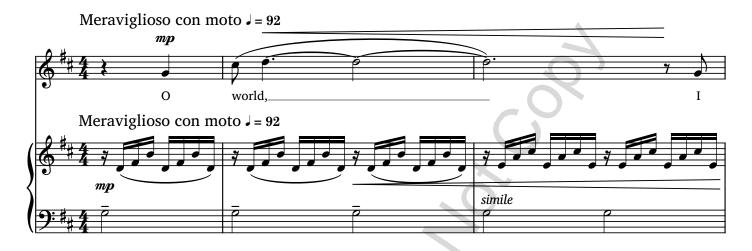


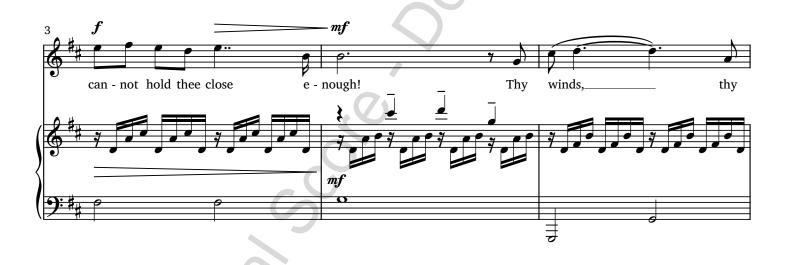
This page is left intentionally blank to facilitate page turns.

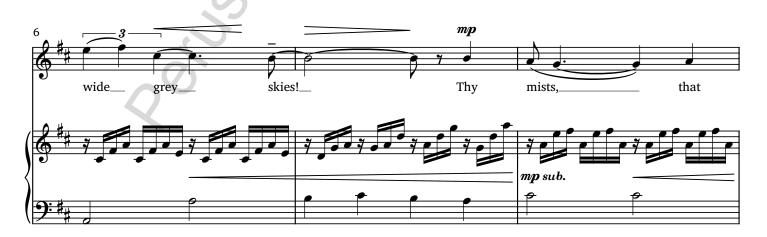
1. God's World

Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892-1950)

Vasken Ohanian (b. 1990)







God's World



God's World



God's World



This page has been removed to encourage purchase of the full score.

Please Purchase Scores at: www.VaskenOhanian.com/Store

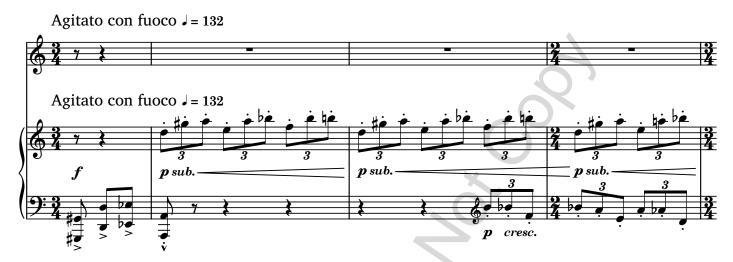




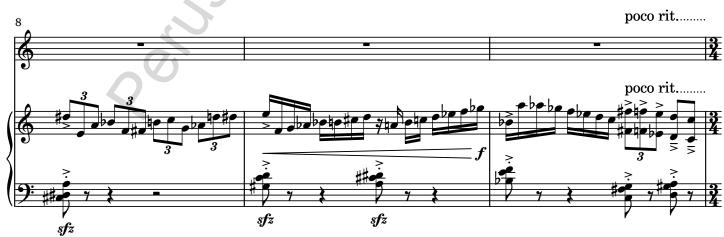
2. Eve

Ella Higginson (1861-1940)

Vasken Ohanian (b. 1990)







Copyright © 2019 by Vasken A. Ohanian (ASCAP). All Rights Reserved.











