

Four Dickinson Songs

These four poems were among those I considered when writing *The White Election* over twenty years ago. I had written what became the main music of “A Bird Came Down the Walk” in college days, in the spirit of Schubert or Schumann, but never whipped it into publishing shape. When Barbara Bonney kindly asked for a few songs to verse by an American poetess, I was grateful to be reminded of this unfinished business, along with the opportunity to suggest the oppressive cathedral tunes and the clip-clop of the hearse carriage in the second and last songs.

Gordon Getty