

To my dear friend Mary,  
in loving memory of her husband Bill.

# Death Be Not Proud

John Donne (1572-1631)  
Holy Sonnet X

for SATB Voices, a cappella

Christopher Matthews

*p* = 60

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano (for rehearsal only)

4

called thee Might - y and dread - ful.

called thee Might - y and dread - ful.

called thee Might - y and dread - ful.

Poco più mosso (♩ = 65)

7

*p* *mp* *mp*

Death be not proud, though some have

*mp* *mp*

Death be not proud, though some have

*mp* *mp*

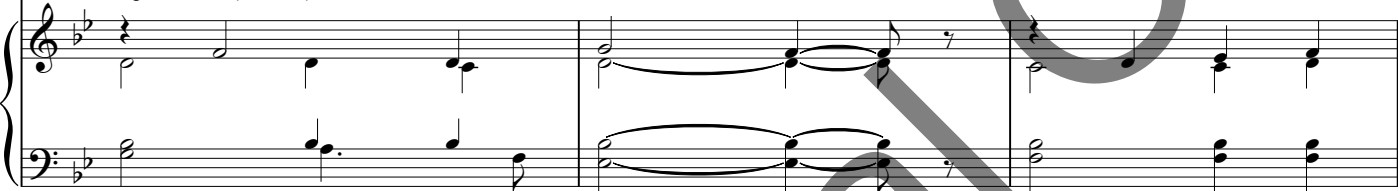
8

Death be not proud, though some have

*mp* *mp*

Death be not proud, though some have

Poco più mosso (♩ = 65)



10

*poco accel.* -----

*mf cresc. poco a poco*

called thee Might - y and dread - ful, Might - y and dread - ful,

*mf cresc. poco a poco*

called thee Might - y and dread - ful, Might - y and dread - ful,

*mf cresc. poco a poco*

called thee, called thee Might - y, dread - ful, Might - y and dread - ful,

*mf cresc. poco a poco*

called thee Might - y, dread - ful, Might - y, dread - ful,

*poco accel.* -----



Meno mosso (♩ = 60)

13

*poco rit.*

*f*

*più f*

Might - y and dread - ful for, thou art not so,

*f*

*più f*

Might - y and dread - ful for, thou art not so,

*f*

*più f*

Might - y and dread - ful for, thou art not so,

*f*

*più f*

Might - y and dread - ful for, thou art not so,

Meno mosso (♩ = 60)

*poco rit.*

Might - y and dread - ful for, thou art not so,

\*Divide into three equal parts.

17

Più mosso (♩ = 70)

Might - y and dread - ful for, thou art not so,

Might - y and dread - ful for, thou art not so,

Die not, poor

*più rubato*  
*mp*

*poco rubato*  
*mp*

*più rubato*  
*non decresc. mp*

For, those, whom thou think'st thou dost ov - er - throw, Die not, poor

Più mosso (♩ = 70)

For, those, whom thou think'st thou dost ov - er - throw, Die not, poor

From rest and sleep, which but thy death, nor yet canst thou kill me. From rest and sleep, which but thy

*mp*

*poco rall.*

*mp*

*mp*

Meno mosso (♩ = 65) (senza rubato)

*poco rall.*

Much pleasure then from thee much more must pictures be, then from thee much more must pictures be, then from thee much more must

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

30

*rit.*

flow, And soon - est our best men with thee do

flow And soon - est our best men with thee do

flow And soon - est our best men

flow And soon - est our best men

Più mosso (♩ = 70)

34

go. Rest of their bones and souls de -

go. Rest of their bones and souls de -

Rest of their bones and souls de -

Rest of their bones and souls de -

Più mosso (♩ = 70)

38

*poco accel.* ----- *poco rit.*

*cresc. poco a poco*

liv - er - y Thou art slave to Fate, chance, kings and des - per - ate

*cresc. poco a poco*

liv - er - y Thou, slave to Fate, chance, kings and des - per - ate

*cresc. poco a poco*

liv - er - y Thou, slave to Fate, chance, kings and des - per - ate

*cresc. poco a poco*

liv - er - y Thou art slave to Fate, chance, kings and des - per - ate

*poco accel.* ----- *poco rit.*

42

*Poco meno mosso* (♩ = 65)

*poco rall.* -----

*f* men, *più f* And dost with poi - son, war, and sick - ness

*f* men, *più f* dost with poi - son, war, and sick - ness

*f* men, *più f* dost with poi - son, war, and sick - ness

*f* men, *più f* dost with poi - son, war, and sick - ness

*Poco meno mosso* (♩ = 65)

