

To Be A Woman

(S, Mz, Mz, A)

By Jane Berry

FEMME

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Approximate duration: 13 minutes

To Be A Woman is a FEMME work, written for and dedicated to FEMME Vocal Quartet. When performing this work it is the composer's wish that the mission of FEMME and intention of the work be honoured. Performance notes and considerations are provided below.

FEMME

Mission: To present works created and performed by women.

FEMME is an Edmonton based professional vocal quartet dedicated to presenting works created and performed by women. FEMME aims to amplify female voices and create space to explore contemporary female experiences and perspectives. By prioritizing and protecting a creative space for female artists to collaborate, FEMME provides a professional level platform and hopes to give voice to underrepresented female perspectives in the male dominated world of classical repertoire.

Performance Considerations:

- Leadership should be female led through rehearsal and performance.
- Performers must be female identifying.
- Performer discussion and interpretation should be elicited and encouraged throughout both rehearsal and performance processes.
- Works should be performed from memory whenever possible.
- Minimal re-pitching is encouraged to enhance flow and connections between movements.
- Presentation details, such as standing formations and lighting, should be considered whenever possible, and appropriate decisions should be made collectively (involving both performers and leadership).
- Choices pertaining to clothing and footwear should also be made collectively and intentionally, and take into consideration ease of movement during performance.

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No. 1
Sister, my sister
Composed for and dedicated to FEMME

Music by Jane Berry
Text by Sable Chan and Jane Berry

♩ = 74 *mp*

Sop. Dawn
Oh sis - ter, *oh - -

Mezzo. Amy
mp
Oh

Mezzo. Jane

Alto. Sable

7

Dawn
mmm

Amy
sis - ter, *oh - - mmm

Jane
mp
Oh oh sis - ter

Sable
mp
Oh sis - ter,

13

Dawn
mf
Oh

Amy
Oh oh

Jane
mf
*oh - - mmm Oh

Sable
mf
oh my sis - ter. Oh

19

Dawn *mp* *p* *Sweetly mp*
oh my sis - ter, my sis - ter, my sis - ter. Let me tell you

Amy *mp* *p*
oh sis - ter, my sis - ter, my sis - ter.

Jane *mp* *p* *mp*
my sis - ter, my sis - ter. Hmm

Sable *p*
my sis - ter.

26

Dawn
of a time, let me tell you sto-ries of mine. Dear sis - ter let me try, oh

Amy *p* *mp* *mf*
Hmm, sto-ries of mine. Dear sis - ter let me try,

Jane
hmm oh let me tell you a

Sable *mp* *mf*
Hmm oh let me tell you a sto - ry, let me

31

Dawn *mf*
let me tell you why: we sing to break the sil - ence.

Amy *mf*
let me tell you why: we sing to break the sil - ence.

Jane *mf* *mf*
sto - - ry why: we sing to break the sil - ence.

Sable *mf*
tell you why: we sing to break the sil - ence.

No. 2
Sequester Me Away

Composed for and dedicated to FEMME

Music by Jane Berry
Text by Sable Chan, adapted by Jane Berry

♩ = 72

p

Sop. Dawn
Mezzo. Amy
Mezzo. Jane
Alto Sable

Ooo
Ooo
Hmm
Ooo

5

Dawn
Amy
Jane
Sable

When my bo - dy is sto-len from me, take (ake) me a - way.
take me a - way.

9

Dawn
Amy
Jane
Sable

Hide in the sha - dows, far a - way, please, don't say their name. Se - que -
Hide in the sha - dows far a - way, please don't say their name.

mf
mp

13

Dawn *mp*

Amy *mp*

Jane *mf*

Sable *mp*

- ster me_ a-way_ and_ hide the shame. E - lim - in-ate_ my name;

Se-que - ster me_ a-way_ E - lim - in-ate_

18

Dawn *mf* *Molto legato*

Amy *mf* *Molto legato*

Jane *f* *mf* *Molto legato*

Sable *mf* *Molto legato*

ooo ah ah

ooo ah ah

we're_ all the same. Ah ah

my name. Ah ah

23

Dawn *mp*

Amy *mf* *mp*

Jane *f* *mf*

Sable *mf*

ah ah ah

ah ah ah

ah ah ah

ah

No. 3
Must I Be A Mother?

