

SING!



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edited by
Victor C. Johnson

DISTINCTIVE CHORAL MUSIC FOR CLASSROOM, CONCERT AND FESTIVAL

CGE608

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SSA

Dido's Lament

Arranged by
Douglas E. Wagner



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The story line of Purcell's opera, "Dido and Aeneas" is taken from Book IV of Virgil's "Aeneid," which follows the lives of Dido, Queen of Carthage and the Trojan prince, Aeneas, leading to her eventual acceptance of his marriage proposal in Act I.

However, deception and sorcery follow in Act II as underhanded forces plot and succeed in tearing them apart.

At the end of Act III, Dido, shortly before her death, sings "When I Am Laid in Earth," indisputably one of the most emotional and heart-wrenching of all Baroque arias.

The work is supported by a ground bass, in this case, a chromatically descending line that repeats continuously throughout, further heightening the tension and tragic mood.

As might well be imagined for a piece of music of this nature, countless appearances have been made in film and television productions. Of special note is Jessye Norman's iconic performance, which may be viewed on YouTube.

7

p

May my wrongs — cre -

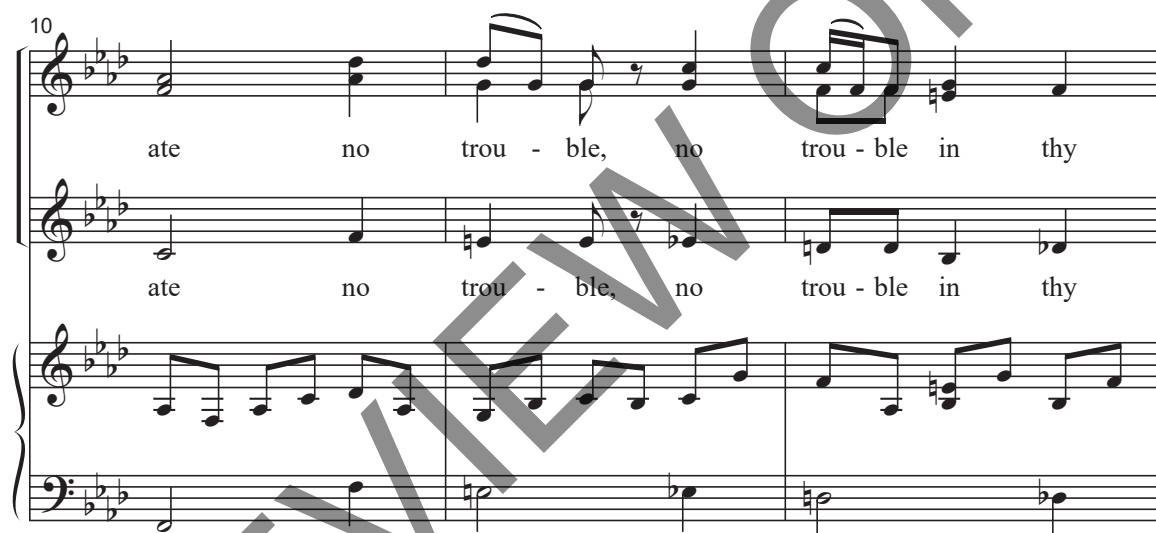
laid — in earth, may my wrongs cre -



10

ate no trou - ble, no trou - ble in thy

ate no trou - ble, no trou - ble in thy



13

breast.

mp

breast. When I am

mp



23

mf

breast. Re - mem - ber me,

mf

breast. Re - mem - ber me,

Cello

mp *mf*

26

re - mem - ber me, but

re - mem - ber me, but

34

mp

for - get my — fate. Re - mem - ber me,

mp

for - get my fate. Re - mem - ber me,

mp

37

re - mem - ber me, but

re - mem - ber me, but

45 *mp*

for - get my fate.

mp

for - get my fate.

mp

47 *rit.*

Re - mem - ber me.

rit.

Re - mem - ber me.

rit.

Dido's Lament

(When I Am Laid in Earth)

11

Cello

Henry Purcell (c. 1659-1695)
from "Dido and Aeneas"
Arranged by Douglas E. Wagner

Steadily, with intensity (♩ = ca. 60-63)

1-4 5-13 14-22

23

mp *mf*

26

29

32

f *mp*

36

39

42

f

46

mp *rit.*

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