

The Frozen Grail
GP-B003
soprano, piano

Eric William Barnum

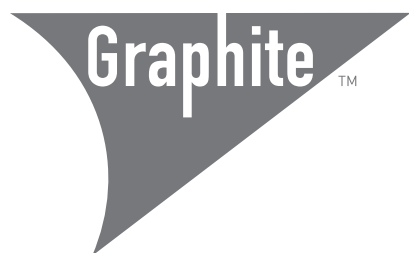
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Eric William Barnum

The Frozen Grail

for soprano and piano

1. Why sing the legends of the Holy Grail
2. What shall prevail against the spirit of man
3. Dante, in his frozen hell
4. Does he watch behind the lattice
5. To conquer the world
6. The Star
7. He shall find



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Texts:

1. Why sing the legends of the Holy Grail

Why sing the legends of the Holy Grail,
The dead crusaders of the Sepulchre,
While these men live? Are the great bards all dumb?
Here is a vision to shake the blood of Song,
And make Fame's watchman tremble at his post.

2.What shall prevail against the spirit of man

What shall prevail against the spirit of man,
When cold, the lean and snarling wolf of hunger,
The threatening spear of ice-mailed Solitude,
Silence, and space, and ghostly-faded Fear
Prevail not?

3.Dante, in his frozen hell

Dante, in his frozen hell
Shivering, endured no bleakness like the void
These men have warmed with their own flaming will,
And peopled with their dreams. The wind from fierce
Arcturus in their faces at their backs
The whip of the world's doubt, and in their souls
Courage to die if death shall be the price
Of that cold cup that will assuage their thirst;
They climb, and fall, and stagger toward the goal.
They lay themselves the road whereby they travel
And sue God for a franchise.

4.Does he watch behind the lattice

Does he watch
Behind the lattice of the boreal lights?
In that grail-chapel of their stern-vowed quest,
Ninety of God's long paces toward the North,
Will they behold the splendour of his face?

5.To conquer the world

To conquer the world must a man renounce the world?
These have renounced it. Had ye only faith
Ye might move mountains, said the Nazarene.
Why, these have faith to move the zones of man
Out to the point where All and Nothing meet.
They catch the bit of Death between their teeth,
In one wild dash to trample the unknown
And leap the gates of knowledge. They have dared
Even to defy the sentinel that guards
The doors of the forbidden dared to hurl
Their breathing bodies after the Ideal,
That like the heavenly kingdom must be taken
Only by violence.

6. The Star

The star that leads
The leader of this quest has held the world True to its
orbit for a million years.
And shall he fail? They never fail who light
Their lamp of faith at the unwavering flame Burnt at
the altar service of the Race
Since the Beginning.

7.He shall find the strange —

He shall find the strange The white immaculate
Virgin of the North, Whose steady gaze no mortal ever
dared, Whose icy hand no human ever grasped. In the
dread silence and the solitude She waits and listens
through the centuries For one indomitable, destined
soul, Born to endure the glory of her eyes, And lift his
warm lips to the frozen Grail.

- Elsa Barker

The Frozen Grail

I. Why sing the legends of the Holy Grail?

for Soprano and Piano

Elsa Barker

Eric William Barnum

$\text{♩} = 70$

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The first system of the musical score is in 4/4 time. The piano part begins with a series of chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 70. The dynamics range from piano (*p*) to mezzo-piano (*mp*). The system ends with a repeat sign.

The second system of the musical score continues the piano accompaniment. It features more complex chordal textures and melodic lines. The dynamics are marked as mezzo-piano (*mp*). The system ends with a repeat sign.

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ad libitum

mp

Why sing the le - gends

The third system of the musical score includes the vocal line for the Soprano. The piano part continues with chords and single notes. The dynamics are marked as mezzo-piano (*mp*) and sub-piano (*sub. p*). The system ends with a repeat sign.

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26

of the Ho-ly Grail? The dead cru-sa-ders of the Sep-ul - chre, While these men live?

26

mp *p*

Graphite

33

pp *mf* *f*

Are all the great bards dumb? Here is a vi-sion, _____ a vi-sion to shake the blood of

33

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37

rall.