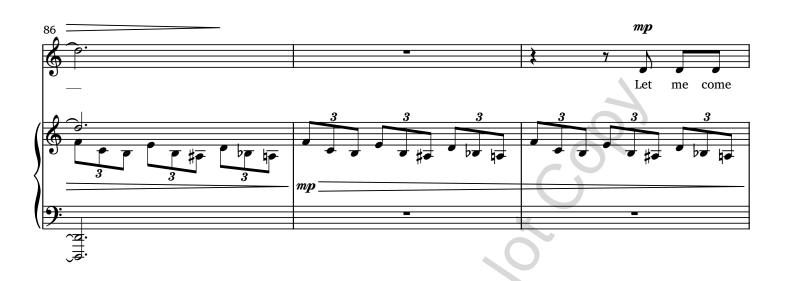
This page has been removed to encourage purchase of the full score.

Please Purchase Scores at: www.VaskenOhanian.com/Store

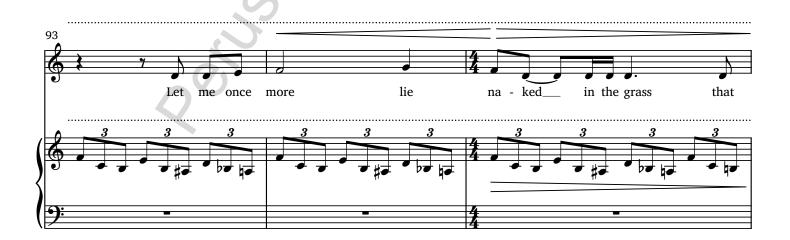


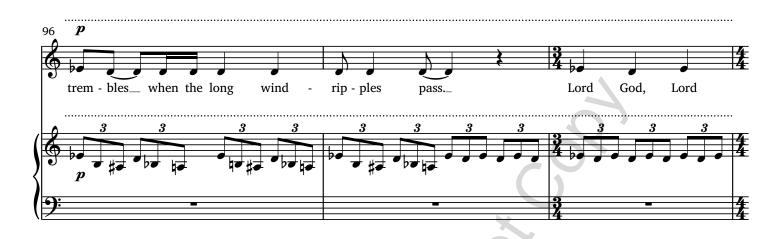


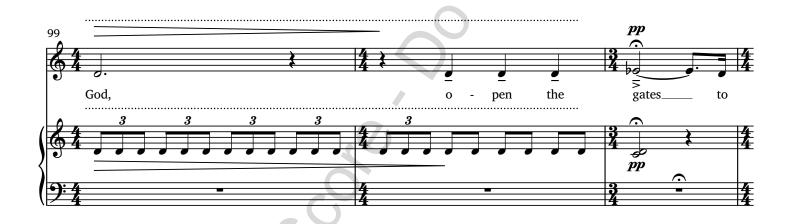


