

To the honoured memory of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, President of The United States of America.

TAKE HIM, EARTH, FOR CHERISHING

PRUDENTIUS (348-413)

Motet for Mixed Voices

From *Hymnus circa Exsequias Defuncti*

Translated by Helen Waddell*

HERBERT HOWELLS

Quasi lento, serio, ma con moto (♩ = 63)

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

ACCOMP. (for rehearsal only)

p Take him, earth, for cher-ish-ing, — To thy ten-der breast re - *poco*

p Take him, earth, for cher-ish-ing, — To thy ten-der breast re - *poco*

p Quasi lento, serio, ma con moto (♩ = 63) *poco*

pp

(♩ = ♩)

mf ceive him. Bod - y of a man I — bring thee, No - *f*

mf ceive him. Bod - y of a man I — bring thee, No - *f*

mp No - *mf*

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C. M. R. 2869 - (23)

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poch. *p* *3*

Once was this a

dim. *poch.* *pp* *mf* *3*

- ble e - ven in its ru - in. Once was this a

dim. *pp* *p* *3*

- ble e - ven in its ru - in. Once was this a

dim. *pp* *mf* *3*

- ble e - ven in its ru - in. Once was this a

poch. *mp* *3*

dim. *ppp* *3*

spir - it's dwell - ing, - By the breath of

poco

spir - it's dwell - ing, - By the breath of God cre -

3

spir - it's dwell - ing, - By the breath of

poco

spir - it's dwell - ing, - By the breath of God cre -

poco *3*

God cre-a - ted. High the heart that here was
 a - ted. High the heart that here was
 God cre-a - ted. High the heart that here was
 a - ted. High the heart that here was

mf assai sost.

beat - ing, Christ the prince of all its liv - ing.
 beat - ing, Christ the prince of all its liv - ing.
 beat - ing, Christ the prince of all its liv - ing.
 beat - ing, Christ the prince of all its liv - ing.

dim.

Con anima e movimento (♩ = c. 72)

SOP. I

Guard him well, the dead

Guard him well, the dead

Guard him well, the dead

Guard him well, the dead

Guard him well, the dead

Con anima e movimento (♩ = c. 72)

I give thee, Not un-

I give thee, Not un-

I give thee, Not un-

I give thee, Not un-

I give thee, Not un-

mind - ful of His crea - ture Shall He

mind - ful of His crea - ture Shall He

mind - ful of His crea - ture Shall He

mind - ful of His crea - ture Shall He

mind - ful of His crea - ture Shall He

più ask it: He who made it

più ask it: He who made it

più ask it: He who made it

più ask it: He who made it

più ask it: He who made it

[illegible]

a tempo, come primo
p dim. *rit.*

a tempo
p dim. *pp* *rit.*

a tempo *mf espressivo* *dim.* *rit.* *pp*

a tempo Take him, earth, — for cher-ish-ing.
p dim. *rit.*

a tempo
p dim. *rit.*

a tempo, come primo *rit.*
mf *pp*

intenso (♩ = 66)

f [^] Comes the hour — God — hath ap - point - ed To ful -

f [^] Comes the hour God — hath ap - point - ed To ful -

f [^] Comes the hour —

f [^] Comes the

fil — the hope — of men, —

fil — the hope — of men, —

— To ful - fil the hope — of men, —

hour — ap - point - ed — To ful - fil the hope of men, —

appassionato
ff

Then — must thou, —

Then — must thou, —

Then — must thou, —

Then — must thou, in ver - y fash - ion,

appassionato
ff

largando

then — must — thou, then must thou What I

then — must — thou, then must thou What I

then — must — thou, then must thou What I

then, then must — thou, then What I —

largando

dim. *pp*
 give, — re - turn a - gain.

dim. *pp*
 give, — re - turn a - gain.

dim. *pp* *mf Con ruminazione*
 give, — re - turn. — Take him, earth, for

dim. *pp*
 give, — re - turn a - gain.

dim. *pp* *mf*
 give, — re - turn a - gain.

rall. molto
rall. molto *sotto voce*
 Bod - y of a man I

3 *p* *rall. molto, sotto voce*
 cher - ish - ing. Bod - y of a man I

rall. molto *3* *sotto voce*
 Bod - y of a man I

rall. molto *3* *pp*
 Bod - y of a man I

un poco rubato, con moto (♩ = c. 69)

SEMI-CHORUS

mp

Not though an-cient time de-cay-ing Wear a-way these bones to sand,

pp (O take him..

pp thee. (O take him..

pp bring thee. (O take him..

pp bring thee. (Take-

un poco rubato, con moto (♩ = c. 69)

mp

pp

pp

mp

Ash-es that a man might meas-ure In the hol-low of his hand:

pp Take, O take him.)

mf espressivo Bod-y of a man I bring thee.)

poco him, take him.)

poco a poco più animato

FULL

Not though wandering winds and idle

Not though wandering winds and idle

poco a poco più animato

winds, Scat - ter dust

Scat - ter dust

winds, Scat - ter dust was nerve and

Drift - ing through the emp - ty sky,

was nerve and sin - ew, Is it
was nerve and sin - ew,
sin - ew, Is it given
Scat - ter nerve and sin - ew, Is it given

The first system of the musical score consists of four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in a 4-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass). The lyrics are: "was nerve and sin - ew, Is it", "was nerve and sin - ew,", "sin - ew, Is it given", and "Scat - ter nerve and sin - ew, Is it given". The piano accompaniment is in the lower register, providing harmonic support for the vocal lines.

given to man to die. *più*
Is it given to man to die. *più*
to man to die. *più*
to man to die. *più*

