

IL VECCHIO

for vocal ensemble SSAATTBB



by Marianne Reidarsdatter Eriksen 2018

(Revised version August 2025 for solo octet)

Commissioned by The Chamber Choir HYMNIA
for its Leonardo da Vinci-project in May 2019

Il vecchio

1: ONE DAY

One day, probably during the winter of 1507/08,
Leonardo arrives at Santa Maria Nuova hospital in Florence.
Da Vinci had just returned from Milan.
He was dressed in fine clothes.
He was worldly and beautiful.
Now he enters the hospital.

2: INSIDE

Inside at the hospital one day
Leonardo meets an old man.
An old man living there. A patient. Lying.
He is a kind and garrulous man.
They are having a chat.
“Oh please come and have a little chat with me!
Leonardo, come sit on my bed!” the old man says.
Leonardo sits down gently.
“Oh signor Il vecchio, how are you today?”
“I feel fine. Nothing is wrong with my body other than weakness”

3: THE DISSECTION

He died!
Il vecchio!
He died suddenly.
Leonardo stood there thinking:
“What could have caused a death so sweet?”
He stood there looking at Il vecchio.
Leonardo pulls out his many knives.
He picks up a knife, the sharpest one.
He is holding the knife against his skin.
He cuts into the warm skin, opens Il vecchio's body and pulls it apart
Using a saw.
He is picking out the entrails of the old man's body and studies them.
What could have caused a death so sweet?
(Il Vecchio died from the of lack of blood from the artery
that nourishes the heart)

(The text is based on several sources retold by the composer)

I One day

M.R.Eriksen
2018
rev:2025

$\text{♩} = 140$

Soprano 1
p 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
na na na na na na na na na na na na na na na na

Soprano 2
p 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
Na na

Alto 1
p
One day, one day,

Alto 2
p
One day, one day,

Tenor 1
p 3
One one one one n n n n n n n n n n Na na na na

Tenor 2
p
Na na na na one n n

Bass 1
p
One day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day,

Bass 2
p
one day, one day, one day, one day, one day one day one day

[illegible]

7 *p*

S.1 One (n)

S.2 na na na na na na na na na na na na

A.1 one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one

A.2 one one day, one day one - (n)

T.1 Na na na na na na na na one (n)

T.2 one n n

B.1 one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one

B.2 one one one one day one one day

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10 *mf*

S.1 day

S.2 na na na na na na One

A.1 day, one day one day one, one-ne-ne, one-ne-ne, one-ne-ne,

A.2 *mf* one day, one one day, one (n) *p*

T.1 n n n n n n n n n n n one one one

T.2 one

B.1 day one one-ne-ne nen

B.2 one day one one one one one one

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[illegible]

[illegible]

19

S.1

S.2

ne

A.1

n - n - n - n

pp

one

A.2

n n n n

n n n

T.1

one one one one one one one one one one one one one one one one one

T.2

mf

pp

day

one day

B.1

B.2

one one one

The musical score is for a choir with 8 parts: Soprano 1 (S.1), Soprano 2 (S.2), Alto 1 (A.1), Alto 2 (A.2), Tenor 1 (T.1), Tenor 2 (T.2), Bass 1 (B.1), and Bass 2 (B.2). The score is in 4/4 time and features a variety of musical notations including triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings. The lyrics are: 'ne', 'n - n - n - n', 'one', 'n n n n', 'n n n', 'one one one one one one one one one one one one one one one one one one', 'day', 'one day', and 'one one one'. A large watermark 'NB noter' and 'This music is copyright protected' is overlaid on the score.

