

SHE TOLD
HER BEADS

FOR VOICE AND
PIANO

BY NATHANIEL PARKS

Text

She told her beads* with down-cast eyes,
Within the ancient chapel dim;
And ever as her fingers slim
Slipt o'er th' insensate ivories,
My rapt soul followed, spaniel-wise.
Ah, many were the beads she wore;
But as she told them o'er and o'er,
They did not number all my sighs.
My heart was filled with unvoiced cries
And prayers and pleadings unexpressed;
But while I burned with Love's unrest,
She told her beads with down-cast eyes.

**To tell your beads means to recite your prayers to a rosary*

About the Poet

Born on June 27, 1872, Paul Laurence Dunbar was one of the first African American poets to gain national recognition. His parents Joshua and Matilda Murphy Dunbar were freed slaves from Kentucky. His parents separated shortly after his birth, but Dunbar would draw on their stories of plantation life throughout his writing career.

Duration

4'30"

She Told Her Beads

Paul Laurence Dunbar

Nathaniel Parks (ASCAP)

Steady ♩ = 64

Voice

Piano

p

pp

V

5

5

Pno.

p

pp

She

V

9

9

Pno.

p

pp

told her beads with down - cast eyes,

She Told Her Beads

4
13

V *pp*

She told her

Pno. *p* *pp*

17

V

beads with down - cast eyes,

Pno. *p* *pp*

21

V *mp*

With - in the an - cient cha - pel dim; And e - ver as her

Pno. *pp*

She Told Her Beads

V
25
fin - gers slim — Slipt o'er th' in-sen - sate i - vo - ries, —

Pno.
25
mp
pp

V
29
Slipt o'er and o'er th' in-sen - sate i - vo - ries, —

Pno.
29
mp
pp
poco rit. — *a tempo*

V
33
pp
My rapt soul

Pno.
33
pp

She Told Her Beads

6
37

V *mp* *p*

fol - lowed, spa - niel - wise. Ah, ma - ny were the

Pno.

41

V *poco accel.*

beads she wore; But as she told them o'er and

Pno. *poco accel.*

45

V *rubato* *mf*

o'er, They did not num - ber all _____

Pno.

She Told Her Beads

V

50

p *a tempo*

my _____ sighs. _____

Pno.

50

mf

V

54

Pno.

54

V

57

Pno.

57

She Told Her Beads

8
60

poco accel. ----- *a tempo*
mf ----- *subito p*

V
My heart was filled with un-voiced cries And

poco accel. ----- *a tempo*
Pno. *subito p*

65

V
prayers and plea-dings un-ex-pressed; But while I burned

Pno. *mf*

69

V
with love's un-rest,

Pno. *ff*

She Told Her Beads

V *p*

73

She told her beads with

Pno. *subito p*

73

V *pp*

77

2

down-cast eyes, She told her beads

Pno. *pp*

77

V

83

with down-cast s - t

Pno.

83