The second system of the musical score continues the vocal and piano parts. The lyrics are: "given to man to die. *più*", "Is it given to man to die. *più*", "to man to die. *più*", and "to man to die. *più*". The piano accompaniment continues with a steady rhythm, and the vocal parts maintain their harmonic structure.

elato *f* *ff*

Once a - gain the shin - ing road Leads to

f *ff*

Once a - gain the shin - ing road Leads to

f *ff*

Once a - gain the shin - ing road Leads to

f *ff*

Once a - gain the road Leads to

elato *f* *ff*

rit.

am - ple Par - a - dise;

rit. *mf dolce* *più tranquillo*

Par a - dise; O - pen are the

rit. *p*

am - ple Par

rit. *p*

am - ple Par a - dise;

mf *più tranquillo*

rit. *p*

poco meno mosso (♩ = 60)

mp dolce *pp*

O - pen are the woods a - gain,

mp dolce *pp*

O - pen are the woods a - gain,

woods a - gain,

woods a - gain.

- a - dise; That the

(♩ = 60) *mp dolce* *mp*

mp dolce *p*

O - pen are the woods a - gain

mp dolce *p*

O - pen are the woods a - gain

p *poco*

Ser - pent lost for men,

p *poco*

FULL *mp*

That the Ser - pent

That the Ser - pent

That the Ser - pent

mp *sonore* lost

That the Ser - pent lost

mp *sonore*

rit. e dim. subito *pp*

lost for men.

rit. *pp*

lost for men.

rit. e dim. subito *pp*

lost for men.

rit. e dim. subito *pp*

for men.

rit. e dim. subito *pp*

for men.

Ampio, ma espressivo (♩ = 58)

f Take, O take him, — might - y Lead - er, — Take a -

f Take, O take him, — might - y Lead - er, — Take a -

f Take, O take him, — might - y Lead - er, — Take a -

f Take, O take him, — might - y Lead - er, — Take a -

Ampio, ma espressivo (♩ = 58)

gain_ thy serv - ant's soul. Grave his name, — and

gain_ thy serv - ant's soul. Grave his name, — and

gain_ thy serv - ant's soul. Grave his name, — and

gain_ thy serv - ant's soul. Grave his name, — and

pour the fra-grant Balm

Balm

pour the fra-grant Balm

pour the fra-grant Balm

pour the fra-grant Balm

rall. e dim. *mf* *Tempo I quasi alla marcia* *pp*

up-on the i-cy stone.

rall. e dim. *pp*

up-on the i-cy stone.

rall. e dim. *pp*

up-on the i-cy stone.

rall. e dim. *pp*

up-on the i-cy stone.

rall. e dim. *pp*

Take him, earth, for

rall. e dim. *mf* *Tempo I quasi alla marcia* *pp*

pp *poco marcato*

pp sommessso, teneramente

Take him, earth, for cher-ish-ing, To thy

pp Take him, earth, for cher-ish-ing, To thy

pp Take him, earth, for cher-ish-ing, To thy

cher-ish-ing, Take him to thy ten-der

ten-der breast re-ceive him.

ten-der breast re-ceive him.

ten-der breast re-ceive him.

breast. Bod-y of a man I bring thee.

mf *poco cresc.*
 Body of a man I bring thee, No - ble

mf *poco cresc.*
 — Body of a man I bring thee, No - ble

mf *poco cresc.*
 — Body of a man I bring thee, No - ble e - ven

mf *poco cresc.*
 — Body of a man I bring thee, No - ble e - ven

mf *poco cresc.*
 — No - ble — e - ven in —

mf *poco cresc.*

The musical score consists of three systems, each with a vocal staff and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "in its ru-in. By the breath of God cre-".

System 1: The vocal staff has a treble clef. The piano accompaniment has a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The lyrics are: "in its ru-in. By the breath of God cre-".

System 2: The vocal staff has a treble clef. The piano accompaniment has a grand staff. The lyrics are: "in its ru - in. By the breath of God cre-".

System 3: The vocal staff has a bass clef. The piano accompaniment has a grand staff. The lyrics are: "in its ru - in. By the breath of God cre-".

System 4: The vocal staff has a bass clef. The piano accompaniment has a grand staff. The lyrics are: "its ru - in. Breath of God cre-".

The musical score consists of five systems, each with a piano accompaniment and a vocal line. The piano part is written in treble and bass clefs, while the vocal part is in a single treble clef. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 2/4. The lyrics are: "a - ted. Christ the prince of liv - ing." The dynamics are marked as *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *dim.* (diminuendo). The score is arranged in five systems, with the vocal line appearing in the first four systems and the piano accompaniment appearing in all five systems. The lyrics are distributed across the systems as follows: "a - ted." (first system), "Christ the" (second system), "prince of" (third system), and "liv - ing." (fourth system). The fifth system contains only the piano accompaniment. The dynamics are marked as *mf* at the beginning of each system and *dim.* at the end of each system.

a - ted. Christ the prince of

a - ted. Christ the prince of

a - ted. Christ the prince of

a - ted. Christ the prince of liv - ing.

a - ted.

all its liv - ing. Take, O take him,

all its liv - ing. Take, O take him,

all its liv - ing. Take, O take him,

Take, O take him,

42

mp dim. e rit. molto *pp* *lunga*

Take him, earth, for cher - ish-ing.

mp dim. e rit. molto *pp* *lunga*

Take him, earth, for cher - ish-ing.

mp dim. e rit. molto *pp* *lunga*

Take him, earth, for cher - ish-ing.

mp dim. e rit. molto *pp* *lunga*

Take him, earth, for cher - ish-ing.

mp dim. e rit. molto *pp* *lunga*

Take him, earth, for cher - ish-ing.

mp dim. e rit. molto *pp* *lunga*

Take him, earth, for cher - ish-ing.

8va