LIKE A ROMEO
by Nancy Martz

Shakespeare's Sonnets 18, "Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer Day" and 29, "When in Disgrace With Fortune and Men's Eyes" have been recorded as songs by Pink Floyd's Dave Gilmour and Avalon's Bryan Ferry. Rufus Wainwright has a DVD that provides images from the latest film rendition of PRIDE AND PREJUDICE as he sings Sonnet 29.

The rhyme and rhythm of Shakespearian sonnets recommend them to musical presentations because they come closest to the pattern of ordinary human speech. Think back on Bob Dylan's songs of the 60's that are somewhere in between song and lyrical speech, such as Masters of War and A Hard Rain's Gonna Fall. Even 20th century American Rap, which traces its roots to Africa, has that similar lyrical speaking to a strong instrumental beat.

So, in the spirit of Shakespearian sonnet, if not in the achievement, I have written as my musical piece, my first sonnet. It follows Shakespeare's sonnet form in that it uses the first 8 lines as a set up for the denouement in the last 4 and the turn in the final couplet. It follows the rhyme pattern of end lines as three stanzas of a b a b c d c d e f e f, followed by the ending couplet of g g. And it also has the rhythm scheme of iambic pentameter or each line keeping to 5 iambs like this: ta DA ta DA ta DA ta DA ta DA. So my first line is this: "She heard him calling softly as she slept."

And all my lines follow this written pattern:

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a	She heard him calling softly as she slept,
b	Out by her window like a Romeo;
a	A man she once had taught and who had wept
b	When class was done and she had told him, " No."
c	He thought he had a chance to be her love,
d	To tell her things she didn't want to hear
c	Of how his feelings really soared above
d	The crush boys get for teachers they revere.
e	And yet she wondered how things might have been,
f	For he was sweet and handsomely endowed;
e	Had she been young and vulnerable again,
f	A dalliance with him could have been allowed.
g	He won her heart at last, or so it seems,
g	For she was Juliet within her dreams.