27

S.1 *mf* *p*
one day Le - o - nar - do ar - rives

S.2 *mf* *p*
one day, one__ day he ar - rives

A.1 *mf*
one day, one day, one day, one

A.2
one day

T.1 *p* *mf* *mf*
Le - o - nar - do ar - rives at

T.2 *mf*
da - - y ar - rives at

B.1 *mf*
day, one day ar - rives at

B.2 *mf*
one day ar - rives at

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34

S.1 *mf* *f*
ar - rives

S.2 *mf*
San - ta Ma - ri - a nuo - va

A.1 *mp* *mf*
day, one nu - o - va

A.2 *mp* *mf* *mf*
nu - o - va one day — he ar - rives

T.1 *mp* *mf* *mf*
Sanc - ta Ma - ri - a nu - o - va one

T.2 *mp* *mf*
Sanc - ta Ma - ri - a nuo - va

B.1 *mp* *mf* *mf*
Sanc - ta Ma - ri - a nuo - va one

B.2 *mp* *mf*
Sanc - ta Ma - ri - a nuo - va

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40

S.1 *mf* at the hos - pi-tal *mp* at the

S.2 *mp* at the

A.1 *mp* one day at the

A.2 *mp* at the

T.1 *mp* day at the

T.2 *mf* Sanc - ta Ma - ri - a nou - va hos - pi-tal *mp* at the

B.1 *mf* day one day one day he ar - ri-ves *mp* at the

B.2 *mf* one day he ar-rives *mp* at the

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47

mf *mf* *f* *mf*

S.1 hos - pi - tal in Flo - rence, Flo - - - - -

S.2 hos - pi - tal in Flo - rence, i i i i i i i in

A.1 hos - pi - tal in Flo - rence in, in,

A.2 hos - pi - tal in Flo - rence, in Flo - rence in Flo - rence in

T.1 hos - pi - tal in Flo - rence in Flo -

T.2 hos - pi - tal in Flo - rence in Flo - rence, Flo - rence

B.1 hos - pi - tal in Flo - rence in,

B.2 hos - pi - tal in Flo - rence i i i i in

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52

S.1 *p* *mp*
rence, in Flo - - rence pro - ba-bly

S.2 *p*
Flo - - rence, e

A.1 *p* *mp*
in Flo - - rence, pro - bab - ly, pro-bab-ly

A.2
Flo - - - - rence

T.1 *mp*
Flo - - rence pro - bab - ly

T.2
in Flo - - - - rence

B.1 *mp*
in Flo - - - - rence pro -

B.2
in Flo - - - - rence

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59

S.1 *p* Na _____

S.2 *p* du - ring the win-ter of fif-teen se-ven or eight

A.1 *p* e gliss.

A.2 *p* du - ring the win-ter of fif - teen - or eight

T.1

T.2 *p* du - ring the win-ter of fif - teen eight

B.1 bab - ly

B.2 *p* du - ring the win - ter of fif - teen eight eight

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66

S.1

na

S.2

na na one one one

A.1

A.2

one one one one one one one one one one one

T.1

a gliss.

T.2

One one one one one one one one one day, one day, one one one

B.1

B.2

one one one

The musical score is for a choir with 8 parts. The notation includes treble and bass clefs, key signatures, and time signatures. The lyrics are written below the staves. The score includes various musical notations such as triplets, dynamics (p), and a glissando. A large watermark 'NB noter' and 'This music is copyright protected' is overlaid on the score.

70

S.1

na

S.2

one one one one na na na na a

A.1

mf

da Vin - ci had just re - turned from Mi - lan.

A.2

one one one one one one one one na

T.1

mf

da Vin - ci had just re - turned from Mi - lan.

T.2

one one day, one one day, one one one one day, one day one day one, one one one day one day, one day, one day,

B.1

p

one one one one one one one one one one one day, one day

B.2

p

one one one one one one one one one one one one one one one

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74

p

S.1

a

S.2

one day, one day, one day,

A.1

He was dressed in fine clothes. He

A.2

na

T.1

He was dressed in fine clothes. He

T.2

one day, one day, one day, one day, one day one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day,

B.1

one day, one day, one day, one day, one day one

B.2

one one one one one

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77

S.1

S.2

A.1

A.2

T.1

T.2

B.1

B.2

one

was

word - ly and beau - ti - ful

na nan na

one one one one one one one one one one one one

was

word - ly and beau - ti - ful

one day, one day

one one one one one one one one one day, one day,

one one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day,

one one one one one one one one one one one one one one one one

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81

S.1 *mf* he

S.2

A.1 now he en - - ters the hos - - pi -

A.2 one day one day one day hos - - pi -

T.1 now he en - - ters the hos - - pi -

T.2 one day one one one one one one one one

B.1 one day, one day, one one day, one day, one day, one day one day, one day, one day, one

B.2 one one one one one one one one one one one one

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84

S.1

S.2

A.1

A.2

T.1

T.2

B.1

B.2

na na na na

tal

tal

ni ni

one-ne, one-ne, one - ne - ne, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day,

day i i i i i i i i

day he i i i i i i i i

dim.....