Song, _____ And make Fame's watch-man trem-ble at his _____

37

f *ff*

Graphite

39 *a tempo* (♩=♩)

post. _____

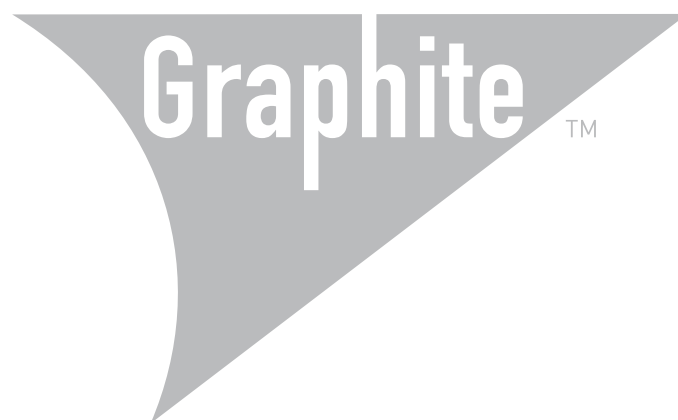
mp

p

45



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II. What shall prevail against the spirit of man

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Elsa Barker

Eric William Barnum

$\text{♩} = 74$

p

10 *mp ad libitum* *a tempo*

What shall pre-vail a-against the spi-rit of man, — the spi-rit of man, —

15 *pp* *p* *mf*

When cold, — when cold, — when

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rall. $\text{♩} = 56$

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21 cold, the lean and snar - ling wolf of

mf *f*

21

5 6

rall. *a tempo*

23 hun - ger, — The threat-ning spear of ice mailed Sol - - i - tude, Si -

sub. p

23

5 6 3 3 3 3 3 3

mp

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Tempo I

27 *pp* *p* *mp*

- lence, Si - lence, and space, and ghost-ly foot-ed

27

pp *p* *mp*

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34 Fear pre-vail not?

p

rit.

40

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III. Dante, in his frozen hell

Elsa Barker

Eric William Barnum

♩ = 110

6 Dan-te, — in his fro-zen hell Shiv-r'ing — en-

10 dured — no bleak-ness like the void, like the void

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13 *f* These men have warmed with their own fla-ming will, *mf* The wind from fierce Arc-

13 *p* *mf*

17 *f* tu - rus in their fa - ces, at their back the whip, the whip of the world's

17

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20 *f* doubt, and in their souls.

20

23 *ff*

and in their souls, _____

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26 *mf*

Cou-rage to die, _____ if

ff *mp* *p*

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ad libitum *Tempo I*

32 *p*

death shall be the price Of that cold cup that will as-suage their thirst; They climb, and

32 *p*

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fall, and stag-ger toward the goal.

p

mp

mf

They lay them-selves the road where-by they tra - vel,

f

And sue God for a fran-chise.

p

f

IV. Does he watch behind the lattice.

Elsa Barker

Eric William Barnum

p ad libitum (♩ = 80)

Does he watch Be-hind the lat-tice of the Bor-eal lights? In that grail cha-pel

Play randomly
(ex: windchimes)

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8 *cresc. poco a poco al ff*

of their stern vowed quest, Nine - ty of God's long pa - ces toward the North

8

**cresc. poco a poco al ff*

**increase in volume and frequency*

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13 *ff*

Will they be-hold the splen-dour of His face?

13 *ff* *TM*

let ring

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V. To conquer the world

Elsa Barker

Eric William Barnum

$\text{♩} = 48$

p

mp

5 To con-quer the world must a man re-nounce the world? —

mp

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mf

9 These men have re-nounced it. Had ye on-ly faith Ye might move moun-tains,

mf

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13 *f*

said the Na - za - rene. Why, these men have faith to move the zones of man —

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17 *mf*

Out to the point where All and No - thing meet.

17 *mp*

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19

They catch the bit of Death — between their teeth.

19 *f pesante* *sub. pp*

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rall.

mf *f*

In one wild dash to tram-ple the un-known And leap the gates of know-ledge

mf

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a tempo *mp*

They have dared E-ven to de - fy the sen - ti-nel that

p *cresc. poco a poco* *al fff*

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mf

guards The doors of the for-bid-den, dared to hurl Their breath-ing bod-ies

mf

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29 *f*
after the I - deal, That like the heaven - ly king - dom must be

29
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31 *ff*
tak - en On - ly by vio - lence.

31
fff

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VI. The star

Elsa Barker

Eric William Barnum

$\text{♩} = 82$
8va----- cont. (RH octave higher throughout)
pp *TM*

The first system of the musical score for 'The star'. It features a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as 82 beats per minute. The right hand (RH) is marked '8va----- cont. (RH octave higher throughout)' and 'pp' (pianissimo). The left hand (LH) is marked 'TM' (Tenor). The music consists of a series of eighth notes in the RH and a few notes in the LH.

p

The star _____ the star that leads the

The second system of the musical score. It features a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The music consists of a series of eighth notes in the RH and a few notes in the LH. The lyrics 'The star _____ the star that leads the' are written below the staff.

