THE LAST INVOCATION

At the last, tenderly,
From the walls of the powerful fortress'd house,
From the clasp of the knitted locks, from the keep of the well-closed doors,
Let me be wafted.
Let me glide noiselessly forth;
With the key of softness unlock the locks - with a whisper,
Set ope the doors O soul.
Tenderly-be not impatient,
(Strong is your hold O mortal flesh,
Strong is your hold O love.)

-Walt Whitman

Commissioned with funds provided by the Jerome Foundation. First performance: October 2, 1988, at the Basilica of St. Mary, Minneapolis, Minnesota, by the Choir of Westminster Abbey, Martin Neary, Director.