

The Quilt

Good Faith Press

Commissioned by Johanna Schlegel for her recital at the
Berks County Historical Society in Reading, Pennsylvania

Poem, John Updike

Music by Andrew E. Clarkson

$\text{♩} = 120$ With flexibility

The quilt_ that co - vers all of us to date, Has pat_ ches num_ bered
one to for - ty eight, Five nor - thern rents, a crook_ ed cen - tral seam, A rag - ged eas - tern edge, a
way of bunch - ing ug - li - ly, and a per - haps too en_ ner - get_ tic co_ lor scheme.
Though sha_ ken ev_ ery twen_ ty years, this fine_ old_ quilt_ was
ne_ ver beat_ en on_ the line. It took_ long_ mak - ing.
Ge - ner_ a - tions passed_ while thread was sought, and cal - i - co and_ silk were coaxed_ from_
Mex - i - co and France. The big - gest squares_ were add_ ed last.
Don't kick_ your cov - ers son. The bed is built so you can nev - er shake_ the
cling_ ing quilt that blank - et - ed your birth_ and tries to keep your wak - ing warm, im - pal - pa -
ble_ as_ at - mos - phere. As earth it shall be tucked_ a - bout you through your long_ est sleep.