

Prayer

Score

Text from "Alcestis" by Euripides
Translated by Richard Lattimore
Adapted by Daniel Libatique
Music by Karl Hinze

Servant: Very freely, a la recitative
Alcestis: Relaxed and prayerful, like a gospel ballad

Servant / Alcestis

mp

[Servant] For when she un-der-stood the fa-tal day had come,— she bathed her white bo-dy in

A dim7 Bb2 Ab Bb

5

wa-ter drawn— from run-ning streams, and dressed her-self in fin-e-ry, and stood be-fore the spi-rit, and

5 Eb D7 Gm7 F Cm7 Eb

Prayer

2

Musical score for measures 8-10. The score is written for voice and piano. Measure 8 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics are: "prayed. [Alcestis] Mis-tress, be-fore I go be-neath the ground, I kneel be-". Chords indicated are F_{sus}, B \flat , F/A, Gm7, and F. Measure 9 continues the piano accompaniment with chords F, B \flat , and F/A. Measure 10 concludes with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a half note chord F.

11

Musical score for measures 11-13. The score is written for voice and piano. Measure 11 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics are: "fore you in this last of my prayers: Take care of my children for me. Give the". Chords indicated are E \flat , D7, Gm7, /F, F_{sus}, and F. Measure 12 continues the piano accompaniment with chords E \flat , D7, Gm7, and C m7. Measure 13 concludes with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a half note chord F.

Prayer

15

li-ttle girl a hus - band, give the li-ttle boy — a wife, — and don't let them die like me, —

B \flat F/A G m7 F E \flat D7

15

18

— so un time - ly. Let them live a happy life — through the end. And pros per here, — in their own

G m7 /F C m E \flat F C m F

18

Prayer

4

22

[Servant] Af-ter ward, she a-proached the al-tars, — and decked them all with fresh sprays of land.

B \flat A dim7 B \flat 2 A dim7

22

26

myr-tle. And she wept not at all, — made no cry. — The ad - van - cing doom made no change in the

B \flat 2 G m7 E \flat F sus A \flat B \flat

26

Prayer

30

beauty of her face. But then, in their room, she threw her - self — u - pon — the bed, and there she did cry, there she

Cm /Bb Ab A dim7 D7 G m7 Cm Eb

30

34

spoke: [Alcestis] Oh, we dding bed, — twas here that I un - dressed my mai den hood, and gave my - self up to this

F sus F Bb F/A G m7 F Eb D7

mf *f*

34

Prayer

6

38 *mp*

man for whom I die. — Good - bye, I hold no grudge. I could not bear to

G m7 /F E \flat B \flat m F sus F B \flat m F m/A \flat

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of music, measures 38 to 42. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb). The time signature is 4/4. The vocal melody starts with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, Ab4, Bb4) and continues with a series of quarter and eighth notes. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands. A fermata is placed over the final note of the vocal line in measure 42.

43 *mp*

play him false, I die. Some o ther will po - sses you now. She won't be - tter, but she might be

G \flat F G m7 A dim7 B \flat C dim7 D7

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of music, measures 43 to 47. It continues the vocal and piano parts from the previous system. The vocal line includes a triplet of eighth notes (G4, Ab4, Bb4) in measure 43. The piano accompaniment features a variety of chords, including diminished and dominant seventh chords. A fermata is placed over the final note of the vocal line in measure 47.

Prayer

47

ha ppi er. —

Gm7 Cm Fsus F B \flat F/A Gm7 F Cm

47

53

mp

[Servant] All the ser-vants of the house were cry-ing now. Then she gave her hand to each, and each one

Fsus A dim7 B \flat 2 Gm7 Cm

53

Prayer

8

57 *p* *mf* *p*

took it. There was none so mean in sta - tion she did - n't stop and talk to him. This is what Ad - me - tus is

F Gm7 F Cm C F Adim7

61 *mf* *mp*

lo sing. Had he died, he would have lost her, but in - stead he'll keep the pain. It will not e - ver go a - way.

Bb2 Ab Bb Cm /B Ab Cdim7 D5