Composed for and dedicated to FEMME

Music by Jane Berry
Text by Sable Chan, adapted by Jane Berry

$\text{♩} = 72$

Sop. Dawn

Mezzo. Amy

Mezzo. Jane

Alto. Sable

mo - - - ther, _____

A mo - - - ther, _____

Mo - - - ther,

9

Dawn

Amy

Jane

Sable

mo - - - ther, _____ mo - - - ther. _____

mo - - - ther, _____ mo - - - ther. Must I be a

mo - - - ther, _____ a mo - - - ther. _____

mo - - - ther, _____ mo - - - ther. _____

17

Dawn

Amy

Jane

Sable

Mo - - - ther, _____ a mo - - - ther, a mo - - - ther. _____ A

mo - - - ther, _____ a mo - - - ther. _____

Mo - - - ther, _____ must I be a mo - - - ther. _____

Mo - - - ther, _____ a mo - - - ther. _____

25

Dawn *p*
mo - - - ther, mo - ther.

Amy *p* *mp*
Mo - - - ther, a mo - - - ther.

Jane *p* *mp*
Mo - - - ther, a mo - - - ther.

Sable *p* *mp*
M(ah), a mo - ther, a mo - - - ther.

$\text{♩} = 94$

33

Dawn *mf* *sub p*
How can I nou - rish bar - - - ren soil?

Amy *mp*
How can I nou - rish bar - - - ren soil?

Jane *mp* *mf*
How can I nou - rish bar - - - ren soil?

Sable *mf*
How can I tell you... bar - - - ren soil.

40

Dawn *mp* *mf*
mmm How can I give this life when all they

Amy *mf* *f* *f+*
How can I give this, this life when all they gave was

Jane *f*
How can I give this, this life when all they

Sable *f*
How can I give, give this life when all they

No. 4
I Desire
Composed for and dedicated to FEMME

Music by Jane Berry
Text by Sable Chan

♩. = 50

Sop. Dawn *p*
I de- sire, I de- sire, I de- sire, I de- sire, I de- sire, I de

Mezzo. Amy *p*
I de- sire, I de- sire, I de- sire, I de- sire, I de- sire, I de- sire,

Mezzo. Jane

Alto. Sable *mp*
I de- sire,

7
Dawn
sire, I de- sire, I de- sire, I de- sire, I de- sire, I de- sire, I de

Amy
I de- sire, I de- sire, I de- sire, I de- sire, I de- sire, I de- sire,

Jane *mp*
I de- sire,

Sable
I de

13
Dawn
sire, I de- sire, I de- sire, I de- sire, I de- sire, I de- sire, I de

Amy
I de- sire, I de- sire, I de- sire, I de- sire, I de- sire, I de- sire,

Jane
I de- sire,

Sable *mf*
sire, I de- sire,

19 *mp* 15

Dawn
sire, I de-sire, I de-sire, I de-sire, I de-sire, I de-sire, I de

Amy
I de-sire, I de-sire, I de-sire, I de-sire, I de-sire, I de-sire, *mp*

Jane
mf
more, I de-sire, more, I de

Sable
mf
I de-sire, I de

25 *p*

Dawn
sire, I de-sire, I de-sire, I de-sire, I de-sire, I de-sire, I de

Amy
I de-sire, I de-sire, I de-sire, I de-sire, I de-sire, I de-sire, *p*

Jane
sire, I de-sire, *mp*

Sable
sire, I de-sire, *mp*

31 *f* *mp*

Dawn
sire, I de-sire, I de-sire, I de-sire, more, I de -

Amy
I de-sire, I de-sire, I de-sire, more, I de - *f* *mp*

Jane
I de-sire, I de-sire, more, I de - *f* *mp*

Sable
I de-sire, I de-sire, I de - *f* *mp*