

*Stop a heart from breaking*

Alexander Campkin

musicalis publishing

Scored for:

SSA choir

Duration: c. 3 minutes

Written as Composer-in-Residence, Neresheim Abbey, Germany, September 2008.

First performed September 2009 in Neresheim Abbey, Germany, by the Royal Academy of Music Chamber Choir, conducted by the composer.

Revised 2011 by the composer.

Text:

If I can stop one heart from breaking,  
I shall not live in vain;  
If I can ease one life the aching,  
I shall not live in vain.

Text after Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

Composer Biography:

**Alexander Campkin** (b. 1984) studied Music at Oxford University, where he was Choral Scholar, Assistant Organ Scholar, and conductor of the Oxford Chamber Choir and Arcadian Singers of Oxford University. He completed a Masters in Composition at the Royal Academy of Music in 2008, after which he began a Postgraduate Diploma in Vienna at the Universität für Musik. Alexander was a finalist in the 2008 British Composer Awards, a prize winner in the 2010 "Musica Sacra" International Composition Competition in Poland, and highly commended in the BBC Proms Young Composers' Competition. Alexander was recently appointed Composer-in-Residence in Neresheim Abbey in Germany and Composer-in-Residence of the Fulham Camerata; other commissions have been from the BBC Performing Arts Fund, the Southbank Centre, the Royal School of Church Music, the Manson Ensemble, the Royal Academy String Orchestra, the Kaxan String Quartet and Pusey House Choir, Oxford.

His music has received performances by the London Sinfonietta, the BBC Singers, the Vilnius Municipal Choir (Lithuania), Trinity Choir Cambridge, Polish Chamber Choir, National Youth Choir GB, Jeunnesse Kammerchor (Vienna) and the Tyler Youth Orchestra (Texas). Venues include the Berliner Philharmonie, Ulster Hall (Belfast), Künstlerhaus Bethanien (Berlin), Theater des Augenblicks (Vienna), St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Duke's Hall, Cal Poly Performing Arts Centre (San Luis Obispo, USA) and Grace Cathedral (San Francisco). His music has been performed in major music festivals in the UK and Europe, and has been the subject of a number of radio broadcasts in Europe, the US and South America.

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# Stop a heart from breaking

Text by Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

Alexander Campkin

**Andante** (♩ = c. 96)  
*p dolce*

SOPRANO 1  
If I \_\_\_\_\_ can \_\_\_\_\_ stop \_\_\_\_\_

SOPRANO 2  
*p dolce*  
If \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ can \_\_\_\_\_

ALTO  
*p dolce*  
can \_\_\_\_\_ stop \_\_\_\_\_

S 1  
*mf*  
\_\_\_\_\_ one heart \_\_\_\_\_ from break - ing, \_\_\_\_\_

S 2  
*mf*  
\_\_\_\_\_ stop \_\_\_\_\_ one heart \_\_\_\_\_ from break - ing, \_\_\_\_\_

A  
*mf*  
\_\_\_\_\_ one heart \_\_\_\_\_

17

S 1 *p* shall not live,

S 2 *p* I shall not live,

A *mp* shall not live in

24

S 1 *mp* I shall not live shall not live in

S 2 *mp* I shall not live, shall not live in

A *f* *mp* vain, shall not live, I

31

*poco rit.* *f* *A tempo* (♩ = c. 96) *mp dolce*

S 1 vain, If I can

S 2 vain, If I can

A shall not live in vain, If

39

S 1  
ease, — If I can — ease — one

S 2  
ease, — If — I — can — ease — one

A  
I — can — ease — one

46

S 1  
life — the ach - ing, *mf* *p*

S 2  
life — the ach - ing *mf* *p* *p*

A  
life — the ach - ing, *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

53

S 1  
I — shall — not — live *p* *mp* *p* *mf*

S 2  
I — shall — not — live *p* *mp* *p* *mf*

A  
I — shall — not — live *p* *mp* *p* *mf*

4

60

*mp* *ff*

S 1

in vain,

*mp* *ff*

S 2

in vain,

*mp* *ff*

A

in vain,

**Rall. poco a poco**

65

*p* *mp* *p* *mf* *p*

S 1

I shall not live

*p* *mp* *p* *mf* *p*

S 2

I shall not live

*p* *mp* *p* *mf* *p*

A

I shall not live

72

*mp* *f* *p*

S 1

in vain.

*mp* *f* *p*

S 2

in vain.

*mp* *f* *p*

A

in vain.