



KIAN RAVAEI

**THE LITTLE
THINGS**

for string quartet

(score)

AEI edition

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(2023)

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I. I'll Tell You How the Sun Rose.....	1
II. High from the Earth I Heard a Bird.....	2
III. Two Butterflies Went Out at Noon.....	14
IV. A Narrow Fellow in the Grass.....	17
V. The Moon Was But a Chin of Gold.....	28
VI. A Spider Sewed at Night.....	30
VII. If I Can Stop One Heart From Breaking.....	39

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Commissioned by the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, Chamber Music Northwest, and Seattle Chamber Music Society.

PROGRAM NOTE

All seven titles which comprise *The Little Things* come from Emily Dickinson, who never fails to direct our attention toward nature's easily overlooked wonders. Movements II, III, IV, and VI evoke various animal life, while I and V portray the sun and moon respectively. The order of the movements suggests the cyclic journey of all living things from morning to night and back to a new morning.

In the final movement, we hear the voice of Nature singing Dickinson's famous lines:

*If I can stop one heart from breaking,
I shall not live in vain;
If I can ease one life the aching,
Or cool one pain,
Or help one fainting robin
Unto his nest again,
I shall not live in vain.*

—Kian Ravaei

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duration ca. 19'