

I STOP WRITING THE POEM

for Voice and Piano

Poem by
TESS GALLAGHER
Music by
BRUCE TRINKLEY

I STOP WRITING THE POEM

*to fold the clothes. No matter who lives
or who dies, I'm still a woman.
I'll always have plenty to do.
I bring the arms of his shirt
together. Nothing can stop
our tenderness. I'll get back
to the poem. I'll get back to being
a woman. But for now
there's a shirt, a giant shirt
in my hands, and somewhere a small girl
standing next to her mother
watching to see how it's done.*

I Stop Writing the Poem

For Voice and Piano

Tess Gallagher

Bruce Trinkley

Quietly agitated $\text{♩} = 126$ ***f* freely** 3

Voice

I stop writ-ing the poem to

Piano

mf dim. *ff colla voce*

mf *a tempo* *mp*

fold the clothes. _____ No mat - ter who lives _____ or who

6 *a tempo* *mf dim.* *mp*

dies, I'm still a wom - an. _____ I'll al - ways have plen - ty to

10 *f* *dim.* *mf*

mp

do. _____ I bring the arms _____ of his shirt _____ to - geth - er.

[14] *mp*

f freely *mp* *a tempo*

Noth - ing can stop _____ our ten - der - ness. _____

[18] *a tempo* *ff* *colla voce* *pp*

f freely *a tempo* *mf*

I'll get back _____ to the poem. _____ I'll get back to be - ing a

[21] *a tempo* *ff* *mf*

mp

wom - an. But for now there's a shirt, a gi - ant shirt in my hands, and

[26] *mp*

cresc. poco a poco

some - where a small girl stand - ing next to her moth - er

30

cresc. poco a poco

34

ff with abandon

watch - ing to see _____ how

dim. poco a poco

mp

it's done. _____

39

mp

43

rit. e dim.