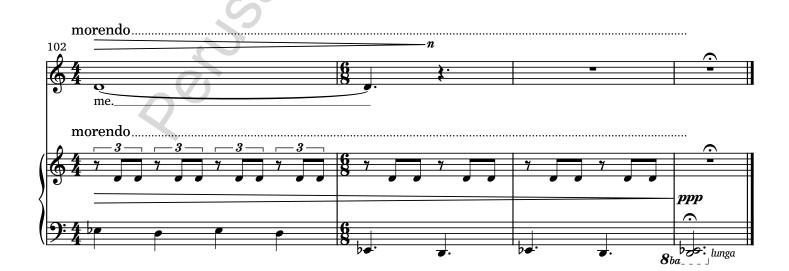






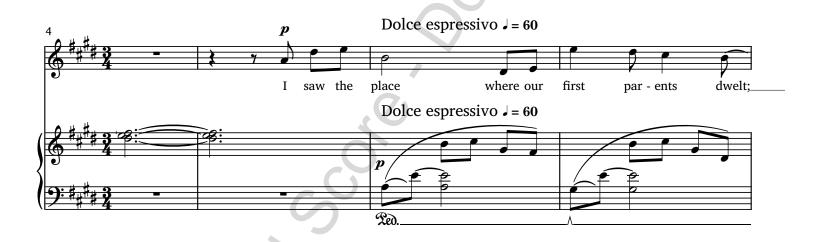


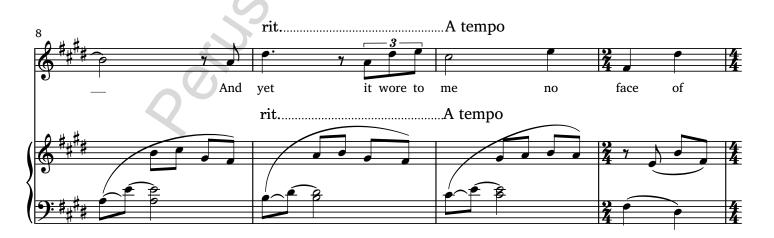


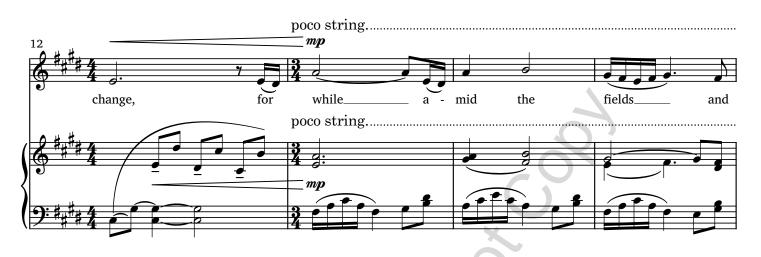


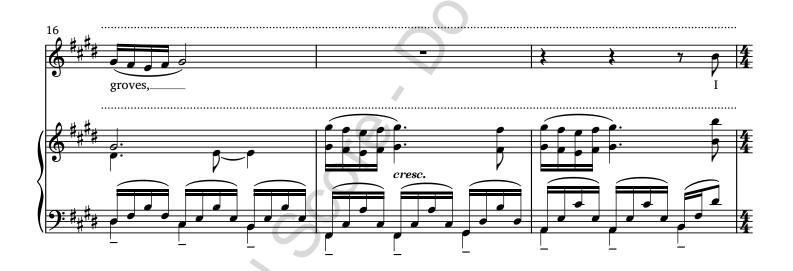
Jones Very (1813-1880) Vasken Ohanian (b. 1990)