87

S.1

S.2

A.1

A.2

T.1

T.2

B.1

B.2

na na na

ni ni ni ni ni ni ni ni ni ni ni ni

one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one

na a a a a a a na a a a

i i i i i i i i na a a a

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Detailed description: This is a musical score for 8 voices, arranged in two systems of four. The first system includes Soprano 1 (S.1), Soprano 2 (S.2), Alto 1 (A.1), and Alto 2 (A.2). The second system includes Tenor 1 (T.1), Tenor 2 (T.2), Bass 1 (B.1), and Bass 2 (B.2). The score begins at measure 87. S.1 has a long melisma with a 'dim.' instruction. S.2, A.1, and A.2 sing 'na na na' with triplet rhythms. A.1 has a short melisma 'na' before resuming. T.1 is silent. T.2 sings 'one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one'. B.1 and B.2 sing 'na a a a a a a na a a a'. A large diagonal watermark 'NB noter This music is copyright protected' is overlaid on the center of the page.

94

S.1

he

S.2

A.1

nin nin nin ni ni ni nin nin nin

A.2

ne ne ne

T.1

he he

T.2

he he he he he he he he he a a a

B.1

a na a a a a a a a a

B.2

a a a a ha a a a a a a a

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97 *mp* *dim.....*

S.1 *mp*

S.2 *mp*
i i i i i i i i i

A.1 *mp* 3 3 3 3 *p* 3 3 3 3
nin nin nin → na nana

A.2 *mp* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 *p* 3 3 3 3
ne ne ne ne ne

T.1 *mp* *p*
he *mf*

T.2 a one day, one day, one day, one

B.1 *mp* *p*
na a a a a a a na a a a a a a

B.2 *mp* *p*
ha a a a a a a ha a a a a a a

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101

S.1

p 3 3 3 3 3 3 *pp* 3

na na na na na na na na na na na na na na na na na

ppp

S.2

p 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

one ne

A.1

3 3 3 3 3

na

A.2

T.1

T.2

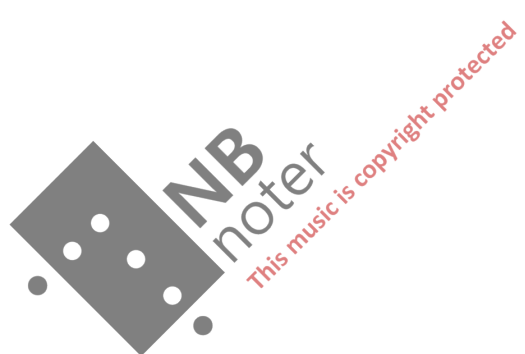
8 day, one day

B.1

B.2

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II Inside

27

$\text{♩} = 65$

M.R. Eriksen 2018/19
rev 2025

rev 2023

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Alto 1

Alto 2

Tenor 1

Tenor 2

Bass 1

Bass 2

The musical score consists of eight staves, each representing a different vocal part. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, accidentals, and dynamic markings (*p*, *mp*). Lyrics are written below the notes where applicable. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading "NB noter This music is copyright protected" is oriented diagonally across the center of the page.

