

Say Over Again

Andrew Cashner

To Ann, on our third anniversary, May 12, 2010

*Say over again, and yet once over again,
That thou dost love me. Though the word repeated
Should seem 'a cuckoo song'—as thou dost treat it,
Remember, never to the hill or plain,
Valley and wood, without her cuckoo-strain
Comes the fresh Spring in all her green completed.
Belovèd, I, amid the darkness greeted
By a doubtful spirit-voice, in that doubt's pain,
Cry, 'Speak once more—thou lovest!' Who can fear
Too many stars, though each in heaven shall roll,
Too many flowers, though each shall crown the year?
Say thou dost love me, love me, love me—toll
The silver iterance!—only minding, Dear,
To love me also in silence with thy soul.*

—Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Say Over Again

Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861)
(Sonnets from the Portuguese XXI)

Andrew Cashner (b. 1981)

Flowing, with a hint of dance (♩ = c. 120)

Voice *tenderly p*

Say ov - er a - gain, and yet once ov - er a - gain, that thou dost

Piano *p*

with pedal

7 *p*

love me. — Though the word — re - peat - ed — should seem 'a cuc - koo song,' as

riten.

13 *ritardando* ----- **Freely** *moving again* **A tempo**

thou dost treat it, — Re - mem - ber, nev - er to the hill — or plain,

pp

20 moving ahead

Val - ley and wood, with - out her cuc - koo strain Comes the fresh

crescendo *mf*

25 *ritard.* *p* *allargando* (♩=♩)

Spring in all her green com - plet - ed. Be - lov - ed,

p *pp*

clear pedal gradually

Much Slower

32 (♩ = c. 60) freely, slower

I, a - mid the dark - ness greet - ed By a doubt - ful spi - rit - voice, in that doubt's pain, Cry,

p *mp* *sf* *mf*

dark

36 *f* *accelerando* ----- *riten.* (♩=♩) **Tempo 1°** *mp* **Gradually a tempo**

“Speak once more— thou lov - est!” — Who ————— can fear

molto crescendo *f* *mp*

clear ped. gradually

42

Too ma - ny stars, though each in heaven shall roll,

p *riten.*

48 *sub. mp*

Too ma - ny flowers, though each shall crown the year? —————

moving again *sub. mp* *crescendo* *molto* *allarg.*

54 *f* *broadening* *crescendo* *allargando*

Say thou dost love me, love me, love me—

f *grv* *crescendo* *allargando* (no rest)

60 *Slower* ($\text{♩} = c. 88$) *ff* *Much slower, but still moving* ($\text{♩} = c. 60$) *mp* *p* *warmly* *molto ritardando*

toll The sil-ver it-er-ance!— on-ly mind-ing, Dear, To love me al-so in sil-ence with thy

ff *f* *p*

* *ped.* (clear ped.) no ped. (or new ped.)

66 *Tempo 1°* *sub. p*

soul. —————

sub. p *ritard.* -----