

For Soprano and String Quartet

Michael Knopf (c) 1999

This piece is dedicated to the memory of Ehsan Mihdizadih of Shiraz, Iran. He was a friend I met on pilgrimage to the Baha'i World Centre in 1977. A few years later, he was imprisoned, tortured, and executed for being a Baha'i. He bravely and passionately embraced his death, refusing to recant his faith to avoid torture and to save his life.

This piece would be appropriate in recitals and gatherings in remembrance of the sufferings of the oppressed.

The following is to be recited by the singer before the quartet begins.

I remember my friend.

On Carmel's happy slopes we were content.

We laughed.

We spoke.

And years later I remembered my friend.

His name appeared in the news half-a-world away.

He had been imprisoned, tortured and shot.

His crime was to be innocent and to be enamoured of his belief.

He had had faith.

And on this simple life, fanatics sowed seeds of pain and grief.

Their fruition claimed his life.

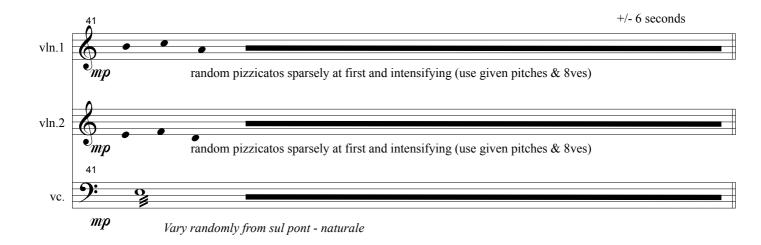


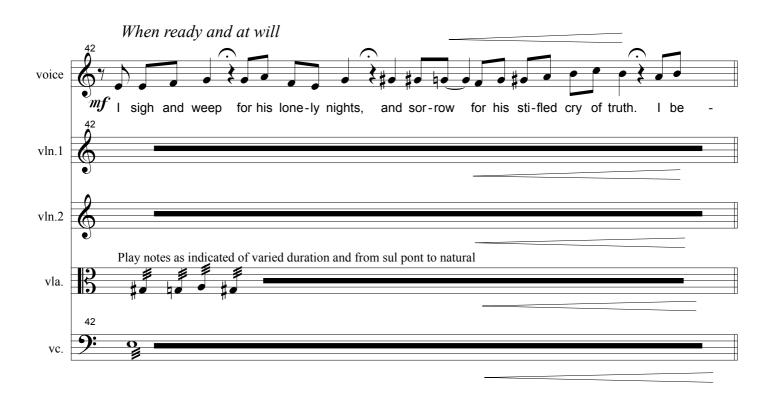














To be read by the singer after a pause, as if reflecting.

I remember my friend.
And there are so many others.
The deeds of their tormentors - a
Monolithic gravemarker of human depravity.
But their lives and deaths A resounding anthem of the human spirit.

