

Tu mancavi a tormentarmi



A CAPPELLA SATB

MUSICAL SETTING BY GREGORY AMERIND

TEXT BY ANONYMOUS

Tu mancavi a tormentarmi

Tu mancavi a tormentarmi,
Crudelissima speranza,
E con dolce rimembranza
Vuoi di nuovo avvelenarmi.

Ancor dura aa sventura
D'una fiamma incenerita,
La ferita ancora aperta
Par m'avverta nuove pene.
Dal rumor delle catene

Mai non vedo allontanarmi.

You continue to torment me,
Cruellest hope,
And with sweet remembrance
You poison me anew.

The burning flame of misfortune endures,
And my still-open wounds
Warn of new pain to come,
But I will never seek to remove
These binding chains.

Translation by the composer

Composer's Notes

This anonymous text of poetry dates from approximately the early to middle 17th Century. It's well known setting by Italian composer and tenor, Pietro Antonio Cesti (1623-1669) was my inspiration, although stylistically this setting shares little with that of Mr. Cesti's. The theme of unrequited passion, the heart-wrenching pain of lost love so typical of many Italian cantatas from the early Baroque period, is somewhat implicit in this text. This is one of the qualities that has always drawn me to the poem. Also, the structure of its stanzas with their unorthodox rhyming patterns presents a great foundation on which to build any kind of musical form.

When preparing for performance of this piece, one should always take into consideration the meter of the Italian language, with stress emphasis on the proper syllables, as well as, of course, the lamenting quality of the text itself. The music is purposefully unresolving throughout, with only brief excursions into traditional tonality and harmonic structure, including the final resignation of the subject to enduring the pain of lost love as an eternal prison. The dynamic and tempi markings are merely guideposts and the conductor should feel free to go further in contrast as his or her spirit direct in interpreting the text. Avoid vibrati as a rule so as not to obscure the natural overtones of the harmonic structure.

This piece is suited to ensembles of no less than 30 singers, and ideally to 60-80 well-blended voices.

Tu mancavi a tormentarmi

$\text{♩} = 46$ Molto Legato e sostenuto

TENOR
 p Tu

BASS
 p Tu

Piano (rehearsal only)
 p Approx. Performance Time: 5:50

5 *molto espressivo*

S.
 mp Tu man ca - vi, a tor - men - tar - mi,

A.
 mp Tu man ca - vi, a tor - men - tar - mi,

T.
 man -

B.
 man -

Pno.
 mp

S. *a tor - men - tar - mi a tor - men - tar - mi, cru - de -*
mp

A. *a tor - men - tar - mi a tor - men - tar - mi, cru - de -*
mp

T. *- ca - vi a tor - men - tar mi, a tor - men - tar - mi, cru - de -*
mp

B. *- ca - vi a tor - men - tar mi, a tor - men - tar - mi, cru - de -*
mp

Pno. *mp mp*

♩ = 40

S. *lis - si ma spe - ran - za, cru - de - lis - si - ma spe - ran - za, spe*

A. *lis - si ma spe - ran - za, cru de - lis - si - ma, cru de - lis - si ma spe*

T. *lis - si ma spe - ran - za, cru - de - lis - si - ma cru de - lis - si ma spe*

B. *lis - si ma spe - ran - za, cru - de - lis - si ma spe ran -*

Pno.