



# Untouched, Unchanged

*for Euphonium and Piano*

Zoe Gougousidis

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*Untouched, Unchanged* was composed by Zoe Gougousidis in 2023. The work was commissioned by Nyeve Mackenzie. It was premiered on the 28th of November 2023, in Verbrugghen Hall at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music by Nyeve Mackenzie (Euphonium) and Agnes Kristianto (Piano).

This score is in **concert pitch**.  
**Duration:** c. 4 minutes 15 seconds.

This work was written in memory of one of Nyeve's close friends, who passed away in 2023. Nyeve wrote the following about her friend:

*This piece is dedicated to a friend who I shared the most precious memories with. She had shown me what true friendship was, and was the kind of person you could sit and laugh with, but wasn't afraid to call you out and expect better from you. Our many days playing duets on the piano, driving late at night getting dinner, or even just getting up to our regular shenanigans at school will remain some of my fondest memories. We bonded over our love of music, especially Chopin, which she played incredibly well.*

*To whomever has the privilege of playing this piece, I hope it honours the memory of this wonderful person and prompts you to look back on your own memories, remembering friends like this fondly, even after they are gone.*

*Our memories remain untouched, unchanged.  
This one is dedicated to you, my friend Y.F.*

The piece aims to reflect not only the sadness that comes from the loss of a loved one, but also the joy and peace that comes from the memories of your life lived with them. It is a lyrical and free solo with rich harmonies, that aims to capture both the sense of loss and love that comes with remembering someone who has passed.

The piano accompaniment takes some inspiration from Chopin's *Nocturnes*, as Nyeve's friend was a pianist and Chopin was her favourite composer. In the opening and closing passages, the sustain pedal should be used and held continuously until Figure A and at the end of the work. The silent pauses should be held to allow the strings to ring from the euphonium note.

The title and general feeling of the work is inspired by the poem *Death is Nothing At All* by Henry Scott Holland, originally presented as part of a sermon in 1910. This poem encapsulates the emotions that are represented in this piece, and reflects the overall sense of peace in the memory of someone you've lost.

### **Death is Nothing at All**

Henry Scott Holland

*Death is nothing at all.  
It does not count.  
I have only slipped away into the next room.  
Nothing has happened.*

*Everything remains exactly as it was.  
I am I, and you are you,  
and the old life that we lived so fondly together is untouched, unchanged.  
Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.*

*Call me by the old familiar name.  
Speak of me in the easy way which you always used.  
Put no difference in your tone.  
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.*

*Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes that we enjoyed together.  
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.  
Let my name be ever the household word that it always was.  
Let it be spoken without an effort, without the ghost of a shadow upon it.*

*Life means all that it ever meant.  
It is the same as it ever was.  
There is absolute and unbroken continuity.  
What is this death but a negligible accident?*

*Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?  
I am but waiting for you, for an interval,  
somewhere very near,  
just round the corner.*

*All is well.  
Nothing is hurt; nothing is lost.  
One brief moment and all will be as it was before.  
How we shall laugh at the trouble of parting when we meet again!*

Commissioned by Nyeve Mackenzie in memory of a dear friend

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(Bass Clef)

for Euphonium and Piano

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Euphonium

Emotive ♩ = 50

*p* *mf* *p* *mf*

*molto rubato*

Piano

Emotive ♩ = 50

Red.

Euph.

5

*p*

Pno.

Euph.

10

**A**

*p* *mp* *p* *mf* *p*

**A**

Pno.

*p* *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* *p*

ped. ad lib.

3