

# I SHALL NOT LIVE IN VAIN

for 3-part mixed voices and piano  
with optional violin and PianoTrax CD\*

Words by  
**EMILY DICKINSON** (1830-1886)

Music and additional Words by  
**RUTH MORRIS GRAY**

With conviction (♩ = ca. 72)

VIOLIN (optional) *mp*

PIANO *mp*

4 PART I *mp* 5

If I can stop one heart from break- ing,

PART II *mp*

If I can stop one heart from break- ing,

PART III

*decresc.*

\* Also available for S.S.A. (41616).  
PianoTrax 6 Accompaniment CD available (40036).

Please visit [alfred.com/choralparts](http://alfred.com/choralparts) to download a free individual part for Violin.

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6

I shall not live in vain. If

I shall not live in vain. If

Detailed description: This block contains the first two systems of a musical score. The first system features two vocal staves (Soprano and Alto) and a piano accompaniment staff. The vocal lines are in a major key with a one-sharp signature (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are "I shall not live in vain. If". The piano accompaniment consists of a simple harmonic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

*mp*

Detailed description: This block shows the piano accompaniment for measures 6 and 7. It includes a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The music is in a major key with a one-sharp signature (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The right hand plays a melodic line with some grace notes, and the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano) is present. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

8

I can ease one life the ach - ing, or cool one pain,

I can ease one life the ach - ing, or cool one pain,

Detailed description: This block contains the second two systems of the musical score. The first system features two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment staff. The vocal lines continue with the lyrics "I can ease one life the ach - ing, or cool one pain,". The piano accompaniment continues with the same harmonic structure as the previous system. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Detailed description: This block shows the piano accompaniment for measures 8 and 9. It includes a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The music continues in the same key and time signature as the previous system. The piano accompaniment features a steady harmonic accompaniment. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

or help one faint - ing rob - in in - to his nest a - gain,

or help one faint - ing rob - in in - to his nest a gain,

*mp*  
or help one faint - ing rob - in in - to his nest a - gain,

*mf* *accresc.*  
I shall not live in vain.

*mf* *decresc.*  
I shall not live in vain.

*mf* *decresc.*  
I shall not live in vain.

*mp*

14

*mp*

17

*mp*

I shall not live in vain.

*mp*

I shall not live in vain.

I can mend one soul that's bro - ken, I shall not live in vain.

If I give kind - ness as my to - ken,  
 If I give kind - ness as my to - ken,

such joy I gain, or help a child who's wan - d'ring,  
 such joy I gain, or help a child who's wan - d'ring,  
 Such joy I gain, or help a child who's wan - d'ring,

23

back to his home a - gain, I shall not live in  
 back to his home a - gain, I shall not live in  
 back to his home a gain, I shall not live in

*cresc.*  
*cresc.*  
*cresc.*  
*cresc.*  
*cresc.*

25

vain. I shall not live in vain; I shall not live in vain,  
 vain. I shall not live in vain;  
 vain. I shall not live in vain; I shall not

*mf*  
*mf*  
*mf*  
*mf*  
*mf*

live in vain; I shall not live, I shall not live in  
 live in vain; I shall not live, I shall not live in  
 live in vain; I shall not live, I shall not live in

*poco rit.* 32 *mp* *a tempo*  
 vain. If I can stop one heart from break - ing,  
*poco rit.* *a tempo* *mp*  
 vain. If I can stop one  
*a tempo*  
 vain.  
*poco rit.* *a tempo*  
*poco rit.* *a tempo* *mp*

33

I shall not live in vain. If  
heart, I shall not live in vain. If I can ease one  
*mp* If I can ease one life the ach - ing

35

I can ease, or help one faint - ing rob - in,  
life, or cool one pain, or help one faint - ing rob - in,  
or cool one pain, or help one faint - ing rob - in,



37

in - to his nest a - gain, I shall not live in  
 in - to his nest a - gain, I shall not live in  
 in - to his nest a - gain, I shall not live in

39

40

vain. I shall not live,  
 vain. I shall not live,  
 vain. I shall not live,

42

Musical score for measures 42-43. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "I shall not live, I shall not live in vain. I shall not live, I shall not live in vain. I shall not live in vain." The piano part includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand.

44

Musical score for measures 44-45. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "live, I shall not live, I shall not live, I shall not live, I shall not live, I shall not live." The piano part includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand. The score includes dynamic markings such as *cresc.* and *mf*.

47

*mf*  
I shall not, I shall not live,

*mf*  
I shall not, I shall not live,

*mf*  
I shall not, I shall not live,

*mf*

*mf*

49

*rit. e decresc.*  
I shall not live in vain.

*rit. e decresc.*  
I shall not live in vain.

*rit. e decresc.*  
I shall not live in vain.

*rit. e decresc.*

*rit. e decresc.*

