

VONNEGUT

REQUIEM

*A Place Among*

*for SATB choir, clarinet, bassoon, and bass*

Gabriel Lubell

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# VONNEGUT REQUIEM

## *A Place Among*

for SATB choir, clarinet, bassoon, and bass

(2018)

GABRIEL LUBELL

Duration: ca. 4' • C Score

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VOCES NOVAE

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*In Memory of*

Marian and John Gaskill

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Evans Woollen III

## TEXT

My prayers are unheard,  
But thy sublime indifference will ensure  
That I burn not in some everlasting fire.  
Give me a place among the sheep  
And the goats, separating none from none.  
Leaving our mingled ashes where they fall.

## PROGRAM NOTE

Contrary to the Christian requiem's prayer for the eternal light of paradise, Vonnegut's seeks an alternative form of peace. It is one devoid of judgment, absolutely egalitarian in its requests of the void. In this there is a kind of beautiful unity, one in which the traditional pastoral model is transformed into a fearless landscape where hierarchy is altogether absent. But this is achieved through the cosmos' "sublime indifference" – a potentially horrifying attribute. Historically, the concept of the sublime has been mobilized to convey awe-inspiring vistas and soul-shaking confrontations between humanity and nature. Is the idea of cosmic *indifference*, especially when personified, commensurate with such cataclysmic feelings? Perhaps, but I think Vonnegut's sublimity is of a different, though closely related species. It is one that comes from the knowledge that indifference makes all things part of a grand eternity – one that encompasses all possible lives and non-lives. Surely that qualifies as sublime; to think of leaving one life, only to become commingled with all the others that have come and gone. For an indifferent void, that could be quite the party, and a rather overwhelming scene. But even for an introverted soul there is comfort – after all, eternity is what you make of it, and indifference need not imply emptiness or loneliness unless you want it to. (Likewise with voids; ask an astronomer.) Maybe the only real downside to this cosmology is that it cannot be consciously experienced, but so it goes.

VONNEGUT REQUIEM  
*A Place Among*

Adagio (♩ = c. 69)

Clarinet in B♭

Bassoon

Double Bass

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano Reduction (for rehearsal only)

My prayers are un -

oo

*p* *falsetto*

oo

Adagio (♩ = c. 69)

Adagio (♩ = c. 69)

6

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

D.B.

S

heard

A

My prayers are un - heard

T

oo

*p* *falsetto*

B

oo

But

Pno. Red.

## A Place Among

11

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

D.B.

*mp*

S

*mp*

But thy sub - lime in -

A

*mp*

But thy sub - lime, sub - lime in - diff' - rence

T

*mp (norm.)*

8 But thy sub - lime in - diff' - rence will en - sure that I

B

thy sub - lime in - diff' - rence, in - diff' - rence

11

Pno. Red.

16

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

D.B.

*mf*

*p*

S

*p*

diff' - rence will en - sure that I burn not

A

*p*

will en - sure that I burn not

T

8 burn not

B

16

Pno. Red.

## A Place Among

3

20 Chanted, freely

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

D.B.

colla voce

S

A

T

B

Pno. Red.

My prayers are un - heard, But thy sub - lime in - diff' - rence will en - sure that I burn

My prayers are un - heard, But thy sub - lime in - diff' - rence will en - sure that I burn

21 A tempo

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

D.B.

S

A

T

B

Pno. Red.

in some ev - er - las - ting fire.

in some ev - er - las - ting fire.

not in some ev - er - las - ting fire.

not in some ev - er - las - ting fire.

## A Place Among

26 (♩=♩)

B♭ Cl. *p*

Bsn. *p*

D.B. *p*

S

A *mp*

T *mp*

B *mp*

Pno. Red.

Give me a place a - mong the sheep and the goats, Give me a place, —

Give me a place a - mong the sheep,

31 (♩=♩)

B♭ Cl. *mp* *f* *p*

Bsn.

D.B.

S *mp*

A *mp*

T *mp*

B *mp*

Pno. Red.

Give me a place a - mong the sheep and the goats, Give me a place a - mong the sheep —

— Give me a place, Give me a place a - mong the sheep — and the goats,

Give me a place a - mong the sheep and the goats, Give me a

35

B♭ Cl. *mp*

Bsn.

D.B.

S *mf*

A *mp*

T *mp*

B

Pno. Red.

35

and the goats Give me a place

Give me a place, a place

place a - mong the sheep and the goats

35

B♭ Cl. *f*

Bsn. *f*

D.B. *f*

S *f*

A *f*

T *f*

B *f*

Pno. Red. *f*

39

Sep - a - rat - ing none from none, Sep - a - rat - ing none from

Sep - a - rat - ing none from none, Sep - a - rat - ing none from

Sep - a - rat - ing none from none, none, none, Sep - a - rat - ing none from

Sep - a - rat - ing none from none, Sep - a - rat - ing none from

39

Pno. Red. *f*

(8<sup>vb</sup>)

## A Place Among

42

B♭ Cl. *p*

Bsn. *p*

D.B. *p*

S *p* *mp* (♩=♩)  
none, Sep - a - rat - ing none from none.

A *p* *mp*  
none, Sep - a - rat - ing none from none.

T *p* *mp*  
none, Sep - a - rat - ing none from none.

B *p* *mp*  
none Sep - a - rat - ing none from none.

Pno. Red. *loco* (8<sup>vb</sup>)

47

B♭ Cl. Chanted, freely

Bsn. *p* *colla voce*

D.B. *p*

S Chanted, freely

A Chanted, freely

T *p*  
Give me a place a-mong the sheep and the goats, sep - a - rat - ing none from none.

B *p*  
Give me a place a-mong the sheep and the goats, sep - a - rat - ing none from none.

Pno. Red. Chanted, freely

49 A tempo

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

D.B.

S

A

T

B

Pno. Red.

Lea - ving our min - gled ash - es where they fall,

Lea - ving our min - gled ash - es where they fall,

Lea - ving our min - gled ash - es where they fall,

Lea - ving our min - gled ash - es where they fall,

49 A tempo

49 A tempo

54

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

D.B.

S

A

T

B

Pno. Red.

Lea - ving our ash - es where they fall,

Lea - ving our ash - es where they fall,

Lea - ving our ash - es where they fall,

Lea - ving our ash - es where they fall,

54

54

## A Place Among

59

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

D.B.

59 *mf*

S

fall.

A

*pp*

fall.

T

*pp*

fall.

B

*pp*

fall.

59

Pno.

Red.

8<sup>vb</sup>

The musical score is for a piece titled "A Place Among". It is page 8 of the score. The score is written for a large ensemble and vocal soloists. The instruments listed are B♭ Clarinet, Bassoon, Double Bass, Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, Piano, and Red (likely a double bass or similar low instrument). The score is in 4/4 time. The key signature has one flat (B♭). The score is divided into measures by bar lines. The vocal parts (S, A, T, B) have lyrics written below them. The piano part (Pno. Red.) has a dynamic marking of 8<sup>vb</sup> (very bass). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, bar lines, and dynamic markings like *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *pp* (pianissimo). The vocal parts have a "fall." marking, indicating a breath or a change in pitch. The piano part has a "8<sup>vb</sup>" marking, indicating a very bass sound. The score is written for a large ensemble and vocal soloists.

