



M . E . V a l v e r d e

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P r a y e r o f S t . F r a n c i s
for SATB chorus and piano

*Lord, make me an instrument
of your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love,
Where there is injury, pardon,
Where there is doubt, faith,
Where there is despair, hope,
And where there is darkness, light.
Oh, divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled, as to console;
To be understood, as to understand.
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born
to eternal life.*

“Peace Prayer of St. Francis” (ca. 1200) by Francesco d’Assisi.

Composer’s Notes

The prayer attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi calls us to respond to inhumanity with humanity habitually as a movement towards peace. While my output as a composer is predominantly and purposefully secular, after it was introduced to me as a member of the St. Olaf Choir, I came to admire the prayer’s benevolent message. Subsequently, in 2011, I created my choral setting. Two years later, when Dr. Meg Gurtcheff (née Granum) programmed it for her graduate conducting recital, the Emory Mastersingers recorded its première at the Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts in Atlanta, Georgia.

Like roaring thunder, the “Prayer of St. Francis” strikes the downbeat in a dissonant cry for good will, for which the ensemble must be aurally prepared. The singers sing a series of entreaties, and the piano carries them over gently undulating quadruplets, and as they encounter moments of discord, it bolsters them through entrancing harmonies. Organized in two extended statements, strung together in continuous phrases that evade hasty cadences, the music flows freely. And after great anticipation, the choir sets an anchor in a declaration of gratitude for life, grace, and deliverance.

Dedicated to the Emory University Mastersingers
on the Occasion of Meg Granum's Masters Recital in February 2013

Prayer of St. Francis

for SATB chorus and piano

Francesco d'Assisi
ca. 1181-1226

Mari Esabel Valverde
b. 1987

Broadly, majestically ♩ = ca. 69

Soprano
Lord, make me an *in - stru - ment of your peace;

Alto
Lord, make me an *in - stru - ment of your peace;

Tenor
Lord, make me an *in - stru - ment of your peace;

Bass
Lord make me an *in - stru - ment of your peace;

Piano
f *dim.* *p* *cresc.*

*Close immediately to the [n] on "instrument."

5 *mf*
S where there is ha - tred,
A where there is ha - tred,
T where there is ha - tred,
B where there is ha - tred,
Pno. *mp sempre legato*

7
S let me sow love; where there is in - ju - ry,
A let me sow love; where there is in - ju - ry,
T let me sow love; where there is in - ju - ry,
B let me sow love; where there is in - ju - ry,
Pno.

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10

S par - don; where there is doubt, _____

A par - don; where there is doubt, _____

T par - don; where there is doubt, _____

B par - don; where there is doubt, _____

Pno.

12

S faith; where there is de - spair, *f*

A faith; where there is de - spair, *f*

T faith; where there is de - spair, *f*

B faith; where there is de - spair, *f*

Pno. *f* *sub. p e cresc.*

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16

S hope; where there is dark-ness, light; and where there is sad-ness,

A hope; where there is dark-ness, light; and where there is sad-ness,

T hope; where there is dark-ness, light; and where there is sad-ness,

B hope; where there is dark-ness, light; and where there is sad-ness,

Pno. *f* *p* *pp* *mf*

21

S joy. sad-ness... joy. O Di-vine Mas-ter,

A joy. sad-ness... joy. O Di-vine Mas-ter,

T joy. sad-ness... joy. O Di-vine Mas-ter,

B joy. sad-ness... joy. O Di-vine Mas-ter,

Pno. *fp* *f* *mp* *mf* *dim.*

poco rit. *A tempo*

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27

S
 **grant that I may not so much seek to be con - soled

A
 **grant that I may not so much seek to be con - soled

T
 8
 **grant that I may not so much seek to be con - soled

B
 **grant that I may not so much seek to be con - soled

Pno.
mp

29

S
 as to con - sole; as to con - sole;

A
 as to con - sole; as to con - sole;

T
 8
 as to con - sole;

B
 as to con - sole;

Pno.

**Strong, percussive [t] on "grant."

32

S to be loved, as to love;

A to be loved, as to love;

T to be un - der - stood, as to un - der - stand;

B to be un - der - stood, as to un der - stand;

Pno. *mf like bells*

36

S for it is in giv - ing that we re - ceive,

A for it is in giv - ing that we re - ceive,

T for it is in giv - ing that we re - ceive,

B for it is in giv - ing that we re - ceive,

Pno. *poco cresc.* *f* *dim.*

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40 *mf* *mp*

S it is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned, and

A *mf* it is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned,

T *mf* it is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned, and *mp*

B *mf* it is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned,

Pno. *mf* *dim.* *mp*

Poco meno mosso

45

S it is in dy - ing that we are born to e - ter -

A *mp* it is in dy - ing that we are born to e - ter

T *mp* it is in dy - ing that we are born to e - ter -

B *mp* it is in dy - ing that we are born to e - ter -

Pno.

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50

S
nal
life.

A
nal
life.

T
nal
life.

B
nal
life.

Pno.
legato e espressivo
mp

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