

On  
Monsieur's  
Departure

*for SSATBarB choir*

poem by Elizabeth I  
music by Jeffrey Ryan

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For 6-part choir *a cappella* (SSATBarB)

Duration ca. 4:00

## **Programme note:**

Asked to choose an Elizabethan text on the theme of love, I found a poem by Elizabeth I herself that proved to be the perfect choice. Although many love poems from this period approach the subject of love by alluding to Greek deities or waxing excessively rhapsodic, Elizabeth's poem *On Monsieur's Departure* is different. It expresses the feeling of loving someone and being unable to show it. Perhaps it is an unrequited love that the beloved knows nothing about. Perhaps it is a shared love which must remain secret. Whatever the reason, the subject of the poem cannot express this love publicly, and must maintain a very different facade—a duality that is reflected in the music through the frequent use of octaves and other ways of dividing the ensemble. To me, this text resonates with anyone who has loved and dared not speak it.

*On Monsieur's Departure* was commissioned by musica intima, and is dedicated to intima's glorious and inspiring voices.

Elizabeth I  
**ON MONSIEUR'S DEPARTURE**

I grieve and dare not show my discontent,  
I love and yet am forced to seem to hate,  
I do, yet dare not say I ever meant,  
I seem stark mute but inwardly do prate.  
I am and not, I freeze and yet am burned,  
Since from myself another self I turned.

My care is like my shadow in the sun,  
Follows me flying, flies when I pursue it,  
Stands and lies by me, doth what I have done.  
His too familiar care doth make me rue it.  
No means I find to rid him from my breast,  
Till by the end of things it be suppress.

Some gentler passion slide into my mind,  
For I am soft and made of melting snow;  
Or be more cruel, love, and so be kind.  
Let me or float or sink, be high or low.  
Or let me live with some more sweet content.  
Or die and so forget what love ere meant.

commissioned by musica intima

# On Monsieur's Departure

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$\bullet = 66$  Dolorously

*restrained p*

S1 I grieve and dare not show my dis - con - tent,

S2 I grieve and dare not show my dis - con - tent,

A *p* *pp* *mp* *pp*  
\* Ah ————— change to ee ————— grieve — (və)

T *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*  
\* Ah ————— change to ee ————— grieve — (və)

Bar *mf* *pp* *mp* *pp*  
\* Ah ————— change to ee ————— grieve — (və)

B *mf* *pp* *mp* *pp*  
\* Ah ————— change to ee ————— grieve — (və)

\* "Ah-ee" = "I" pronounced in slow motion

7

S1 *p*  
I love and yet am forced to seem to hate,

S2 *p*  
I love and yet am forced to seem to hate,

A *p* *pp* *mp*  
Ah *sim.* ee love (və)

T *mp* *pp* *mp*  
Ah *sim.* ee love (və)

Bar *mf* *pp* *mp*  
Ah *sim.* ee love (və)

B *mf* *pp* *mp*  
Ah *sim.* ee love (və)

13

S1 *p* *p*  
I do, yet dare not say I e - ver meant, I seem stark

S2 *p* *p*  
I do, yet dare not say I e - ver meant, I seem stark

A *p* *pp*  
Ah ee do

T *mp* *pp* *mp*  
Ah ee do Ah

Bar *mf* *pp* *mf*  
Ah ee do Ah

B *mf* *pp* *mf*  
Ah - ee do Ah

18

*mf* *mf*

S1: mute but in - ward - ly do prate. I am I freeze

S2: mute but in - ward - ly do prate. I am and not, I

A: *p* *pp* *mf* *mf*  
 Ah ———→ ee do prate. I am I freeze

T: *pp* *mf* *mf*  
 ———→ ee do prate. I am I freeze

Bar: ———→ ee do prate. I am and not, I

B: *pp* *mf* *mf*  
 ———→ ee do prate. I am I freeze

23

*f* ♩ = 54 poco meno mosso *p internally*

S1: freeze and yet am burned. Since from my - self,

S2: freeze and yet am burned. *p internally* Since from my - self a -

A: freeze and yet am burned. *p internally* Since from my - self, since

T: freeze and yet am burned. *p sub. internally* Since from my - self, since from my -

Bar: freeze and yet am burned. *p internally* Since from my - self, since

B: freeze and yet am burned. *p internally* Since from my - self, since

28

S1 since from my - self a - no - ther self I \_\_\_\_\_

S2 no - ther self, a - no - ther self I \_\_\_\_\_ turned.

A from my - self a - no - ther self, a - no - ther self I \_\_\_\_\_

T self I \_\_\_\_\_ turned, a - no - ther self I \_\_\_\_\_

Bar self a - no - ther self, a no - ther self I \_\_\_\_\_ turned.

