

B A N N E R S O F P E A C E

- a cantata

commissioned by the National Spiritual Assembly
of the Bahá'ís of Norway

sponsored by Norsk Kulturråd

- for the occasion of

United Nations' International Year of Peace 1986

and

the visit of Mrs. Coretta Scott King's to Oslo
October 23, 1986

Revised: 1987

Text: 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Music: Lasse Thoresen

O God, my God! Thou seest how black darkness is enshrouding all regions, how all countries are burning with the flame of dissension, and the fire of war and carnage is blazing throughout the East and the West. Blood is flowing, corpses bestrew the ground, and severed heads are fallen on the dust of the battlefield.

O Lord! Have pity on these ignorant ones, and look upon them with the eye of forgiveness and pardon. Extinguish this fire, so that these dense clouds which obscure the horizon may be scattered, the Sun of Reality shine forth with the rays of conciliation, this intense gloom be dispelled and the resplendent light of peace shed its radiance upon all countries.

O Lord! Draw up the people from the abyss of the ocean of hatred and enmity, and deliver them from this impenetrable darkness. Unite their hearts, and brighten their eyes with the light of peace and reconciliation. Deliver them from the depths of war and bloodshed, and free them from the darkness of error... Treat them with Thy tender mercy and compassion, and deal not with them according to Thy justice and wrath...

O Lord! Make manifest in Thy lands humble and submissive souls, their faces illumined with the rays of guidance, severed from the world, extolling Thy Name, uttering Thy praise, and diffusing the fragrance of Thy holiness amongst mankind...

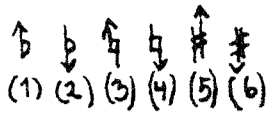
O Lord! Verily, they are weak, and Thou art the Powerful and the Mighty; they are impotent, and Thou art the Helper and the Merciful.

-Abdu'l-Bahá
(Bahá'í Prayers p.181-184)

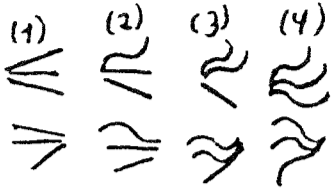
Ere long... shall the power of heaven, the dominion of the Holy Spirit, hoist on the high summits the banners of love and peace, and there above the castles of majesty and might shall those banners wave in the rushing winds that blow out of the tender mercy of God.

-Abdu'l-Bahá
(Selections from the Writings
of Abdu'l-Bahá p.174)

EXPLANATION OF SIGNS



pitch to be lowered by 1/4 tone: (1) (4),
 to be lowered by 3/4 tone: (2)
 to be raised by 1/4 tone: (3) (6)
 to be raised by 3/4 tone: (5)

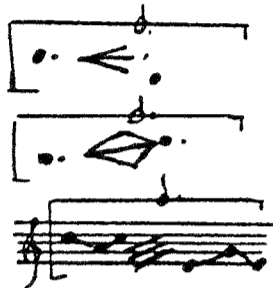


(Tremolo) accelerando (1) regular (2) slightly irregular, (3) irregular (4) very irregular

(Tremolo) ritardando (1) regular, (2) etc...



A continuous ritardando (increasingly irregular)



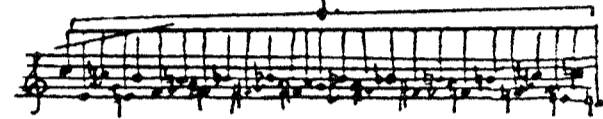
to be performed:



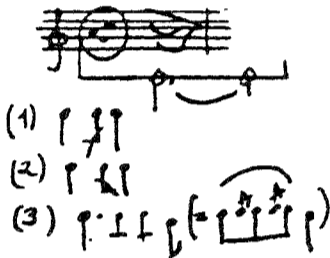
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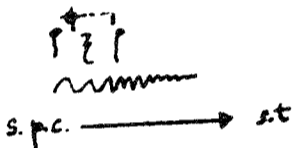
to be performed:



notes to be played in random order, in an irregular ritardando, the total duration of which is 5 crotchets