5

S.1 *p* in - side *gliss.*

S.2 in - side

A.1 side in - side in - side

A.2 - side, side in side, *gliss.*

T.1 *mp* *p* in - side

T.2 *mp* *p* *p* in - side, in - side at the hos - pi - tal

B.1 *p* in - side at the hos - pi - tal

B.2 *p* in - side at the hos - pi - tal

9

S.1 *p* Le - o - nar - do

S.2 *p* in - - - side, in - he meets

A.1 *p* side, in - side in he

A.2 *mf* in - side, in he meets an

T.1 one day

T.2 one day

B.1 one day

B.2 one day

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14

S.1 *mp*
he meets an old

S.2 *mp* *p*
meets, he meets man

A.1 *mp* *p*
meets he

A.2 *mp*
old man, he meets an old man there

T.1 *p*
man

T.2 *mf*
man he

B.1 *mp* *mf*
he meets a man an old man

B.2 *mp* *mf*
he meets a man he meets a man

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mf

17

S.1

S.2

A.1

A.2

T.1

T.2

B.1

B.2

He is kind

meets a man

ly - ing

he meets a man, a kind man

meets a man

li-ving there a pa - tient

a man

mp

mf

mf

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20 *>mp*

S.1 kind and gar - ru-lous *mf*

S.2 *mp* and *mf* gar - ru lous *p* come

A.1 *mp* and *p* kind

A.2 *mp* he's kind and gar - ru-lous

T.1 *p* they *mp* are ha-ving a chat

T.2 *mf* he's kind, he's kind and gar-ru luos *mp* kind

B.1 *mf* oh, please come and have a litt-le (parlando)

B2 *mf* he's kind and old, and ve-ry gar - ru - lous (parlando)

B.2

22

S.1

S.2 *p*
the old man says

A.1 *p*
come sit on my bed

A.2 *p*
the old man says

T.1 *p*
Le-o nar - do, come sit on my bed

T.2

B.1 *p*
chat with me Le-o-

B.2 *p*
Le-o-

25

S.1 *p* *<* he

S.2 down n n

A.1

A.2 m m

T.1 *p* I feel fine

T.2 *mf* (parlando, quasi tempo) 5 5 Oh sig-nor Il Vec-chi-o how are you to-day? *p* He feels

B.1 nar-do sits down gen - tly *p* he

B.2 nar-do sits down *p* *<* he

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29

S.1 *mf* feels fine *p* he

S.2 *p* *mf* he feels fine no-thing is wrong with his bo dy

A.1 *p* he *p* fine *p* feel no thing wrong

A.2 *p* *mf* he feels fine *p* wrong

T.1 *mf* I feel fine *p* I feel no thing no - thing

T.2 *mf* *p* fine feels fine feels

B.1 *mf* *p* *mp* feels fine no thing is wrong with his bo dy

B.2 *mf* *p* feels fine

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III
The Dissection

37

M. R. Eriksen
2018/rev 2025

$\text{♩} = 100$

p ***mp***

Soprano 1
a a a he died

Soprano 2
died ***p***

Alto 1
a m he died ***p*** ***mp***

Alto 2

Tenor 1

Tenor 2

Bass 1

Bass 2

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7

S.1 *p* *mf*
died Il vec-chi - o

S.2 *p*
died Il

A.1 *p*
he died he died

A.2 *p*
died died He

T.1 *p*
Il vec-chi - o

T.2 *p* *mf*
Il vec-chi - o

B.1 *mf*
Il vec-chi - o

B.2 *mf*
Il vec-chi - o

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13

S.1 *p* died sud-den-ly he he he

S.2 *mf* vec - chi - o *p* he died, died sud-den-ly he he he he

A.1 *mf* *p* he died

A.2 *mf* died *p* he he

T.1 *mf* *p* *pp* m

T.2 *p*

B.1 *pp* m

B.2 *p* m

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17

S.1 *mf*
he he he he he he he

S.2 *mf*
he he he he he he he he he he

A.1 *p* *mf*
he died, he died he died, he died, he died, he died,

A.2 *mp* *p*
he dies

T.1 *mp* *pp*

T.2 *mp* *mf* *p*
he died!

