

WHAT IS LIFE?

for S.A.T.B. voices and piano
with optional PianoTrax CD*

Words by **PAMELA STEWART**

inspired by the words of the Native American **CROWFOOT**

Music by **GREG GILPIN**

With thought and reflection (♩ = ca. 72)

PIANO

The piano introduction consists of three measures. The right hand has a whole rest in the first two measures and a half note G4 in the third. The left hand has a half note G2 in the first measure, followed by quarter notes G2, A2, B2, and C3 in the second and third measures.

4

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

5 *p*

“What is life?” we long to know. Where are we from? Where

The vocal parts enter in measure 4. The Soprano line has a half note G4, quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The Alto line has a half note G4, quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The Tenor line has a half note G3, quarter notes A3, B3, and C4. The Bass line has a half note G2, quarter notes A2, B2, and C3.

The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines in both hands. The right hand has chords G4, A4, B4, and C5. The left hand has a bass line of G2, A2, B2, C3, and a right hand line of G4, A4, B4, C5.

8

do we go? Where do we find the mean-ing of what it is to live and

The vocal parts continue in measure 8. The Soprano line has quarter notes D5, E5, F5, and G5. The Alto line has quarter notes D4, E4, F4, and G4. The Tenor line has quarter notes D3, E3, F3, and G3. The Bass line has quarter notes D2, E2, F2, and G2.

The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines in both hands. The right hand has chords G4, A4, B4, and C5. The left hand has a bass line of G2, A2, B2, C3, and a right hand line of G4, A4, B4, C5.

* Also available for S.A.B. (39872) and S.S.A. (39873).
PianoTrax 5 Accompaniment CD available (39670).

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12 *poco rit.* 13 *a tempo*
mp

love? _____ Is the an - swer locked a - way like day from night, or

Is the an - swer locked a - way like day from night,

16 *mf*

night from day? Though we seek it from a - far, we

or night from day?

19 *decresc.* *poco rit.* 22 *a tempo*
mp

find it here right where we are. _____ It is the brief-est flash of

decresc. *mp*

It is the

decresc. *poco rit.* *mp* *a tempo*

light the fire - fly sends in - to the night. It
 brief-est flash of light the fire - fly sends in - to the night

Piano accompaniment for measures 23-25, featuring a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

is the ti - ny look-ing glass of dew up - on each blade of
 It is the ti - ny look-ing glass of dew up - on each

Piano accompaniment for measures 26-29, continuing the eighth-note accompaniment pattern.

poco rit.

30 Slightly slower with rubato

grass. It is the spin - ning of a thread the
 blade of grass.

Slightly slower with rubato

Piano accompaniment for measures 30-32, with a change in texture and dynamics, including a *p* dynamic marking.

32

spi - der weaves in - to her web. It is the shad - ow as it runs to

cresc.

cresc.

35

lose it - self in set - ting suns.

rit. decresc.

Tempo I (♩ = ca. 72)

decresc.

Tempo I (♩ = ca. 72)

rit. decresc.

39

It is the ver - y air we breathe. It

p

p

“What is life?” you ask of me.

p

is the won - der that we see. It is the dai - ly dance of

poco rit.

mp

47 *a tempo*

things. It is the ebb, it is the flow, the
 It is the ebb, it is the flow, the

hold - ing on, the let - ting go be - tween the cra - dle
 hold - ing on, the let - ting go be - tween the cra - dle

52 *f* *mp*
and the stone. Life
f *mp*

f *decresc.* *mp*

56 *a tempo* *rit.*
is the mo-ment, that a - lone. Life is the mo - ment, that a -

a tempo *rit.*

60 *a tempo* *p* *molto rit.*
lone. *p*

a tempo *p* *molto rit.*