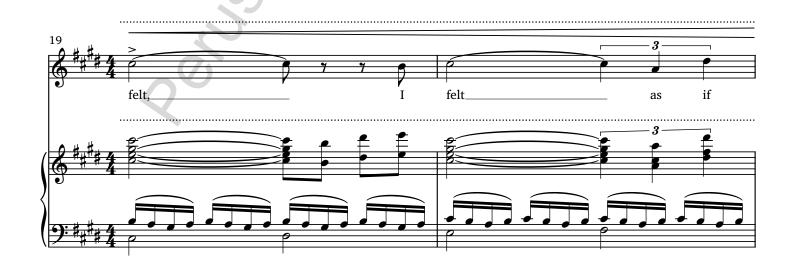


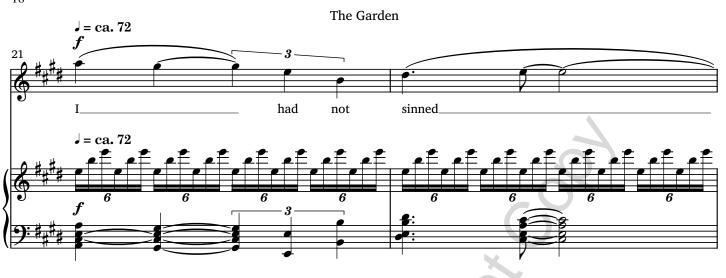


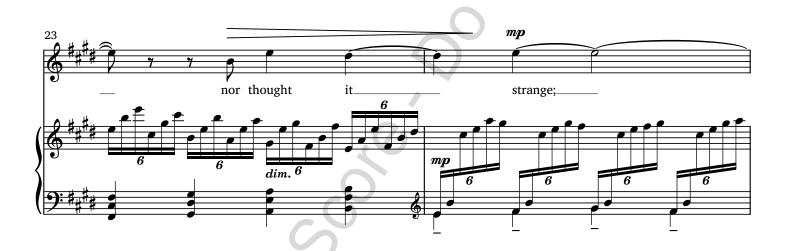


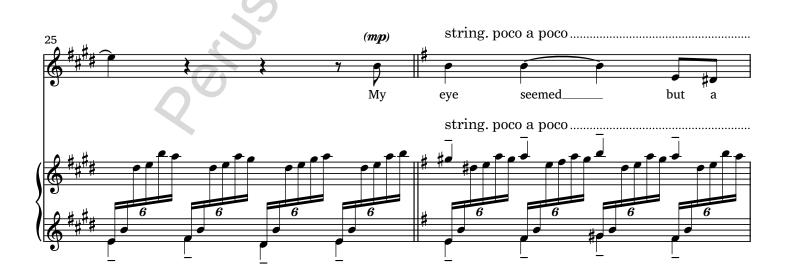


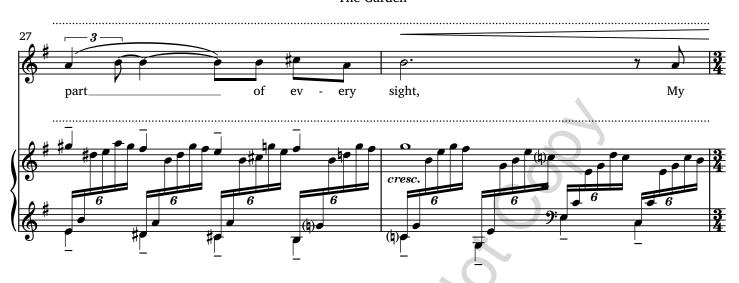


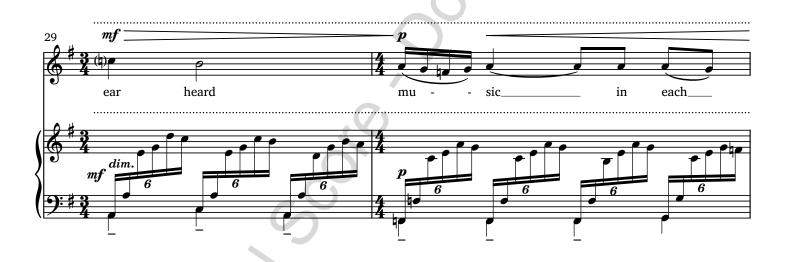


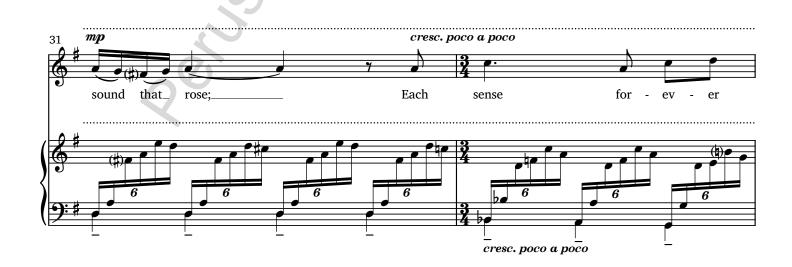


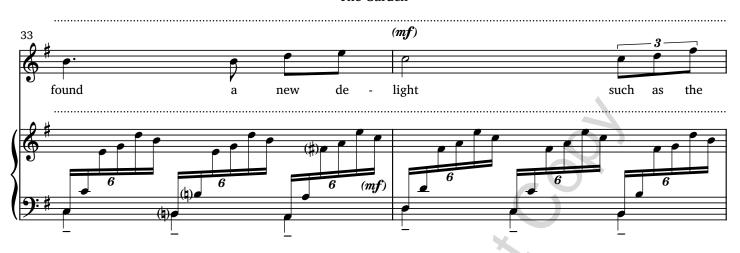


