PIANO/VOCAL SCORE

LIBBY LARSEN

Coming Forth into Day A Choral Symphony

for Soprano and Baritone soloists, SATB Chorus, opt. Children's Chorus, Orchestra and Narrator

Texts selected by Jehan Sadat and Libby Larsen

On texts by Jehan Sadat, Mohammed Dib, Walt Whitman, the Stele of Antef, Bedros Tourian, Beulah Steele Jenness, Stephen Crane, Mother Goose and John Chadwick.

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Piano/Vocal Score

Coming Forth Into Day

Libby Larsen



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Dear Friends,

Will you permit me to share with you some of my innermost thoughts, as I stand before you today? We have witnessed, over the years, the failures of individual and collective endeavor in the cause of peace. As I speak, thousands are dying in the Middle East, in Central America and in many parts of Africa and Asia. [The Cold War has frozen stiff!]** And man everywhere is wolf to man.

We can give way to despair, or we can hope that the scourge of war will pass us by, or simply bury our thoughts and feelings in newsprint or the TV tube. But are we not consequently diminished as human beings? Is there no way in which we can perhaps try yet again to overcome fear and prejudice, to see our way to a new meeting of hearts? Can we not, together, devise yet another way of re-discovering our common humanity in the pursuit of peace and mutual understanding?

Is there not an ideal forum, from which an appeal might go out to the world, for one more call for a common approach to try and find ways of rekindling the hope of peace in peoples' hearts? From the ghettos of crowded cities, from the parched deserts of Africa, and the sinister hells of civil war and repression, a cry of hope would echo back!



* All readings from speeches by Jehan Sadat. Optional. ** Words in brackets may be omitted.

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II. Heroes, Heroines

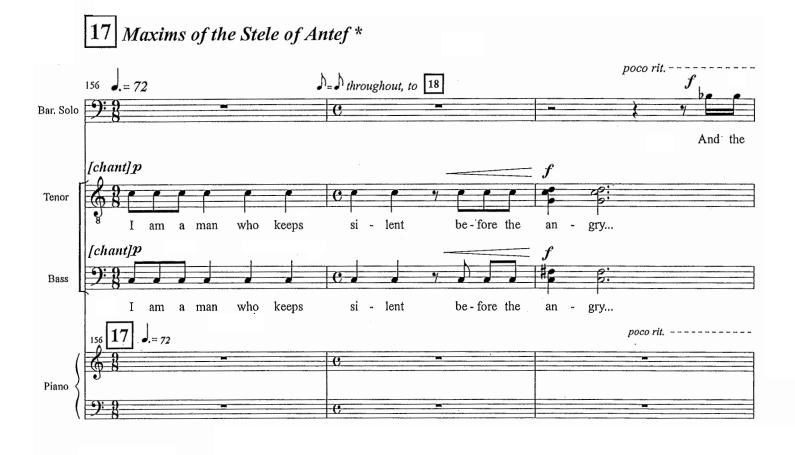
16 Reading

...Allow me here to share with you the memory of my husband, who believed that the cause of peace is served by a leap of faith, if not by both sides in a conflict, then at least by one side...

He had the courage and spiritual strength of decision, to see the world as a place of suffering and tribulation, which can only be redeemed by love and by a dedication to peace and justice...

...The memory of great achievements has a tendency to wither quite rapidly in a world torn by conflicts and mutually exclusive ideologies... He knew too well that life, precarious, frail and breath-takingly beautiful, is our most precious possession on earth... He died for his belief, knowing full well that there was prejudice, hatred and fanaticism lurking in the dark, stalking his every step...

He had the courage and spiritual strength of decision, to see the world as a place of suffering and tribulation, which can only be redeemed by love and by a decision to peace and justice...



*tr. Boris de Rachewiltz









III. Innocents

Reading

...The world of adults has lost sight of its priorities and of its potential for solidarity in the face of hunger and deprivation... Children can teach us to live together, as only they know how to...

...childhood is a voyage of discovery. A sentence which has always struck me as being profoundly true is that of Simon de Beauvoir: "One is not born a woman, one becomes one." ...It is not easy to grow up (to become women and men), and we may find that for many people this is a process which never happens completely. Growing up, however, is not always the answer to childhood questions... But it is a gathering together of all the experience of living as children and young people until we are able to give them shape and direction...

It is a condition of the heart, open and childlike, generous and all-forgiving, hopeful and trusting, patient and unafraid, which is the true way to understanding among men. From children and their ways we can learn that peace must pass through the 'world of action.' I pray that, in my own life, I should cherish that spirit of childhood.



* From The Complete Poems of Stephen Crane, Stephen Crane.



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^{*} When Children's Choir used, SAT tacet to m, 521









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