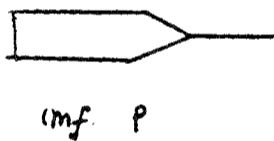


- (1) The grace note is subtracted from the following value
- (2) " " " " " " " preceding "
- (3) " " " " interpolated in " " "



dampen by stopping the bow on the string
 vibrato with varying width and speed

Gradual transition



- repetition independently of the the metrum indicated.
- subito M^2 , subito p

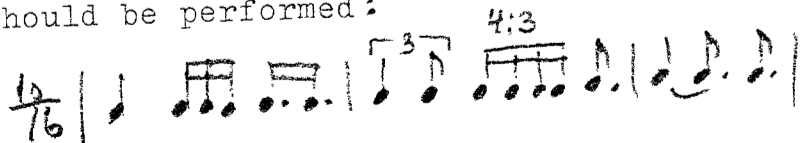
$$\frac{4+3+3}{16}$$

3 |

Each bar consists in 3 beats of unequal length ($4/16+3/16+3/16$). The rhythms are notated in 3 equal beats, but whatever the contents of a beat, it must be adjusted to the correct overall duration of that beat. Thus a rhythm notated like this:



should be performed:





Banners of Peace

$3 (= \frac{4+3+3}{16}) = d. = 60$ (1986)

Text: 'Abdu'l-Bahá
Music: Lasse Thoresen

Mezzo Sopr. (I)

Mezzo Sopr. (II)
or Alto

Violoncello $\frac{0}{0}$
Sordatura $\frac{2}{3}$

Perc. I Vibraphone

Perc. II Crotales, Marimba

larga.

tr. (#) spe.

p *f* *mf*

sfz *mf* *cresc.*

sfz *sfz* *sfz* *L.V.*

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Ve

P I

P II

ff, furioso

ff

prestissimo

Ve

P I

P II

L.V.

This music is copyright protected

Ve

P I

P II

± d. d. d.

± d.

tr

ff

ped

3/2

h.v.

(reduce number of grace notes)

3

A

(cr) *mp* *Spe* → *st* → *Spe etc. - sim.*

etc. - sim.

PI

PII

Marimba:

n. case

1

prestissimo

ff *p*

L.V.

PI

PII

2

3

ff *Spe* → *ord* → *Spe.* → *ord 2A.*

Marimba: ¹⁾

2"

5" 3"

f *P* *P* *n*

<Spe> *Spe*

PI

PII

1) Use the same instr. as PII if practical

4
 ← 4" → (4) ← 10" →

I
 II
 Ve poco a poco calmando (dim., più legato)

I
 II poco à poco calmando

8" 10"

f *mf* *f*

$\text{♩} = 192$
 $\frac{4+3+3}{16}, \text{♩} = \frac{4}{16} = 48$ Pesante

3

0 God! 0 God!

st.
 PP tr

8va

mf

tr tr tr tr

PP *mp* PP

4+4+3+3

B

Thou seest how black darkness is enshrouding all the 4 regions, how all 3 countries are

sotto voce *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

sotto voce - st. 4 3 tr tr tr

mp *dim*

burning with the flame of dis-sension and the fire of war and carnage is blazing throughout the

sen-sion fire

tr tr tr tr (b) tr tr tr tr tr tr tr tr

I II IV

(loco) *b* *p*

mp *dim* *p* *dim* *ppp* *pp*

Handwritten musical score for two Violoncello (Ve) parts. The top staff includes a large handwritten number '7' above it. The music is in bass clef and contains various annotations such as 'ord.', 'f', 'p', and 'spc'. A tempo marking of $\text{♩} = 128$ is present.

Handwritten musical score for Soprano I (S. I.) and Violoncello (Ve). The S. I. part is in treble clef and includes the lyrics 'O Lord!'. The Ve part is in bass clef and includes the lyrics 'Hit - - - - - a tempo'. Annotations include 'ord.', 'mp', 'pp', 'f', 'fp', 'IP', and '3'. A tempo marking of $\text{♩} = 96$ is present.

Handwritten musical score for Soprano I (S. I.), Soprano II (S. II), and Violoncello (Ve). The S. I. part is in treble clef and includes the lyrics 'Have pity on these ig - no - rant ones and look upon'. The S. II part is in treble clef and is empty. The Ve part is in bass clef and includes the lyrics 'Have pity on these ig - no - rant ones and look upon'. Annotations include 'C', 'f', 'p/p', '(sim.)', 'IP', 'f', 'dim', and 'P'. A tempo marking of $\text{♩} = 96$ is present.

D

(dim)

Handwritten musical score for the first system. It includes a vocal line (Soprano) with lyrics: "them with the eyes of for-give-ness and pardon". The vocal line features dynamic markings like *dim*, *p*, and *fp*. Below the vocal line are staves for a keyboard instrument (labeled "Ve") and a Marimba. The Marimba part includes a section labeled "(Marimba)" and dynamic markings like *fp* and *f*. There are also some handwritten notes and symbols like "n" and "h" on the keyboard staff.

