

Monody

For a Lost Friend

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.

1 *Andante Grave* ♩ = +50

Voice

violin 1

violin 2

viola

cello

1 *espressivo*
mp

vln.2 *espressivo*
mp

4

vc.

vln.2

vla. *espressivo*
mp

7

vc.

vln.2

vla.

vc.

10

espressivo *Crescendo poco.....a.....poco*

vln.1

vln.2

vla.

vc.

13

mp

mp

mp

mp

crescendo.....poco.....a.....poco.....

vln.1

vln.2

vla.

vc.

16

piu' mp

piu' mp

piu' mp

piu' mp

19

vln.1 *mf*

vln.2 *mf*

vla. *mf*

vc. *mf*

crescendo.....poco.....a.....poco.....

22

vln.1 *f*

vln.2 *f*

vla. *f*

vc. *f*

25 *f* *rit.* Dark and dying away

vln.1 *ff*, *mp*

vln.2 *ff*, *mp*

vla. *ff*, *mp*

vc. *f*, *ff*, *mp*

-4-

A tempo

voice ²⁹ *mp* I grieve in re - call - ing, and I cry for his suf - fer -

vln.1 ²⁹

vln.2 ²⁹

vla. ²⁹ *p*

vc. ²⁹ *p*

voice ³² *espr.* ings. *mp* | groan in his pain, and

vln.1 ³² *espr.* *mp*

vln.2 ³² *mp*

vla. ³² *mp*

vc. ³² *mp*

35 *crescendo.....* *f*

voice
moan for his hurt. I mourn for his

vln.1

vln.2

vla.

vc.

38 *rallentando* ,

voice
pas - sing, and shed tears for his fami - ly's loss. ,

vln.1

vln.2

vla.

vc.

+/- 6 seconds

41

vln.1 *mp* random pizzicatos sparsely at first and intensifying (use given pitches & 8ves)

vln.2 *mp* random pizzicatos sparsely at first and intensifying (use given pitches & 8ves)

41

vc. *mp* Vary randomly from *sul pont* - *naturale*

When ready and at will

42

voice *mf* I sigh and weep for his lone-ly nights, and sor-row for his sti-fled cry of truth. I be -

vln.1

vln.2

vla. Play notes as indicated of varied duration and from *sul pont* to *natural*

42

vc.

mf *Stringendo and with fervour but still colla parte* (In time and together)

voice *mf* moan his ab-sence, and la - ment his si lent voice. I be - wail and gasp at his

vln.1 *mf* *arco* Attack given pattern randomly & individually. Build volume and density. *naturale*

vln.2 *mf* *arco* Attack given pattern randomly & individually. Build volume and density. *naturale*

vla. *mf* *naturale*

vc. *mf* *naturale*

Attaca *f* tor - ture, and shriek and wail for his death. *a piacere* *A tempo*

vln.1 *f* *sfz pizzicato-let ring* *Sul pont senza vib al niente* *mp*

vln.2 *f* *sfz pizzicato-let ring* *mp*

vla. *f* *sfz pizzicato-let ring* *mp*

vc. *f* *sfz pizzicato-let ring* *mp*

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.

52 *Proceed at will and with expression*

voice

I re-joyce at his sa-cri-vice and de - light in his vic-to - ry. I am

56

voice

cheered by his bright spi - rit. I ce - le - brate his tri - umph. I am

60 *D.S. al Coda*

voice

so-laced by his cho-sen path, and am in - spired by his no - ble life.

CODA

Musical score for the CODA section, featuring four staves: vln.1, vln.2, vla., and vc. The music is in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The first staff (vln.1) begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The second staff (vln.2) begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The third staff (vla.) begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The fourth staff (vc.) begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The music concludes with a final cadence. Dynamic markings include *ff* (fortissimo) and hairpins indicating crescendo and decrescendo.

Serenely

Fine

Musical score for the Serenely section, featuring four staves: vln.1, vln.2, vla., and vc. The music is in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The first staff (vln.1) begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The second staff (vln.2) begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The third staff (vla.) begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The fourth staff (vc.) begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The music concludes with a final cadence. Dynamic markings include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and hairpins indicating crescendo and decrescendo.