

Commissioned by Ann Marie Wilcox-Daehn and Elizabeth Avery

# East Wing Songs

## *My Dear, Madam: Martha Washington*

Adapted from a letter from Martha  
Washington to Mercy Otis Warren

Text adaptation & Music  
Leanna Kirchoff

**elegant, stately minuet, feel in 1** ♩ = 112

Mezzo-Soprano

*(intoned or spoken)* My Dear, Madam *(projected speech)* *(singing)*

New York, December the 26th, 1789 Your ve - ry friend - ly

Piano

*p* (Could be played before singer begins to give pitch.) *mp* harpsichord-like

(perform this piece with harpsichord if possible)

5

let - ter of the twen - ty sev - enth of last month has af - ford - ed

9

me much more sat - is - fac - tion than all the for - mal com - pli -

13

ments — and emp - ty cer - e - mon - ies — of mere et - i - quette could

17

pos - sab - ly have done. I am on - ly

22

fond of what comes from the heart. Un - der a con - vic - tion that the

*mf* *poco rit.* *p* a little slower than tempo primo ♩ = 104

26

dem - on - stra - tions of res - pect and af - fec - tion which have been made to the Pres - i - dent o -

\* text appears in this song as it appears in Martha Washington's letter, even misspellings.

30 *mf*

rig - i - nate — from that source — I can't de - ny — that I have tak - en plea - sure in them.

34 *recitative-like*

The dif - fi - cult - ies — which pre - sent - ed them - selves to view — up - on his first en - ter - ing up -

35

on the Pres - i - den - cy, — seem thus to be in some mea - sure — sur - mount - ed: —

36

it is ow - ing to this kind - ness of our num - er - ous friends — that my new — and un -

*legato* *p* *mf* *p legato*

Perusal Score

53

but I had long since placed all the prospects of my future world-ly

57

hap - py - ness in the still enjoy - ments of the

61

*poco rit.*

fire - side at Mt. Ver - non.

64

$\text{♩} = 60$  (projected speech)

I little thought when the war was finished, that any circumstance could possible\* have happened

*pp*

69 which would call the General into public life again...

we should have been left to grow

73 old in sol-i-tude and tran-qui-li-ty to-gath-er:

rit. <sup>\*</sup>2

77 a piacere

that was, my Dear mad-am, the

(♩ = ♩)

80 "Hail, Columbia" theme ♩ = 112

first and dear-est wish of my heart;

Perusal Score

take a little time  
to muse before  
going on

10

130 *recitative-like*

we car - ry the seeds of the one, or the oth - er a - bout with us, — in our minds, wher - ev - er we go.

*mf* *p*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 130 and 131. Measure 130 is marked 'recitative-like' and features a vocal line with three triplet markings over the words 'a - bout', 'in our', and 'wher - ev - er'. The piano accompaniment consists of sustained chords in the right hand and a single bass note in the left hand. Dynamics are marked *mf* and *p*.

131

The Pres - i - dent's health is quite re - es - tab - lished by his late — jour - ney, —

*mf* *p*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 131 and 132. Measure 131 continues the vocal line with the words 'The Pres - i - dent's health is quite re - es - tab - lished by his late — jour - ney, —'. The piano accompaniment features chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics are marked *mf* and *p*.

132

mine is much bet - ter than it used to be... — we should re - joice to see you both,

Detailed description: This system contains measures 132 and 133. Measure 132 continues the vocal line with the words 'mine is much bet - ter than it used to be... — we should re - joice to see you both,'. The piano accompaniment features chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The system concludes with a 3/4 time signature.

133

*freely*

*exuberantly*

*with sincerity, fondness*

I wish the best of Hea - vens bless - ings, — and am my dear ma - dam

*mf* *p*

with pedal (if playing a piano)

Detailed description: This system contains measures 133 and 134. Measure 133 is marked 'freely' and 'exuberantly' and features a vocal line with the words 'I wish the best of Hea - vens bless - ings, — and am my dear ma - dam'. The piano accompaniment features chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics are marked *mf* and *p*. The system concludes with a 3/4 time signature. A note at the bottom indicates 'with pedal (if playing a piano)'.



137 ("humble servant")

with es - teem and re - gard your friend and Hble Sert

140

M Wash - ing - ton

Perusal Score