

# Normal

For SATB unaccompanied

(2021)

Carlos Cordero

The image shows a musical score for SATB unaccompanied. It consists of two staves. The top staff is for Soprano (S) and Alto (A), and the bottom staff is for Tenor (T) and Bass (B). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The Soprano line starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a half note A4, and then a half note B4. The Alto line starts with a quarter note G3, followed by a half note A3, and then a half note B3. The Tenor line starts with a quarter note G2, followed by a half note A2, and then a half note B2. The Bass line starts with a quarter note G1, followed by a half note A1, and then a half note B1. There are slurs over the Soprano and Alto lines, and a slur over the Tenor and Bass lines. A small 'S' is written above the Soprano line, and a small 'A' is written below the Alto line. A small 'T' is written above the Tenor line, and a small 'B' is written below the Bass line. The word 'soprano' is written above the Soprano line, and 'alto' is written above the Alto line. The word 'tenor' is written above the Tenor line, and 'bass' is written above the Bass line. A small asterisk in a box is located below the Soprano line.

\* : If low G is too low for altos, assign it to tenors and basses.

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 Watermarkly

## ABOUT THE WORK

*Normal* is the first movement of what will be a large-scale work titled “The Longest Day of My Life.” This work is based on the letter of the same title that Deedra Van Ness wrote after the shooting at Santa Fe High School on May 18, 2018.

I’ve worked on this project for years now, not writing music but understanding the great responsibility that comes with setting such a terrifying event to music. Deedra and Isabel were brave to tell their story, and it is in my hope that this project brings more awareness of the danger we face as the world reopens, helping us find ways to do better. No one can better explain the text that Deedra’s letter:

*“Our day started off normal. Isabelle was happy and looking forward to the weekend. I dropped her off about 7 a.m., told her I loved her, to have a good day, and then headed home to get to work.*

*I got home, walked upstairs and my phone rang. I noticed her name on the screen and figured she forgot something. As I answer the phone, she is whispering, and I can barely understand her.*

*Then I hear her whisper....”*

## TEXT AND TRANSLATION

Deedra Van Ness

Mom,  
They are shooting up the school,  
I’m hiding in a closet.  
I love you, Mom.

To learn more about Carlos Cordero and The Happy Choir, please visit:

[www.thehappychoir.com/bio](http://www.thehappychoir.com/bio)



To the victims of the Santa Fe Highschool Shooting on May, 18, 2018.

The Longest Day of My Life

# I. Normal

Deedra Van Ness

for SATB unaccompanied

Carlos Cordero (b. 1992)

Terrified  $\text{♩} = 160$

*pp* whisper

Soprano (S) and Alto (A) parts. The music is in a key with three flats and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: Mom, they are shoot-ing up the school,

Tenor (T) and Bass (B) parts. The lyrics are: they are shoot-ing up the school,

Soprano (S) and Alto (A) parts. The lyrics are: Mom, they are shoot-ing up the school,

Tenor (T) and Bass (B) parts. The lyrics are: I'm hid-ing... I'm hid-ing in a clo-set.

17

*mf*

I love you, Mom I'm hid-ing in a clo-set.

21

*p*

*pp*

in a clo-set. Mom I'm hid-ing in a

25

*mf*

clo-set. I love you, Mom

29

I love you, Mom I love you, Mom

33

they are shoot - ing up the school, they are

37

shoot - ing up the school, they are shoot - ing up the

shoot - ing up the school, they are shoot - ing

41

school,

I'm hid - ing in a clo - set. I'm hid - ing in a

45

I'm hid - ing in a clo - set.

clo - set. I love you, Mom

49

I love you...

I love you, Mom I love you, Mom

53

*cresc.*

love you... I'm hid-ing in a clo-set. I love you, Mom  
I'm hid-ing in a clo-set. I love you, Mom

57

*f*

*fp*

Mom Mom  
*f* they are shoot-ing up the school  
they are shoot-ing up the school I'm hid-ing in a clo-set. I love you,

61

I love you, Mom I love you, Mom  
Mom I love you, Mom

65

*mf*

I love you, Mom

I love you, Mom

68

*dim.*

I love you, Mom

I love you, Mom

71

I love you, Mom

I love you, Mom

74

Mom...

Mom...

\* : If low G is too low for altos, have the tenors sing the G and basses the F.