①



Handwritten musical score for the second system. It features a vocal line with lyrics: "Lord! Ex-". The vocal line has dynamic markings like *cresc* and *fp*. Below the vocal line are staves for a keyboard instrument and a Marimba. The Marimba part includes a section labeled "Marimba:" and dynamic markings like *fp* and *f*. There are also some handwritten notes and symbols like "n" and "h" on the Marimba staff.

S -tinguish this fire so that these dense clouds which ob scure the horizon

II *pp* *pp* *dim*

ord

I *sempre f*

II

Detailed description: This system contains the first four measures of the piece. The vocal line (Soprano) has lyrics: "-tinguish this fire so that these dense clouds which obscure the horizon". The piano accompaniment (II) starts with a piano (*pp*) dynamic and includes a *dim* (diminuendo) marking. The vibraphone (I) part is marked *sempre f* (sempre forte). The bass line (II) has a *pp* dynamic. There are various musical notations including slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

may be scattered,

mp the Sun of re - ali - ty shine

II *pp*

Vibraphone

P ped

pp

E

Detailed description: This system contains the next four measures. The vocal line (Soprano) has lyrics: "may be scattered," followed by "the Sun of reality shine". The piano accompaniment (II) has a *pp* dynamic. The vibraphone (I) part is marked *P ped* (piano with pedal). The bass line (II) has a *pp* dynamic. A large watermark "NB noter" and "This music is copyright protected" is overlaid on the score. A circled letter "E" is present in the upper right. The system ends with a double bar line and repeat signs.

I
S
II

forth with the rays of concili- ation this in- tense gloom be dis- pelled and

Vc *flautato*

I
P
II

dim...

n mp n

(4+3)
16

I
S
II

2 all the 3 countries be il- lu- mined with the light of peace

I
P
II

2 3 Lv

n

$d(=\frac{4}{16})=80, d(=\frac{7}{16})\approx 46$

- 11 -

GP.

$\frac{4+3}{16}$

mp **2** Lord! Draw up the people from the a-byss of the

mp

mp

2

mp

mp



F

ocean of hatred and enmity, and de-li-ver them from the im-penetrable

(Vibr)

ped

(simi)

L.K

I
S
II

dark-ness. U-nite their hearts and brighten their

Ve

I
P
II

I
S
II

eyes with the lights of peace and reconcili-ation

Ve

I
P
II

G 13-

I
Soprano
II

mf O Lord! De li-ver them from the depths of

Ve

poco marc.

I
P
II

p ped - - - -

I
Soprano
II

war and bloodshed and free them from the darkness of error.

Ve

Spe.

I
P
II

p ped

I S II

Treat them with Thy ten - der mercy and com - passion

I P II

tr

mp

pp

Poco Meno Mosso

mp

dim

I S II

and deal not with them ac - cording to Thy Justice and Wrath

mp

dim

I P II

Handwritten musical score for strings, voice, and piano.

Handwritten Annotations:

- Top staff: $\leftarrow \text{d.} = \text{d.} \rightarrow$, $\text{d.} (= \frac{10}{6}) = 52$, $\frac{4+3+3}{16}$, $\sqrt{\frac{4}{16}} = 128$
- Section marker: **H**
- Lyrics: "O Lord!"
- Violin (Vc): *pp*, *mf*, *tr.*, *sfz*
- Piano (P): *sfz*, *mf*, *sfz*



I S II

Make manifest in Thy lands in Thy lands humble and sub-

Make manifest in Thy lands Make manifest in Thy lands

Vi

interpolate these notes in irregular rhythm 1 note pr bar 0 note pr bar 1 mpb

ped sempre

interpolate these notes in irregular rhythm 1 note pr bar 0 mpb

I P II

I S II

missive souls

humble and sub missive souls

• Their faces ill - umined with the rays of

0 mpb. 1 mpb 0 mpb 1 mpb 1 mpb 1 mpb

1 mpb 0 mpb 1 mpb 1 mpb 1 mpb

I P II

guidance, severed from the World, ex - tolling Thy

1mpb 1mpb 2mpb 2mpb 2mpb

1mpb 2mpb 2mpb 3mpb 2mpb

uttering Thy praise - fusing the fragrance of Thy Name, and di - fus - ing the

3mpb 2mpb 4mpb 4mpb 3mpb

3mpb 2mpb 4mpb 4mpb 3mpb

I S
ho - li - ness a - mongst man - kind

II

Vc

I P
dim

II
dim

III
IV

(III)
(IV)

mp cresc

f

(ped) - - - *

f sfz

I S
Lord! Verily they are weak, and Thou art the Powerful and the Mighty,

II

Vc

I P
mp ped

II
mp

IP

mp

IP

IV - - - IP

ped *

4+3 16 **I** 4+3+3 16 -19-

I
Soprano
II

They are im-
potent, and Thou art the
Helper and the

mp P

Ve

mp P

I
P
II

mp P

Merci - ful

pp dim

ped PP dim

$\text{♩} = \pm 48$ (poco rubato)

