

Commissioned by Missouri Verses and Voices to honor the United States National Poets Laureate.
Dedicated to William Jay Smith, National Poet Laureate from 1968-1970.
In memory of Steven Lewis Marsh.

Now Touch the Air Softly

William Jay Smith

Susan LaBarr

p $\text{♩} = 80$

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 80 and a dynamic of piano (p). The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 3/4. The score is divided into four systems. The first system (measures 1-5) features a piano introduction with chords in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand. The second system (measures 6-11) continues the piano introduction. The third system (measures 12-16) shows the piano introduction concluding. The fourth system (measures 17-21) introduces the vocal line. The vocal line starts at measure 17 with a rest, then enters with the lyrics 'Now touch the air' at measure 19. The piano accompaniment continues throughout, providing harmonic support for the vocal line.

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22

soft - ly, Step gent - ly, One, two... I'll love you till ro - ses__ Are

27

rob - in's - egg blue; I'll love you till gra - vel Is eat - en for

32

bread, And lem - ons are or - ange, And lav - en - der's__ red. Now

37

touch the air.____

41 *p*

S
A

Now touch the air

46 *pp*

S
A

soft - ly, Step gent - ly, One, two... I'll love you till ro - ses... Are

Now touch the air soft - ly, I'll love you

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51 *mp*

rob - in's - egg blue; I'll love you till gra - vel Is eat - en for

till ro - ses are blue; till

56

bread, And lem - ons are or - ange, And lav - en - der's_

gra - vel is bread, And lem - ons are or - ange or

60

S red. Now touch the air. Now *mp*

A red. Now touch the air. Now *mp*

T red. Now touch, now touch the air. Now *mp*

B red. Now touch the air. Now *mp*

p *cresc.*

65 *cresc.*
 touch the air. _____

cresc. *mf*
 touch the air. _____ Now touch the air

cresc. *mf*
 touch the air. _____ Now touch the air

cresc. *mf*
 touch the air. _____ Now touch the air

mp cresc. *mf*

70 *mp*
 Now touch the air, Swing gent - ly the broom. I'll
 soft - ly, Swing-ing gent - ly the broom. I'll love you till
 soft - ly, Swing-ing gent - ly the broom. I'll love you till
 soft - ly, Swing-ing gent - ly the broom. I'll love you till

mp

74

mf

love you. _____ And the ta - ble is

win - dows__ Are all of a room; And the ta - ble is

win - dows__ Are all of a room; And the ta - ble is

win - dows__ Are all of a room; And the ta - ble is

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78

laid, _____ And the ta - ble is bare, And the ceil - ing re -

laid, _____ And the ta - ble is bare, And the ceil - ing re -

laid, _____ And the ta - ble is bare, And the ceil - ing re -

laid, _____ And the ta - ble is bare, And the ceil - ing re -

82

dim. *pp*

po - ses On bot - tom - less air. Now

dim. *pp*

po - ses On bot - tom - less air. Now touch

dim. *pp*

po - ses On bot - tom - less air. Now

dim.

po - ses On bot - tom - less air.

dim. *pp* *cresc.*

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86

touch the air. Now

the air. Now touch

touch, Now touch, Now

pp

Now touch, Now touch,

90

touch, the air. Now touch, Now touch,

mp *molto cresc.*

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94

99

ff

I'll love you till Hea - ven Rips the

ff

I'll love you till Hea - ven Rips the

ff

I'll love you till Hea - ven Rips the

ff

I'll love you till Hea - ven Rips the

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103

stars from his coat, And the Moon rows a - way in — A

stars from his coat, And the Moon rows a - way in — A

stars from his coat, And the Moon rows a - way in — A

stars from his coat, And the Moon rows a - way in — A

107

glass - bot - tomed boat; And O - ri - on steps down Like a

glass - bot - tomed boat; And O - ri - on steps down Like a

glass - bot - tomed boat; And O - ri - on steps down Like a

glass - bot - tomed boat; And O - ri - on steps down Like a

111

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di - ver be - low; And Earth is a - blaze, And Oc - ean a -

di - ver be - low; And Earth is a - blaze, And Oc - ean a -

di - ver be - low; And Earth is a - blaze, And Oc - ean a -

di - ver be - low; And Earth is a - blaze, And Oc - ean a -

A tempo

116

glow. _____

glow. _____

glow. _____

glow. _____

mp So

mp So

A tempo

p *cresc.*

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121

mp We will

mp We will

touch the air soft - ly, — And swing the broom high.

touch the air soft - ly, — And swing the broom high.

mp

125

dust the gray moun-tains, And sweep the blue sky; And I'll love you as
 dust the gray moun-tains, And sweep the blue sky; And I'll love you as
 And I'll love you as
 And I'll love you as

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130

long As the fur-row the plow, As How-ev-er is
 long As the fur-row the plow, As How-ev-er is
 long As the fur-row the plow, As How-ev-er is
 long As the fur-row the plow, As How-ev-er is

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139

mp
Now touch the air.

mp
Now touch the air.

mp
Now touch the air.

mp
Now touch the air.

mp

145

p molto cresc.

149

poco a poco dim. to end

153

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157

Cleveland, TN, 8/27/2013