

Two Days

for SSATB choir and piano

poetry by
Suzanne Steele

music by
Jeffrey Ryan

Perusal Copy

Performance Notes:

Duration ca. 4:10.

This work includes a concertante quartet of SATB soloists which can be drawn from the full SSATB choir. They should stand as a group, but may be situated within the choir (perhaps in the centre or centre front), or separate from the choir (such as in another part of the hall or in a balcony).

♯ give note a slight rhythmic and dynamic stress.

Programme Notes:

In 2012, poet Suzanne Steele and composer Jeffrey Ryan collaborated on *Afghanistan: Requiem for a Generation*, a major oratorio commissioned by the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and One Yellow Rabbit, setting Steele's original writings as Canada's war poet in Afghanistan along with fragments of the Latin Requiem Mass. *Two Days* is drawn from the Requiem's *Offertorium* movement. Steele's poem, in English and French, explores the anguish of those left behind when a soldier is killed two days before returning home. The musical setting juxtaposes Steele's words in the full chorus with a fragment of the Latin *Offertorium* text intoned by a concertante vocal quartet. Though based on a true story, *Two Days* speaks to all of us who have lost someone too soon.

Two Days

Suzanne Steele

Soloists:

Libera animas omnium fidelium defunctorum de poenis inferni et de profundo lacu
(Free the souls of all the faithful departed from the pains of Hell and the bottomless pit.)

Chorus:

If we could give you two days, just two days,
Those two,
*Si nous pouvions te donner deux jours, seulement,
Ces deux-là.*
We have so many days
Car nous avons assez de jours
Too many days, *trop de jours*
If we could give you, if only we could give you
Two days, *ma fille*, two days, my son, two more,
We'd forfeit, *si je pouvais*, give them all, *si nous pouvions*, to you, *si on pouvait*, for you
Deux jours, to live just two more days, those two,
Those days without you, my daughter, *mon fils*,
Car sans toi il y a trop de jours, too many days,
My daughter, *ma fille*, my son, *mon fils*,
Too many days without you, *san toi*.

poetry by Suzanne Steele

Two Days

music by Jeffrey Ryan

Senza misura

S

S A

O

L T *mf* chanting *ad lib.* *p* slower

O

B

S1

S2

C

H O A

R

T

B

1 *mf*

Libera animas omnium fidelium defunctorum de poenis inferni Et de pro-fun-do la - - cu

Use pedal lightly and freely, *ad lib.*, throughout

poetry ©2012 Suzanne Steele
music ©2012 Jeffrey Ryan

A ♩ = 42 *A tempo, simply, a lullaby, rocking gently*

S
 S A
 O
 L
 T
 O
 B

S1
 If we could give you two days, just two days, those

S2
 If we could give you two days, two days,

C
 H
 A
 O
 R
 T
 B

If we could give you two days, two days, those

two days, two days, those

two days, those

two days, two days, those

3 *pp*

S
S A
O
L
T
O
B

S1
S2
C
H
A
O
R
T
B

two, _____ don - ner seu - le - ment seu - le -
p si nous pou - vi - ons te don - ner deux jours, _____
p two, _____ don - ner deux jours, _____
p two, te don - ner seu - le - ment seu - le -
 two, _____ don - ner deux jours, _____

8

B

p chanting

Li - be-ra a - ni-mas om - ni-um.

p chanting

Li - be-ra a - ni-mas om - ni-um.

p chanting

Li - be-ra a - ni-mas om - ni-um.

p chanting

Li - be-ra a - ni-mas om - ni-um.

ment ces deux - là.

We have so

deux jours, deux - là.

mf Car nous a - vons as -

deux jours, deux - là.

We have so

ment ces deux - là.

We have as -

deux jours, deux - là.

We have so

13

pp

p

p *p* *p* *p*

S
S A
O
L T
O
B

fi - de - li - um
fi - de - li - um
fi - de - li - um
fi - de - li - um
fi - de - li - um

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

S1
S2
C
H A
O
R
T
B

ma - ny days. Too ma - ny days.
sez de jours, Too ma - ny days.
ma - ny days. Trop de jours,
sez de jours, Too trop de jours,
ma - ny days. Too ma - ny days.

18

C

S
S A
O
L T
O
B

S1
S2
C
H A
O
R
T
B

pp If we could give you if on - ly we could give you

pp If we could give you if on - ly we could give you

pp If we could give you if on - ly we could give you

pp If we could give you if on - ly we could give you

pp If we could give you if on - ly we could give you

23

mf *pp* *mf* *pp*

D ♩ = 48 sub. poco più mosso

S
S A
O
L
T
O
B

S1
S2
C
H
O
A
R
T
B

two days, _____ two days, _____ two more, _____
 two days, ma fil - le, two days, my son, two more, _____
 two days, _____ two days, my son, two more, _____
 two days, _____ two days, _____ two more, _____
 two days, _____ two days, _____ two more, _____

29

E ♩ = 54 sub. poco più mosso

S
de-func-to-rum de poe-nis in-fer-ni

SA
de-func-to-rum de poe-nis in-fer-ni

LO
de-func-to-rum de poe-nis in-fer-ni

B
de-func-to-rum de poe-nis in-fer-ni

S1
two more, we'd for-feit,

S2
two more, si je pou-vais,

HA
two more, we'd for-feit,

T
two more, si je pou-vais,

B
two more, we'd for-feit,

34

S
S A
O
L
T
O
B

S1
S2
C
H
A
O
R
T
B

give them all _____ to you for you to live just two.