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mp

lead - er of this quest has held the world True to its or - bit for a

The third system of the musical score. It features a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The music consists of a series of eighth notes in the RH and a few notes in the LH. The lyrics 'lead - er of this quest has held the world True to its or - bit for a' are written below the staff.

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19 mil - lion years.

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25 ♩ = 74 *pp*

And shall he fail?

(8^{va})

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ad libitum

33 *p*

They ne - ver fail who light their lamp of faith at the un-waver - ing flame

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36

Burnt at the al - tar ser - vice of the Race Since the be - gin - - -

36

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39

ning. _____ The star... _____

p

8va-----, cont.

39

p

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rit. -----

44

44

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VII. He shall find

Elsa Barker

Eric William Barnum

mp

He shall find the strange, The white im-ma-cu-late Vir - gin of the North, Whose

mp

stead-y gaze no mor-tal ev-er dared, Whose i - cy hand no hu-man ev-er grasped. _____

mf *mp* *p*

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11 *Spoken:* In the dread silence and the solitude She waits and listens through the centuries

15 For one indomitable, destined soul, Born to endure the glory of her eyes,

19 And lift his warm lips... To the frozen Grail.

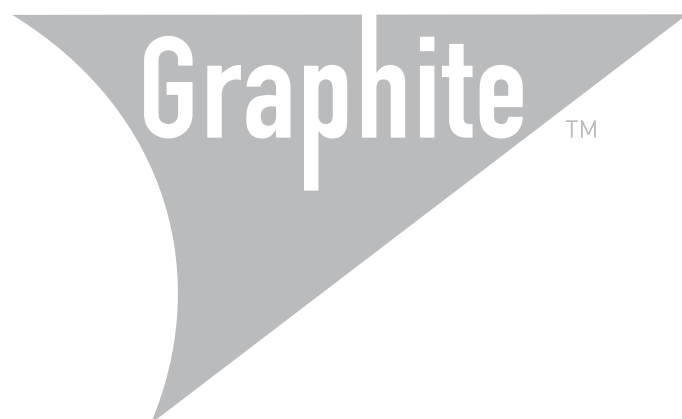
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20

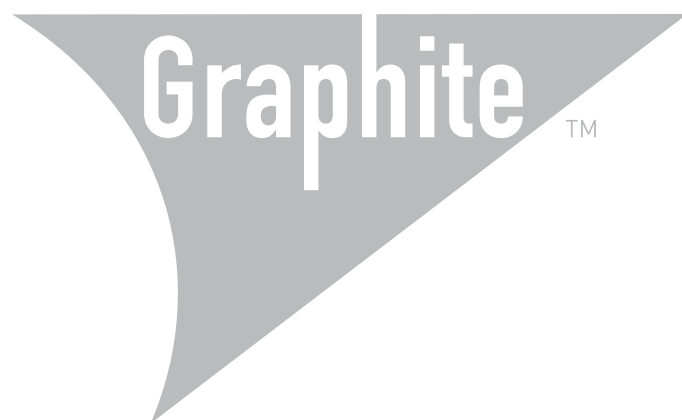
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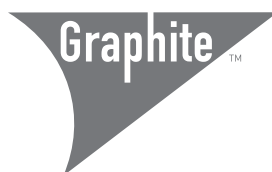


A conductor and composer, Eric William Barnum continues to passionately seek new ground in the choral field. Barnum is currently the Director of Choral Music at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh. He holds a DMA in Choral Conducting from the University of Washington, an advanced degree in conducting from Minnesota State University, as well as BAs in Composition and Vocal Performance from Bemidji State University. He has appeared as a conductor across the United States, and has had the opportunity to work with some of the most innovative minds in the choral field.

His compositional voice and vision is gaining popularity around the globe with performances from choirs internationally. He continually composes for choral ensembles of all types, and has received numerous awards and prestigious grants such as a Bush Foundation Artist Fellowship and a McKnight Foundation Grant. He has also held residencies with such ensembles as Choral Arts (Seattle, WA), The Rose Ensemble (St. Paul, MN), Kantorei (Denver, CO), Magnum Chorum (Minneapolis, MN), Coro Vocal Artists (Tucson, AZ), as well as with many high schools and collegiate choirs.

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