

Oh,my! GORGEOUS! GENIUS! What a perfect musical style for the text. It's as though he was there when she was writing the poetry.

They are gorgeous.there is a huge gaping hole in the choral repertory (the composer) can fill with this stuff. I can't tell you the number of times in my career I looked for challenging two part music for a small, young yet advanced choir. They are full of musically and vocally challenging elements. I'm ready for more from Mr. Barr!

Margaret Albert Louisiana Vocal Arts Chorale

A Program Note on Amherst Melodies:

I named these settings of four poems by Emily Dickinson after the village of Amherst, Massachusetts, where the poet lived at her father's home for virtually all of her life. The pieces were composed at various periods between 2004 and 2006. I was prompted to write them, at first by my thought that there ought to be a setting of I've heard an Organ talk, sometimes... that required an organ accompaniment. Later I felt that this solitary setting might be enhanced by some companion pieces which I then developed. In the process I soon found that for these other three pieces, the piano (an instrument that Emily played) was a more effective collaborator. All four pieces were first performed by Daughters of Song, Harrisonburg, Virginia, conducted by Gretchen Welch, at Park View Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, Virginia, on April 15, 2007.

John G. Barr