

S
A
M
P
L
E

C
O
P
Y

MUSIC BY
DON MACDONALD



TWO SONGS

SSSAAA

COMMISSIONED BY
IN MEDIO CHOIR
JOHN EISEMANN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

(Vocal Score)



DONMACDONALDMUSIC.COM

Duration: c. 3'40

Two Songs

S When I was a young
mother I had
A two songs:
one of terror,
one of love.

M hope I sang
one louder.
I hope I sang it
P like a prayer.

Poetry by Sara Rivara

Notes from the Poet

L This poem comes at the end of a series of poems about raising my son with my abusive former
E partner, and how that affected both of us, how fear and love lived next to one another for decades.

However, the dichotomy of fear and love exists in all parents. We have children--these little parts of us that exist in the world outside of our bodies and whose fates we cannot control or protect--and then we have to give them to the world, which might hurt them and which might hold them. We don't know which.

C Eventually, our children will grow up and leave us. And we hope that whatever prayer we offered them--born of fear, hope, or both--is the one that will buoy them into a good and long and beautiful life. We hope we have done enough.

O **Sara Quinn Rivara** is the author of three collections of poetry, most recently *LITTLE BEAST* (Knot In your Throat Press), a finalist for the 2024 Oregon Book Awards. She lives and works in Portland, Oregon.

P **Don Macdonald** is a Canadian composer known for his work in film and choral music. His choral works have been performed and recorded by leading ensembles worldwide, including Lyyra (Voces8 Foundation, UK), Rajaton (Finland), the Vancouver Chamber Choir (Canada), Cantus (USA), and the University of Johannesburg Choir (SA).

Unauthorized copying is prohibited by law

© **Don Macdonald 2026**

Purchase copies at donmacdonaldmusic.com

Two Songs

1

S
A
M
P
L
E

Poetry by Sara Rivara

Music by Don Macdonald

tempo ♩ = 65

A

solo or sop 1

p

Soprano

When I was a young mo-ther I had two songs: one of

Soprano

Mm

Mm_

Soprano

Mm

Mm_

Alto

Mm_

C
O
P
Y

7

S. ter-ror_ one of love. I hope I sang one loud-er I hope I sang it_ like_ a

S. like_ a

S. like_ a

A. like_ a

B

12

mp *tutti* *mf*

S. prayer, _____ a prayer, _____ a prayer. _____ a prayer,

S. a prayer a prayer, a prayer, _____ a prayer, like a

S. prayer a prayer, _____ a prayer, _____ a prayer, _____

S. *mp* *mf* prayer a prayer, _____ a prayer, _____

A. *mp* *mf* prayer a prayer, _____ a prayer, _____

A. *mp* *mf* Oo _____

C

17

mp *p*

S. like a prayer. _____ Oo _____

S. prayer, a prayer. Oo _____ When

S. like a prayer. _____ Oo _____

A. *mp* *p* Oo _____

A. *mp* *p* Oo _____

S
A
M
P
L
E
C
O
P
Y

23 **D** 3

p *mp*

S. When I was a young mo-ther_ I had two songs:—

S. I was a young mo-ther_ I had two songs: When

p *mp*

Mm—

A. Mm—

A. Mm—

gradually change to Oo

gradually change to Oo

27 **E**

mf 3

S. I was a young mo-ther_ I had two songs: one_ of

S. I was a young mo-ther_ mo-ther_ I had two songs: one_ of

S. When I was a young mo-ther_ I had two songs: one_ of

S. I was a young mo-ther_ mo-ther_ I had two songs: one_ of

A. Oo—

A. Oo—

one of

one of

SAMPLE

4

31

f ————— *ff* *mf* < *f* ————— *ff* **F**

S. ter-ror, ter-ror, ter-ror, one of terr-ror, terr-ror, ter - ror,

f ————— *ff* *mf* < *f* ————— *ff* *p* *Tenderly solo or sop 2*

S. ter-ror, ter-ror, ter-ror, one of terr-ror, terr-ror, ter-ror, ter - ror, one of love.

mf ————— *f* ————— *ff* *pp*

A. ter-ror, ter-ror, ter-ror, terr-ror, ter - ror, Mm

f ————— *ff* *mf* < *f* ————— *ff* *pp*

A. ter-ror, ter-ror, ter-ror, one of terr-ror, terr-ror, ter - ror, Mm

COPY

37

Tenderly solo or sop 1

S. *p* ————— *tutti mp* ————— *mf* *p*

one of love, one of love, one of love. I

tutti mp ————— *mf* *p*

S. one of love, one of love. I

p ————— *mp* ————— *mf*

A. mm love, love.

p ————— *mp* ————— *mf*

A. mm love, love.

SAMPLE

42

mp *mf* *mp*

S. hope I sang one loud-er, I hope I sang one loud-er, loud-er, I hope I sang it___

S. hope I sang one loud-er, I hope I sang one loud-er, loud-er. I hope I sang it___

A. I hope I sang one loud-er, loud-er, I hope I sang it___

A. I hope I sang one loud-er, loud-er, loud-er. I hope I sang it___

COPY

G

46

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

S. like___ a prayer, a prayer, a prayer, a

S. like___ a prayer, a prayer, a prayer, a prayer,

S. like___ a prayer, a prayer, a prayer, a prayer,

S. like___ a prayer, a prayer, a prayer,

A. Oo___ a

A. Oo___ a

SAMPLE

51 *f* *mf* *p* *sop 1 or solo*

prayer, _____ like a prayer. _____ Oo_____ I

a prayer, _____ a prayer. _____ Oo_____

_____ like a prayer. _____ Oo_____

a prayer _____ like a prayer. _____ Oo_____

prayer, _____ like a prayer, _____ a prayer. _____ Oo_____

prayer, a prayer, a prayer, _____ a prayer. _____ Oo_____

COPIE

56 *molto rit.* *mp* *p* *pp*

hope I sang it like _____ a prayer.

mp *p* *pp*

mp *p* *pp*

mp *p* *pp*

mp *p* *pp*

mp *p* *pp*

Mm Mm Mm Mm