

Acappella Choir  
VERY SLOW

# 1. The Curse of War

Michael Knopf c. 1996 revised 2002  
Texts by W. Owen & W. Whitman

Musical score for the first system, marked "VERY SLOW". It includes staves for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Piano. The Soprano part has a rest followed by a note. The Alto part has the instruction "divide" and a note marked "pp" with "(Ah)" below it. The Tenor part has a rest followed by a note marked "pp" with "(Ah)" below it. The Bass part has a long note. The Piano part has a rest followed by a note marked "p" with "(Reduction Only)" below it. A trumpet part is indicated by the instruction "(trumpet to play off-stage as if from a distanc)".

Musical score for the second system, marked "A LITTLE FASTER". It includes staves for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Piano. The Soprano part has notes with "cresc." and "dim." markings. The Alto part has notes with "cresc." and "dim." markings, and a note marked "mp" with "(divide)" below it. The Tenor part has notes with "cresc." and "dim." markings, and a note marked "mp" with "(divide)" below it. The Bass part has a long note. The Piano part has notes with "mp" marking and "[end trumpet]" above it. The instruction "Rassemble" is written below the piano staff.

Musical score for the third system. It includes staves for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Piano. The Soprano part has a note marked "mp" with "Singing" above it. The Alto part has notes with "mp" marking and "(divide)" above it. The Tenor part has notes with "mp" marking. The Bass part has notes with "mp" marking. The Piano part has notes with "mp" marking.

Crescendo .....

Soprano *mf* What pass-ing- bells What pass- ing bells... bells

Alto What pas- sing bells...What pass- ing

Tenore What pas- sing bells...What pass- ing

Basso

Piano

Crescendo.....

Soprano for for these who die as cat- tle?

Alto bells for for these who die as cat- tle? (gliss)

Tenore bells for for these who die as tle?

Basso for who die as die die

Piano

(divide to 3 voices)

Soprano What pas- sing bells for these who... die

Alto What pas- sing bells What bells What bells What pas- sing bells What pas- sing bells for

Tenore for these who die for these who die for

Basso bells... bells... bells... bells...

Piano

2

Soprano  
for these who die these who die *dim.* , *cresc.* for these who

Alto  
for these who die these who die *dim.* , for these who

Tenor  
for these who who die these who die *dim.* , for these who die

Bass  
for these who die these who die *dim.* , for these who die

Piano

30

Soprano  
die as cat-tle No pas-sing bells for these who die as

Alto  
die as cat-tle *mf* pas-sing bells for these who die as

Tenor  
die as cat-tle No pas-sing bells for who die as

Bass  
die as cat-tle No pas-sing bells for these who die as

Piano

*Accelerando.....* *ff* **Heavily but faster**

Soprano  
cat-tle *p* O- *ff* On-ly the mon-strous an-ger of the

Alto  
cat-tle *p* O- *ff* On-ly the mon-strous an-ger of the

Tenor  
cat-tle *p* O- *ff* On-ly the mon-strous an-ger of the

Bass  
cat-tle *p* O- *ff* On-ly the mon-strous an-ger of the

Piano

Soprano  
guns. *ff* On- ly the stut- ter- ing rif- les' ra- pid rat- tle  
(Close cluster)

Alto  
guns. *f* guns.

Tenor  
guns. *f* guns. On- ly the stut- ter- ing rif- les' ra- pid rat- tle  
(Close cluster)

Bass  
guns. *f* guns. On- ly the stut- ter- ing rif- les' ra- pid rat- tle  
(Close cluster)

Piano  
guns. *f* guns.

Soprano  
> (Close cluster but a bit lower)

Alto  
*mf* guns. On- ly the st- t- t- t- stut- ter- ing rif- les' ra- pid rat- tle

Tenor  
> (Close cluster but a bit lower)

Bass  
*mf* guns. (Close cluster but a bit lower)

Piano  
*mf* guns.

**Extremely hard attack and slowing**

Soprano  
On- ly the st- t- t- t- stut- ter- ing rif- les' ra- pid rat- tle

Alto  
guns.

Tenor  
guns.

Bass  
guns. On- ly the st- t- t- t- stut- ter- ing rif- les' ra- pid rat- tle

Piano  
guns.

CUED & HELD

(Slowly) 42

*mf* Can pat- ter out their has- ty or- i- sons,  
Spoken/Whispered repeatedly w/ great variance

*mp* St -t- t- t- Stuttering  
*mp* rifles' rapid rattle

(Spoken tight cluster)

*mp* No

Slowing 45 (Chorale) At an even walking pace

*mp* no prayers no prayers  
no prayers no prayers no  
no prayers no prayers no  
moc- ke-ries *P* now *pp* for *ppp* them; *mp* no prayers no prayers no

*mp*

With increasing intensity and passion

prayers no prayers no prayers no no no  
prayers no prayers no prayers no no  
prayers no prayers no prayers no no no  
prayers no prayers no prayers no no no