si nous pou-vi - ons si on pou - vait deux jours, two

give them all _____ to you for you to live just two.

si nous pou-vi - ons si on pou - vait deux jours, two

give them all _____ to you for you to live just two

38

F ♩ = 48 sub. poco meno mosso

S
Et de pro - fun-do la-cu de pro-fun-do

S A
Et de pro - fun-do la-cu de pro-fun-do

O
Et de pro - fun-do la-cu de pro-fun-do

L T
Et de pro - fun-do la-cu de pro-fun-do

B
Et de pro - fun-do la-cu de pro-fun-do

S1
— more days, those two, those days with-out you, my

S2
more days those two, those days with-out you, my

C
more days those two, those days with-out you, my

H A
— more days, those two, those days with-out you, my

O
— more days, those two, those days with-out you, my

R
— more days, those two, those days with-out you, my

T
more days those two, those days with-out you, my

B
more days those two, those days with-out you, my

44

mf *p* *p* *p* *p*

mf sub. *p* *p*

G ♩ = 42 sub. poco meno mosso

S
S A
O
L T
O
B

pro-fun-do de pro-fun-do la-cu
pro-fun-do de pro-fun-do la-cu
pro-fun-do de pro-fun-do la-cu
pro-fun-do de pro-fun-do la-cu

S1
S2
C
H A
O
R
T
B

daugh-ter, mon fils. Car sans toi il y a trop de
daugh-ter, mon fils. Car sans toi il y a trop de
daugh-ter, mon fils. Car sans toi il y a trop de
daugh-ter, mon fils. Car sans toi il y a trop de
daugh-ter, mon fils. Car sans toi il y a trop de

49

This musical score is for a SATB choir and vocal soloists. It consists of several systems of staves. The first system includes Soprano (S), Soprano Alto (SA), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B) parts. The lyrics for this system are: "Li-be-ra a-ni-mas om-ni-um fi-de-li-um". The second system includes Soprano 1 (S1), Soprano 2 (S2), Contralto (C), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B) parts. The lyrics for this system are: "jours, too ma-ny days, my daugh-ter, ma fil-le,". The third system is for the piano accompaniment, with a page number "54" in a box on the left. The score includes dynamic markings such as *p*, *mp*, and *p* with accents, and includes musical notations like triplets and slurs. A large watermark "PENSAL.COM" is visible across the middle of the page.

H

S
de-func-to-rum de poe-nis in-fer-ni

S A
de-func-to-rum de poe-nis in-fer-ni

O
de-func-to-rum de poe-nis in-fer-ni

L T
de-func-to-rum de poe-nis in-fer-ni

O
de-func-to-rum de poe-nis in-fer-ni

B
de-func-to-rum de poe-nis in-fer-ni

S1
my son, mon fils. Too ma-ny days with-

S2
my son, mon fils. Too ma-ny days with-

C
my son, mon fils. Too ma-ny days with-

H A
my son, mon fils. Too ma-ny days with-

O
my son, mon fils. Too ma-ny days with-

R
my son, mon fils. Too ma-ny days with-

T
my son, mon fils. Too ma-ny days with-

B
my son, mon fils. Too ma-ny days with-

59

S
Et de pro - fun - do la - cu de pro - fun - do la - cu de pro - fun - do la - cu

S A
Et de pro - fun - do la - cu de pro - fun - do la - cu de pro - fun - do la - cu

O
Et de pro - fun - do la - cu de pro - fun - do la - cu de pro - fun - do la - cu

L T
Et de pro - fun - do la - cu de pro - fun - do la - cu de pro - fun - do la - cu

B
Et de pro - fun - do la - cu de pro - fun - do la - cu de pro - fun - do la - cu

S1
out you, with out you, with out you.

S2
out you, sans toi, you, sans toi, you, sans toi.

C
out you, with out you, with out you.

H A
out you, with out you, with out you.

O
out you, with out you, with out you.

R
out you, with out you, with out you.

T
out you, with out you, with out you.

B
out you, with out you, with out you.

64

pp mp pp mp pp mp pp

I

pp

S de pro-fun - do la - cu de pro-fun - do la - cu de pro-fun - do la - cu

pp

S A de pro-fun - do la - cu de pro-fun - do la - cu de pro-fun - do la - cu

pp

O de pro-fun - do la - cu de pro-fun - do la - cu de pro-fun - do la - cu

pp

L de pro-fun - do la - cu de pro-fun - do la - cu de pro-fun - do la - cu

pp

O de pro-fun - do la - cu de pro-fun - do la - cu de pro-fun - do la - cu

pp

B de pro-fun - do la - cu de pro-fun - do la - cu de pro-fun - do la - cu

S1

pp

S2

C

H

A

O

R

T

B

70

S
de pro - fun - do la - cu de pro - fun - do la - cu

S A
de pro - fun - do la - cu de pro - fun - do la - cu

O
de pro - fun - do la - cu de pro - fun - do la - cu

L
de pro - fun - do la - cu de pro - fun - do la - cu

T
de pro - fun - do la - cu de pro - fun - do la - cu

B
de pro - fun - do la - cu de pro - fun - do la - cu

S1

S2

C

H
A

O

R

T

B

73