

**Song of Perfect Propriety** was written for the Cornell University Women's Chorus as part of a multi-year commissioning project unofficially called "No Whining, No Flowers," in which several women composers were commissioned to set texts by women on topics other than the above. I was inspired by Dorothy Parker's feisty poem, and by hearing the Chorus sing director Scott Tucker's wonderfully unpredictable arrangement of Gershwin's "I Got Rhythm." "Writing little verse, as little ladies do" might be construed as whining, but it doesn't have to be that way...