Soprano  
prayers no prayers no prayers no prayers no prayers

Alto  
prayers no prayers prayers no prayers no prayers

Tenor  
prayers no prayers no prayers no prayers no prayers

Bass  
prayers no prayers prayers no prayers no prayers

Piano

**57**  
*cresc.* **Becoming a little faster**

Soprano  
no prayers no prayers nor bells,

Alto  
no no prayers no prayers nor bells, bells,

Tenor  
no prayers no prayers nor bells

Bass  
no prayers no prayers nor bells,

Piano

**Crescendo.....**

Soprano  
bells, Nor a-ny voice of mour-ning

Alto  
bells, Nor a-ny voice of mour-ning

Tenor  
bells, bells, voice of mour-ning

Bass  
bells, bells, voice of mour-ning

Piano

**ff** Faster and intense

Soprano  
save the cho-irs the cho-irs the cho-irs the

Alto  
save the cho-irs cho-irs cho-irs the

Tenor  
save the cho-irs the cho-irs the cho-irs the

Bass  
save the cho-irs cho-irs cho-irs the

Piano

**ff** (Wobble the voice up & down a semitone)

Soprano  
shrill of wai-ling shells **ff** Tight Clusters near (glissando)

Alto  
demen-ted of wai-ling shells (glissando)

Tenor  
irs of wai-ling shells **ff**

Bass  
of wai-ling

Piano

Slowing a bit

Original Tempo

(White-tone -w/o expression)

Soprano  
**f** shells **mf** (Ah) **mp**

Alto  
**f** shells **mf** (Singing "Ah")

Tenor  
**mp**

Bass  
**mp**

Piano  
**f** **mp**

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

*mp* And

Individually as before

81  
Very Slow

Slowing & Becoming very quiet

2nd time and afterwards on cue

(REPEAT AS DESIRED)

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

bu-gles cal- ling for them

*mp* And bu- gles cal- ling for them

On Cue Only

(Ab) *gliss*

Divide Sing back & forth between two notes

*mp*

*mp*

All to Fade gradually to nothing

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

And bu- gles cal- ling for them from sad

*p* shires. *ppp*

3 groups of 3 or 4 echoing each other (Cued by conductor or group leader)

*p*



Acappella Choir

(B.) Look Down Fair Moon

Michael Knopf  
Text: W. Whitman

SLOWLY 2 Sopranos

*mp* Look down fair moon Look down fair moon Look down Fa-

Sopranos  
*mp* Look down fair moon

Piano  
*mp*  
(Reduction only)

Slowing a little

A LITTLE FASTER  
All Sopranos

ir ...fair moon Look down fair moon Look down fair

Alto (Still in the dark)  
*mp* Look down fair moon Look down

Look down fair

Piano

SLOWING

Faster w/intensity but not louder

*cresc.* *dim.* Divide *dim.* [12] Soli Group

moon... Look down fair moon fair moon Sopranos

moon... Look down fair moon fair moon Lookdown fair moon

Alto

Look down

Piano

**SLOWER**  
Sopranos

**Soli group**

Soprano: Pour soft-ly down    Pour soft-ly down    Pour soft-ly down    ...fair

Alto: and bathe this scene    Look down fair moon    and bathe this this    scene    ...fair

Tenore: fair moon    and bathe    this scene    Look down    fair moon    and bathe this    scene

Basso: (no lyrics)

Piano: (no lyrics)

**17** All Female voices in Six Groups *cresc. accel.*  
5/6

Soprano: moon    and bathe this    scene Pour soft-ly down    Pour soft-ly down

Alto: moon    and bathe this    scene

Tenore: and bathe    this    scene

Basso: (no lyrics)

Piano: (no lyrics)

**A Tempo** (All Female voices equally) Conducted Broadly (Light suddenly expands to include all incl. bodies centre stage)  
Heavy walking pace

Soprano: nights nim- bus floods with fa- ces, fa- ces,  
With pitch sliding up on "swoll."

Alto: nights nim- bus floods swollen, swollen,

Tenore: (Very breathy) pur- ple, pur- ple,

Basso: ghas-ly, ghas-ly,

Piano: (no lyrics)

25

Soprano (Divide) Pour soft-ly down Pour soft-ly down

Alto On the dead on their backs ("cks" to be attacked at end of bar)

Tenor On the dead on their backs ("cks" to be attacked at end of bar)

Bass On the dead on their backs

Piano

All Divide

31

Original tempo

From here, lights begin to fade to embrace only the women singers

Soprano with arms toss'd wide Sopranos

Alto with arms toss'd wide

Tenor with arms toss'd wide

Bass with arms toss'd wide Altos

Piano

Pour down your un-stin-ted nim-bu

26

Sopranos your un-stin-ted nim-bus sac- red sac- red moon. (sing "oo")

Altos

Tenor Look down fair moon

Bass

Piano

(stagger breathe)

38

All fade to nothing

Soprano  
(Sopranos)

Alto  
Look down fair moon

Tenor  
(Altos) Look down fair moon

Bass  
Pour  
down

Piano

Light face continued to fade, to the point that the last singer in the centre is illuminated alone at the last bar with face and hands lifted to the light. Then darkness...

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

(Altos) 3 Voices --- to 1 Voice

Bass  
p sac- red moon. slide to nothing

Piano