

Notes from the composer:

Poet Nathan Yonathan (1923-2004) had two children, Ziv and Lior, of whom the eldest, Lior, was killed in the Yom Kippur war. This aching loss colored his later works and became his hallmark.

As an artist, it was an emotional experience for me to set Yonathan's beautiful poetry to music, trying to express through melody and harmony what he had so hauntingly articulated in words. Thus, the piece starts in unison, to symbolize the uniting grief felt by those who share the pain of losing a child. The piece immediately divides into four parts, as we are all different in the way we deal with loss.

One beautiful and heartbreaking phrase that has moved me is "A sad dream of beauty" (*chalom atzuv shel yofi*). Much like Nathan Yonathan's way of showing feelings without being melodramatic, I have tried to deal with this phrase in a unique way at the end of each verse; Twice in a delicate, self-reflected way, but then eventually, the author is crying out his pain, and the music cries with him. Yet, he immediately quiets down to the final statement, knowing that his son will not come back, slowly ending the same way it started, with those simple, yet painful words, "ahuv sheli - my beloved".

Sharon Farber
November 2009

My Beloved

Nathan Yonatan
Translation by Sharon Farber

My beloved
Where did he go, where
Like an illuminating cloud of morning.
There, between sand and sea
Rose, in the heart of my boy's stillness
A sorrowful dream of beauty
And a smile that will never fade.

My beloved
The light and shadows
In the dimness of the evening's star.
His smile, bitter
The anguishing pain that never stops, my boy,
A sorrowful dream of beauty
And a smile that will never fade.

My beloved
Weeping has no words—
A lonely tree in the wind.
I wish I could, like ashes,
embrace my boy with love
A sad dream of beauty
And a smile that will never fade.

Poem used with kind permission of Nili Yonatan–Carmel

AHVU SHELI / MY BELOVED

SSAA and Chamber Ensemble*

Nathan Yonatan
(1923-2004)

Sharon Farber

Adagio ♩ = 56

Clarinet in A

Bassoon

Adagio ♩ = 56

p

Soprano I
A - huv she - li, — ah, —

Soprano II
A - huv she - li, — ah —

Alto I
A - huv she - li, — ah —

Alto II
A - huv she - li, — ah —

Adagio ♩ = 56

sotto voce

Piano
p

Adagio ♩ = 56

Violin

Violoncello

Duration ca. 6:30

* Instrumental parts are published separately (30/2543R).
This piece can also be performed a cappella.

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Cl. *con moto*

Bsn. *con moto*

S. I *con moto mp*
a - huv she - li. Le - an ha -

S. II *con moto mp*
a - huv she - li. Le - an ha -

A. I *con moto*
a - huv she - li.

A. II *con moto*
a - huv she - li.

Pno. *con moto*

Vln. *con moto*

Vc. *con moto mp*

5

Cl. *p* *mp* *dolce*

Bsn. *mp*

S. I
lach, le - an ha - lach, ha - lach ke - a - *p*

S. II
lach, le - an ha - lach, ha - lach ke - a - *p*

A. I
mp Le-an ha-lach, ha - lach, ha - lach ke - a - *p*

A. II
mp Le-an ha - lach, ha - lach ke - a - *p*

Pno. *mp* *p*

Vln. *mp* *mp*

Vc. *p* *mp*

8

Cl.

Bsn.

S. I

S. II

A. I

A. II

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

dolce

mp

nan meh - eer shel bo - ker, bo - ker. Sham,

nan meh - eer shel bo - ker, bo - ker. Sham,

nan, a - nan meh - eer shel bo - ker, bo - ker.

nan meh - eer, a - nan meh - eer shel bo - ker, bo - ker.

11

Cl. I *con moto*
mp *f rit.*

Bsn. *con moto*
mf f rit.

S. I *con moto*
sham, sham bein ha - cho - lot la - yam
rit. f

S. II *con moto*
sham, — sham bein ha - cho - lot la - yam
rit. f

A. I *mp con moto*
sham — bein ha - cho - lot la - yam
rit. f

A. II *mp con moto*
sham — bein ha - cho - lot la - yam
rit. f

Pno. *con moto*
p *f rit.*

Vln. *con moto*
mp *f rit.*

Vc. *con moto*
espress. mf f rit.

13

Cl. *mp*

Bsn. *mp*

S. I. *mp*
kam — be - lev — ha - doo - mi - a

S. II. *mp*
kam — be - lev — ha - doo - mi - a

A. I. *mp*
kam be - lev ha - doo - mi - a, ha - doo - mi -

A. II. *mp*
kam be - lev ha - doo - mi - a, ha - doo - mi - a,

Pno. *mp*

Vln.

Vc. *pizz.* *mp* *arco* *mp*

15

Cl. *rit.* *f* *mp*

Bsn. *rit.* *f*

S. I *rit.* *f* *mp*
 shel na - a - ri cha-lom a - tzoov, shel

S. II *rit.* *f* *mp*
 ha - doo-mi-a shel na - a - ri cha - lom a - tzoov shel

A. I *rit.* *f* *mf*
 a ha-doo-mi-a shel na - a - ri cha-lom a-tzoov shel

A. II *rit.* *f* *mf*
 ha-doo-mi-a shel na - a - ri cha - lom a - tzoov shel

Pno. *rit.* *f* *mp*

Vln. *mp* *rit.* *f* *mp*³

Vc. *rit.* *f* *mf*

18

Cl. I

Bsn.

S. I

S. II

A. I

A. II

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

mp *mf* *f*

p *f* *mf* *solo sop., espress.*

yo - phi, shel yo - phi ve - chi - yooch she - lo yach-

yo - phi, shel yo - phi ve - chi - yooch

yo - phi, shel yo - phi ve - chi - yooch

yo - phi, shel yo - phi ve - chi - yooch

yo - phi, shel yo - phi ve - chi - yooch

p *f*

p *mf*

p *f*

21 *a tempo, con moto*

Cl. *rit. mp* *a tempo, con moto*

Bsn. *rit. mp* *a tempo, con moto*

S. I *rit. a tempo, con moto Tutti*
lof li le - o' - lam. she - li, ha - or ve -

S. II *rit. mp a tempo, con moto*
A - huv she - li, she - li, ha - or ve -

A. I *rit. mp a tempo, con moto*
A - huv she - li, she - li,

A. II *rit. mp a tempo, con moto*
A - huv she - li, she - li,

Pno. (optional) *p rit. a tempo, con moto*

Vln. *p rit. a tempo, con moto*

Vc. *rit. a tempo, con moto*

23

Cl. I *mp*

Bsn. *mf* *mp*

S. I
ha - tzla - leem ba - tla - leem ko - chav ha -

S. II
ha - tzla - leem ba - tla - leem ko - chav ha -

A. I *mf* *mp*
ha - tzla - leem ba - tla - leem

A. II *mf* *mp*
ha - tzla - leem ba - tla - leem

Pno. *mp* 3 *mp*

Vln. *mf* 3

Vc. *mf* *mp*

25

Cl. *mp*

Bsn. *mp*

S. I *mp*
solo sop. espress.
 e - rev, _____
 e - rev, _____
 e - rev. _____

S. II *mp*
 e - rev, _____
 e - rev, _____
 e - rev. _____

A. I *mp*
 e - rev, _____
 e - rev, _____
 e - rev. _____

A. II *mp*
 e - rev, _____
 e - rev, _____
 e - rev. _____

Pno. *decresc.* *p*

Vln. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

28 To Clarinet in B \flat

Cl.

Bsn.

S. I. ah.

S. II.

A. I.

A. II.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc. *mf* *espress.*