Mezz voice

I

S (4/4) *pp* Ere long shall the po-wer of heaven (2/4) the do (3/4) mi nion of the

II

Ve *ppp II*

I

S (2/4) Holy (3/4) spirit hoist on the (2/4) high summits the banners of love

II

Ve

ritenuto

I

S (3/4) and peace (2/4) and there above the castles of majesty and might shall

II

PI (3/4) (2/4) (Vibr.)

piu mosso *piu lento*

f *f* *f*

l.v.

4+3+3 *mf*

I
S those banners wave in the (3) rush-ing winds that blow out of the

II

p *mf*

3
4

PI

h.v.

mf *dim*

$d = \frac{4}{6} = 96$ $(4+3)$
 $\frac{3}{4} = 54$

I
S (3/4) tender mercy of God

II

mf *dim*

Ve

$\frac{118}{4}$

tr $(\#)$

mf/pp sempre

I
P (3/4)

II

mf

pp sempre

pp sempre

Ve

(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8)

I
P

II

J

$\text{♩} = \text{♩} (\frac{4}{16}) = 128 \frac{4+3+3}{16}$

SI
crotales

3

ff Ya-baha u'llabhá

sfz

2-time:

f Ya-baha u'llab

Ya-ba há u'llab

SII
crotales

3

-ha

ff Ya-baha u'llab

Ya-ba há u'llab

Ve

13

ff

sfz

f

I
Pa
II

sfz

sfz

sfz



SI
Crot.

p.

sfz

p.

sfz

(sim.)

SII
Crot.

p.

ha

sfz

sfz

(sim.)

Ve

f

I
P
II

sfz

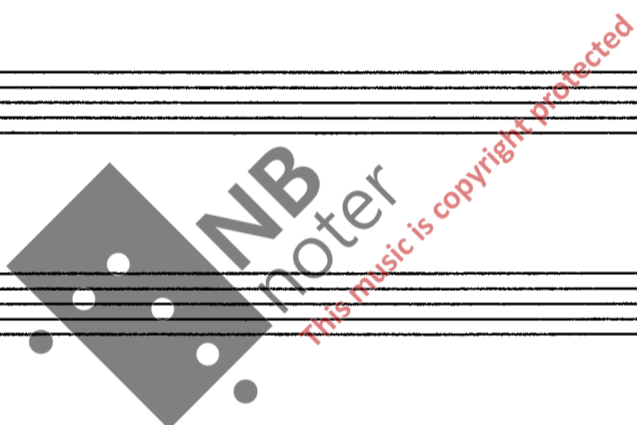
$\frac{10}{16}$

sfz

Handwritten musical score for the first system, featuring five staves:

- ST I: Crot** (Soprano I): Treble clef, notes with dynamic markings *(damp!)* and *sfz*.
- ST II: Crot** (Soprano II): Treble clef, notes with dynamic markings *(damp!)* and *sfz*.
- Ve** (Violin): Treble clef, notes with dynamic markings *mf* and *pp*.
- I** (Piano I): Treble clef, notes with dynamic markings *sfz* and *ped/mf*.
- II** (Piano II): Treble clef, notes with dynamic markings *mf* and *pp*.

Additional markings include *sfz*, *mf*, *pp*, *ped/mf*, and *pp* throughout the system.



Handwritten musical score for the second system, featuring five staves:

- ST I: Crot** (Soprano I): Treble clef, notes with dynamic markings *sfz* and *pp*.
- ST II: Crot** (Soprano II): Treble clef, notes with dynamic markings *sfz* and *pp*.
- Ve** (Violin): Treble clef, notes with dynamic markings *mf* and *pp*.
- I** (Piano I): Treble clef, notes with dynamic markings *mf* and *pp*.
- II** (Piano II): Treble clef, notes with dynamic markings *mf* and *pp*.

Additional markings include *sfz*, *mf*, *pp*, and *ped/mf*.

Handwritten text in the center: *9/9-1986*

Handwritten text at the bottom right: *Dur.: ± 9 min*