B.1

B.2

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21 *mp* *p*

S.1

S.2 *mp* *p* *pp*
he he

A.1 *p*
he died

A.2

T.1 *p* *mf*
Le - - - o - nar - do stood there thin-king

T.2 *p*
stood there thin-king

B.1 *p*
stood there thin-king

B.2 *p*
stood there thin-king

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NB
noter

32

S.1

S.2

A.1

A.2

T.1

T.2

B.1

B.2

mp

Le-o-nar-do stood there look-ing at Il

p

so sweet

pp

p

so sweet,

so sweet

p

sweet,

so sweet

ppp

so sweet, so sweet

p

so sweet, so sweet

ppp

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New tempo ♩ = 115

38

S.1 *p* Le-o - nar-do Le - o-nar-do

S.2 *p* Le-o nar-do Le - o-nar-do

A.1 vec-chi-o

A.2

T.1

T.2

B.1 *p* Le-o - nar-do

B.2 *p* Le-o - nar-do

The musical score is for a choir with six parts: Soprano 1 (S.1), Soprano 2 (S.2), Alto 1 (A.1), Alto 2 (A.2), Tenor 1 (T.1), and Tenor 2 (T.2), and Bass 1 (B.1) and Bass 2 (B.2). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'New tempo' with a quarter note equal to 115 beats per minute. The score begins at measure 38. S.1 and S.2 have lyrics 'Le-o - nar-do Le - o-nar-do'. A.1 has lyrics 'vec-chi-o'. B.1 and B.2 have lyrics 'Le-o - nar-do'. The score includes a watermark 'NB noter This music is copyright protected'.

44

S.1 *p* Le - o, Le - o, Le - o - nar - do

S.2 *p* out, out, man - ny *mf* ma - ny knives Le o

A.1 *p* Le - o - nar - do

A.2 *p* ma - ny knives Le - o - nar - do

T.1 *p* his ma - ny, ma - ny *f* kni - ves, kni - ves

T.2

B.1 *f* pulls out his ma - ny, ma - ny kni - ves, kni - ves

B.2 pulls out his ma - ny, ma - ny

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48

S.1 *p* he pulls out, out,

S.2 nar-do, Le-o - nar do, Le- o - nar-do, Le - o-nar - do, he pulls out,

A.1 *mf* nar-do do, Le - o - nar - do *p* Le-o *mp* nar

A.2 *p* Le - o *mf* he pulls out

T.1 *mf* nar - do, *p* nar - do, *mp* Le - o Le - o -

T.2 *mf* nar - do, *p* nar - do, *mp* Le - o - nar do, Le - o -

B.1 *mf* Le - o he pulls out

B.2 *p* Le - - o he pulls out

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53

mf *ff*

S.1 out, out, he pulls out his knives

mf *ff*

S.2 out, he pulls out his knives

mf *f* *ff* *f*

A.1 he pulls out his knives a a

f *f*

A.2 his out a knives ives He pulls out

mf *ff* *f*

T.1 nar - do pulls he pulls out knives He pulls out

mf *ff* *f*

T.2 nar - do pulls he pulls out knives he pulls out knives

f

B.1 his knives he pulls out

fp *mf* *f*

B.2 his knives Le- o-nar - do pul-ling out his knives,

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58 *f*

S.1 he pulls out his knives

S.2 he pulls out his knives

A.1 *p* sharp, sharp, sharp sharp, sharp, he is pic-king up the knife

A.2 his knives he is pick-ing

T.1 *gliss.* his knives

T.2

B.1 *p* *mp* He picks up picks up a knife, the

B.2 *p* *mp* He picks up

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63

S.1 *p* in n

S.2 *p* skin skin skin skin

A.1

A.2 *p* skin skin skin skin skin, skin, skin

T.1

T.2

B.1 shar-pest one

B.2 *p* *fp* he is hol - ding the knife a-against his skin

69

pp *mf* *fp*

S.1 in the skin

S.2 he he he he he he he he he he he he he he he he he he

A.1 *pp subito* *mp*

n n n n n n n n n n n n n n n n n n n n

A.2 *subito pp*

skin in n he he he he he he he he he he

T.1

T.2

B.1 *mf*

he cuts cuts in-to the warm skin

B.2 *mf*

he cuts cuts in-to the warm skin

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74

S.1 *distorted voice* *ppp* (Normal voice) *p*
O - - pens

S.2 *pp*
he he he he he he he he (he) o - - - - -

A.1 *p*
n n

A.2 *p*
he he

T.1 *p*
he he he he he he he he he he he he he he he he he he he

T.2

B.1 *p*
he he he he he he he he he he he he he he he he he he

B.2 *pp*
o

79

S.1 the bo - dy,

S.2 *p* pens the bo - dy, bo - dy

A.1 *p* n n n n n n n n n n n n n n (panting with a raspy voice, as a saw)

