Uncertainty

Words and Music by Mary Amato

Bb Bb+b5
You gave your love and you held it back
Bb Bb+b5
All in the same breath.
Bb Bb+b5
You couldn't be more alive to me.
Bb Bb+b5
You couldn't be more dead.
Eb Eb+b5
You're next to me and you're far away.
Eb F
You're in between.
Bb Bb+b5
You're in my face constantly.
Bb Gm/Bb/F/Bb
You're the one I've never seen.

Eb D
With your knife of theory, cut love in two.
Eb D Eb/F/Eb/F/Gm
Will you have twice as much? More or less for you?

Bb Bb+b5
I'm on the plane at thirty thousand feet.
Bb Bb+b5
I've never left the ground.
Bb Bb+b5
I moved to San Francisco and
Bb Bb+b5
I stayed in my hometown.
Eb Eb+b5
Years have past and I've gotten old.
Eb F
I'm still twenty-one.
Bb Bb+b5
My future is behind me now.
Bb Gm/Bb/F/Bb
My life has just begun.

Eb D
With your knife of theory, cut time in two.
Eb D Eb/F/Eb/F/Gm
Will you have twice as much? More or less for you?

F Gm
The closer you look the more you hope you see.
F Gm
But there's only nothing in the in-between.
Eb Bb
And nothing is solid. A trick of mind and eye.
Gm F
We try to measure waves but the trying makes us blind.

Bb Bb+b5
I am neither here nor there.
Bb Bb+b5
I don't exist.
Bb Bb+b5
You can't find me anywhere.
Bb Gm/Bb/F/Bb
I'm tucked inside your fist.

Eb D
With your knife of theory, cut me in two.
Eb D Gm
Will you have twice as much? More or less for you?

Bb Bb+b5
Everything's uncertain.
Bb Bb+b5
Is this kiss a kiss?
Bb Gm
There's nothing you can count on.
Eb F Bb
You can count on this.

<u>About This Song and Quantum Mechanics</u>

I played around with the metaphor of uncertainty in this song after reading about quantum physics.

Here is science writer Ivan Amato's thumbnail explanation of quantum mechanics:

Quantum mechanics refers to a math-heavy, scientific framework that describes behavior of ultrasmall objects, among them atoms, electrons, and photons, which are like particles of light. Part of the foundation of quantum mechanics is that we have uncertain knowledge about the tiny components that make up bigger things, whether these are pebbles, people, or planets. One of the fallouts of this uncertainty principle is that tiny things, according the hard math of quantum mechanics, have to be thought of as being in many places at once…until you try to determine exactly where they are by, say, shining light (and the zillions of photons in that light beam) on them the way you might shine a flashlight in a dark room to reveal where a lost sock might be. But when you shine a light on an atom or an electron, it's like throwing a basketball at a ping pong ball: The act of measuring the location instantly changes the location. This means that even the atoms that make us up are also always here and there, somewhere and everywhere, all at the same time.