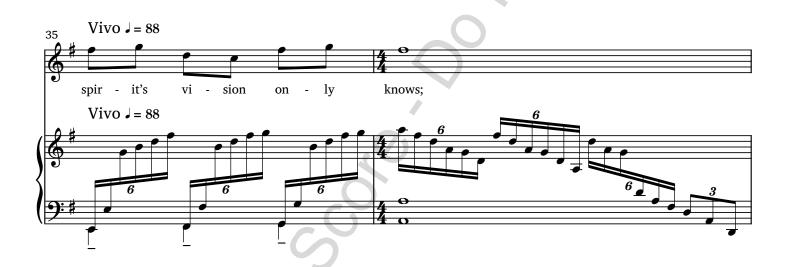


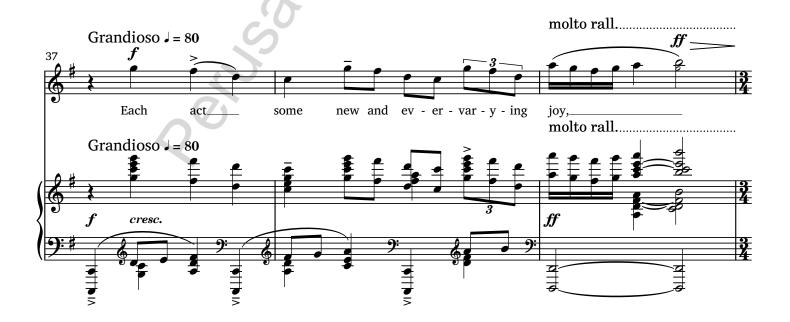








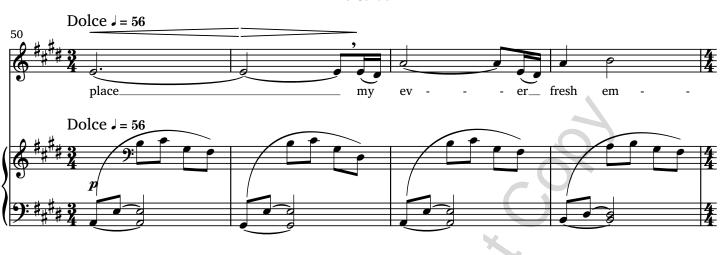


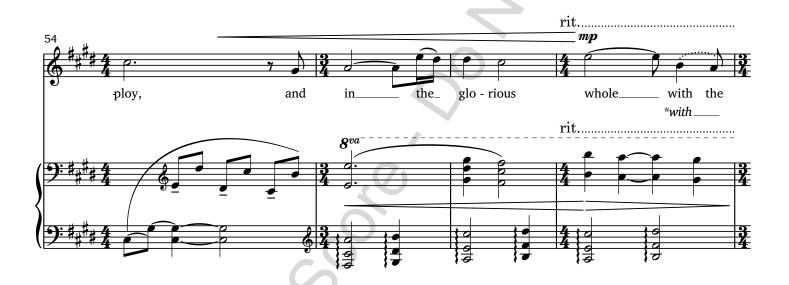


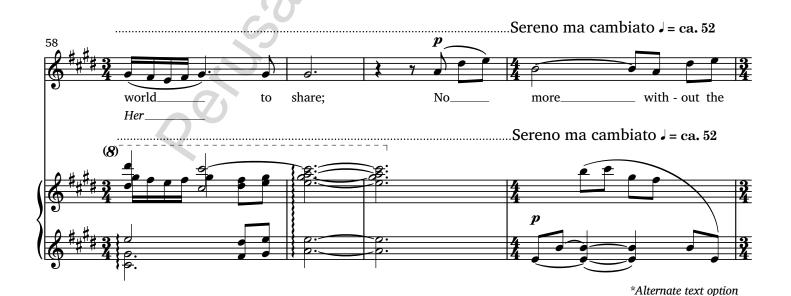
This page has been removed to encourage purchase of the full score.

Please Purchase Scores at: www.VaskenOhanian.com/Store













VAOMusi||3=