A.2 he he he he he he he he he he he he he he he he

T.1 he he he he he he he he

T.2 *p* *mf* *p* *pp* *= sing with much air
u - sing a saw he he he he he he he he

B.1 (no pitch, only air) *p*
he he he he he he he he he he he he
(the voice turns gradually into a raspy saw-like sound with no exact pitch)

B.2 pens he

84 *p* *mp*

S.1 o - pens the bo - dy, Il vec-chi-os bo-dy and pulls it, and pulls it

S.2 *p* *mp* he o-pens the bo-dy

A.1 *f*

A.2 and pulls and pulls

T.1 *f* gliss. pull

T.2 he he he he he he he he he pull

B.1 (should sound like a moan) *p* pulls

B.2

90

S.1 *p* pulls

S.2 *fp* pull *fp* pull *fp* pull *fp* pull *fp* pull *fpp* pull

A.1 *p* pulls

A.2 pul-ling, pul-ling, pul-ling pul-ling, pul-ling pul-ling, *fp*

T.1 *p* pull, *fp* pull, *fp* pull, *fp* pull pull, pull, pull, pull

T.2 *p* pulls it a -

B.1 (should sound like a moan) *gliss.* pull, *fpp* pull *fpp*

B.2 (should sound like a moan) *fp* pull *fp* pull

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96 *mp* *p* *pp*

S.1 him

S.2 *p* pulls a part

A.1 *f* it a-part *p* a

A.2 *pp* a - part

T.1 pull what could have

T.2 -part what could

B.1 *pp* pulls it a - part

B.2 pull what

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102

S.1 *pp* what could have caused *mp* a

S.2 *pp* caused

A.1 caused a

A.2 *pp* could have caused a

T.1 could have caused a

T.2 *pp* have caused what could have caused

B.1 what could have caused

B.2 could have caused a

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110

S.1 *p* death so sweet *pp* so *p*

S.2 *p*

A.1 *p* death so sweet *pp*

A.2 death so sweet *p* sweet *pp*

T.1 *mp* death

T.2 a death so sweet *p* *pp*

B.1 a death so sweet *p* *pp* so *pp*

B.2 death so sweet *p* *pp* so *pp*

The musical score is for a choir with eight parts: Soprano 1 (S.1), Soprano 2 (S.2), Alto 1 (A.1), Alto 2 (A.2), Tenor 1 (T.1), Tenor 2 (T.2), Bass 1 (B.1), and Bass 2 (B.2). The music is in 4/4 time and begins at measure 110. The lyrics are 'death so sweet so'. The score includes various dynamics: *p* (piano), *pp* (pianissimo), and *mp* (mezzo-piano). There are also crescendo and decrescendo markings. A watermark 'NB noter This music is copyright protected' is visible across the center of the page.

120

S.1
sweet

S.2
mp
He is pic-king out the en-trails of the old man's bo-dy and

A.1
pp
sweet

A.2
pp
sweet

T.1
p
so sweet

T.2

B.1
sweet

B.2
sweet

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125

S.1 *p* so sweet

S.2 stu-dies them whatcould have caused a death so sweet *p* so

A.1 *p* sweet

A.2 *p* *pp* stu - - dies so sweet

T.1 *pp* *p* *mp* *pp* so so sweet

T.2 *p* *mp* *pp* so sweet

B.1 *p* *mp* so sweet sweet

B.2 *p* *mp* *p* so so sweet

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133

S.1 *p* *mp* *pp*
so sweet so

S.2 *pp* *p* *pp*
sweet so sweet

A.1 *p*
sweet

A.2 *p* *pp*
sweet

T.1 *p* *pp*
so sweet

T.2 *p* *pp*
sweet

B.1 *pp* *p* *pp*
sweet

B.2 *p*
sweet

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141

S.1 *p* *ppp*
sweet

S.2 *ppp*
so sweet

A.1 *pp* *p* *ppp*
so sweet

A.2 *p*
so sweet

T.1 *p* *ppp*
so so sweet

T.2 *p* *ppp*
so sweet

B.1 *p* *ppp*
so so sweet

B.2 *p* *ppp*
so sweet

.(Il vecchio died from lack of blood to the artery that nourishes the heart.),