*poco rall.* -----

*poco rall.*

45

Più mosso (♩ = 75)

dwell.

dwell.

dwell.

dwell. *f* And pop - py, or charms can make us sleep as

Più mosso (♩ = 75)

48

*f* And pop - py, or charms can make us sleep as

*mf* well, can make us sleep as well, as

And pop - py, or charms can make us sleep as well, can make us sleep as well, as well, charms can make us sleep as well, as

*f*

*mf*

And pop - py, or charms can make us sleep, well, can make us sleep as well, sleep as well, charms can make us sleep as well, well, charms can make us sleep as well, can make us

*f*

*mf*

*f*

*f*



can make us sleep, can make us sleep,

well, can make us sleep,

can make us sleep,

sleep as well, can make us

*molto rit.*----- (♩ = 60)

*mf* *molto sostenuto*

sleep as well, And bet - - ter

*mf* *molto sostenuto*

sleep as well, And bet - ter

*mf* *molto sostenuto*

sleep as well, And bet - ter

*mf* *molto sostenuto*

sleep as well, And bet - ter

(♩ = 60)

*molto rit.*-----

than thy stroke; why swell'st, why swell'st thou

than thy stroke; why swell'st why swell'st thou

than thy stroke; why swell'st why swell'st thou

than thy stroke; why swell'st, why swell'st thou

Più mosso (♩ = 65)

*poco rall.**a tempo*

63

then? Death be not proud, though some have

then? Death be not proud, though some have

then? Death be not proud, though some have

then? Death be not proud, though some have

Più mosso (♩ = 65)

*poco rall.*

*a tempo*

*poco accel.* -----

67

*mf cresc. poco a poco*

called thee Might - y and dread - ful, Might - y and dread - ful,

*\*mf cresc. poco a poco*

called thee \_\_\_\_\_ Might - y and dread - ful, Might - y and dread - ful,

*mf cresc. poco a poco*

8 called thee, called thee Might - y, dread - ful, Might - y and dread - ful,

*mf cresc. poco a poco*

called thee Might - y, dread - ful, Might - y, dread - ful,

*poco accel.* -----

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Bring out Alto line (mm. 63-64).

*a tempo* (♩ = 65)

70

*molto rit.*

*f*

*più f*

Might - y and dread - ful, for, thou art \_\_\_\_\_ not so,

*f*

*più f*

Might - y and dread - ful, for, thou art not so,

*f*

*più f*

8 Might - y and dread - ful, for, thou art not so,

*f*

*più f*

Might - y and dread - ful, for, thou art not so,

*a tempo* (♩ = 65)

*molto rit.*

\*Divide as in measure 15.

74

*allarg.*

Meno mosso (♩ = 60)

*mp* *f* *mf*

One short sleep past, we wake e - ter - nal - ly, And

*mp* *f* *mf*

One short sleep past, we wake e - ter - nal - ly, And

*mp* *f* *mf*

One short sleep past, we wake e - ter - nal - ly, And

*mp* *f* *mf*

One short sleep past, we wake e - ter - nal - ly, And

Meno mosso (♩ = 60)

\*Bring out Tenor line.

77

*molto rall.*

*a tempo*

*non decresc.*

*mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *non decresc.*

death shall be no more; death thou shalt die,

*mf* *mf* *non decresc.*

death shall be no more; death thou shalt die,

*mf* *mf* *non decresc.*

death shall be no more; death thou shalt die

*opt. div. mf* *non decresc.*

death shall be no more; death thou shalt die

*molto rall.*

81

*mp* *non decresc.* *p* *non decresc.*

death thou shalt die, death thou shalt die.

*mp* *non decresc.* *p* *non decresc.*

death thou shalt die, death thou shalt die.

*mp* *non decresc.* *p* *non decresc.*

death thou shalt die, death thou shalt die.

*mp* *non decresc.* *p* *non decresc.*

death thou shalt die, death thou shalt die.

Alternate Ending

85

*pp* *ppp* *n.*

death thou shalt die.

*pp* *ppp* *n.*

death thou shalt die.

*pp* *ppp* *n.*

death thou shalt die.

*pp* *ppp* *n.*

death thou shalt die.

86

*rit.* *ppp* *n.*

die, thou shalt die.

*ppp* *n.*

die, shalt die.

*ppp* *n.*

die, thou shalt die.

*ppp* *n.*

die.

*rit.*

*n.* = *al niente*