B from my - self a - no - ther self. a - no - ther self I \_\_\_\_\_

33

*pp* *mf pp sub.*

S1 turned. My care \_\_\_\_\_

S2 *p excitedly hushed* *< mf*

A My care is like my sha - dow in the sun, *< mf*

T My care is like my sha - dow in the sun, *< mf*

Bar My care is like my sha - dow in the sun, *< mf*

B *pp* *mf pp sub.*

turned. My care \_\_\_\_\_

*♩ = 132 sub. Dancing*

38 *mf pp sub.*

S1 My care

S2 *p* Fol - lows me fly - ing, *mf* flies when I pur sue it,

A *p* Fol - lows me fly - ing, *mf* flies when I pur sue, when I pur -

T *p* Fol - lows me fly - ing, *mf* flies when I pur sue it,

Bar *p* Fol - lows me fly - ing, *mf* flies when I pur - sue

B *mf pp sub.* My care

43 *f mf*

S1 Stands and lies by me, doth what I have

S2 *f mf* Stands and lies by me, doth what I have

A *f mf* sue it, Stands and lies by me, doth what I have

T *f mf* Stands and lies by me, doth what I have

Bar *f mf* it, Stands and lies by me,

B *f mf* My care My care

47

S1 done. (n)

S2 done, what I have done, what I, what I,

A done.

T done. (n)

Bar doth what I have done, what I have done, have done, have

B

*p*

*(mf)*

*p*

*p*

*mf*

*p*

52

S1

S2 what I, what I, what I, what I, what I have

A

T

Bar done, have done, have done, have done, what I have done.

B

*pp*

*pp*



57

♩ = 66 Dolorously  
*p* *mf*

S1  
fa-mi - liar make me rue it.

S2  
done. too fa-mi - liar make me rue it.

A  
His care, doth make me rue it.

T  
His care doth make me rue it.

Bar  
His care doth make me

B  
His care doth make me rue it.

61

S1  
*pp* No means, No means I find to rid him from my breast,

S2  
*pp* No means, No means I find to rid him from my breast,

A  
*pp* No means, No means I find to rid him from my breast,

T  
*pp* No means, No means I find to rid him from my breast,

Bar  
*pp* No means, No means I find No means, No means,

B  
*pp* No means, No means I find to rid him from my breast,

64

*pp*

*rit. to* ----- ♩ = 54 *poco meno mosso*

*rit. to* -----

S1

S2

A

T

Bar

B

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*p*

*pp*

*pp*

*p*

*pp*

*pp*

*p*

*pp*

Till by the end of things it be sup -

No means, No means, No means, it be sup -

Till by the end of things it be sup -

68

♩ = 42 *Sweetly*

S1

S2

A

T

Bar

B

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

Some gent - ler pas - sion slide in - to my mind, For

Some gent - ler pas - sion slide in - to my mind, For

Some gent - ler pas - sion slide in - to my mind, For

prest. For

prest. slide in - to my mind, For

prest. in - to my mind, For

71

S1 I am soft and made of melt-ing snow; \_\_\_\_\_

S2 I am soft and made of melt-ing snow; \_\_\_\_\_

A I am soft and made of melt-ing snow; \_\_\_\_\_

T I am soft \_\_\_\_\_ and made of melt - ing snow; \_

Bar \_\_\_\_\_ am soft and made of melt - ing, melt - ing snow; \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_ am soft and made of melt-ing, melt - ing snow;

74

S1 *p* Or be more cruel, love, *< mf* and so be kind. *p* Let me \_\_\_\_\_ *pp*

S2 *p* Or be more cruel, love, *< mf* and so be kind. *p* *pp*

A *p* Or be more cruel, love, *< mf* and so be kind. *p* *pp* *mp* or

T *p* Or be more cruel, love, *< mf* and so be kind. *p* Let me \_\_\_\_\_ *pp*

Bar *p* Or be more cruel, love, *< mf* and so be kind. *p* *pp* *mp*

B *p* Or be more cruel, love, *< mf* and so be kind. *p* *pp* *mp*

Or be more cruel, love, and so be kind. \_\_\_\_\_ or

78

S1 sink, \_\_\_\_\_ *ppp* Or let me live with some more sweet con - tent. Or *p* <

S2 float or sink, be high. \_\_\_\_\_ *mp* *pp* *ppp* Or let me live with some more sweet con - tent. Or *p* <

A float \_\_\_\_\_ high or low. *pp* *mp* *pp* *ppp* Or let me live with some more sweet con - tent. Or *p* <

T sink, \_\_\_\_\_ *mp* *pp* *ppp* Or let me live with some more sweet con - tent. Or *p* <

Bar float or sink, be high. \_\_\_\_\_ *pp* *mp* *pp* *ppp* Or let me live with some more sweet con - tent. Or *p* <

B float \_\_\_\_\_ high or low. Or let me live with some more sweet con - tent. Or *p* <

82

S1 *mf* *p* *pp* die and so for - get what love ere \_\_\_\_\_ meant. \_\_\_\_\_

S2 *mf* *p* *pp* die and so for - get what love ere meant. \_\_\_\_\_

A *mf* *p* *pp* die \_\_\_\_\_ for - get what love ere meant. \_\_\_\_\_

T *mf* *p* *pp* die and so for - get what love ere \_\_\_\_\_ meant. \_\_\_\_\_

Bar *mf* *p* *pp* die and so for - get what love ere meant. \_\_\_\_\_

B *mf* *p* *pp* die \_\_\_\_\_ for - get what love ere meant. \_\_\_\_\_