

Past Spring I Met You Program Information

Past Spring I Met You

Anita M. Gram (stanzas 1, 3, and 4)
and Author Unknown (stanza 2)

Past spring I
met you
and blossoms burst
into song!

The heavens smiled,
the moon danced in the sky
and all the stars
turned into diamonds . . .
all because of you.

Valentine weekend
in Provincetown
happiness
still hums in my heart.

Past spring I
met you
and blossoms burst
into song!

Instrumentation

Soprano
Violin
Piano

Performance Notes

Performance time: approximately 3:10.

Program Notes

Past Spring I Met You (2009) was commissioned by Anita Gram for the tenth anniversary of her union with Holly Humphreys. The text consists of three brief poems, two of which were written by Anita while the author of the third poem is unknown.

The harmonic scheme for this work was inspired by Beethoven's sixteenth piano sonata, which was innovative in his time. Both works emphasize tonal relationships that are a third removed from their home keys.

The violin was chosen to provide a second voice to accompany the soprano, in addition to the piano. The violin's melody for the soprano's opening stanza later becomes the soprano's melody for the third stanza while the violin sings the soprano's opening melody. The two melodies thus fit perfectly, as if they were always meant to be together.

John M. Tarrh