

DONA NOBIS PACEM
(A Cantata for Soprano and Baritone Soli, Chorus and Orchestra)

[1] I Agnus Dei (Lento)

*Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi
Dona nobis pacem*

(TRANSLATION: Lamb of God who takest away the sins of the world,
Grant us peace)

[2] II Beat! beat! drums! (Allegro moderato)

Beat! beat! drums! – Blow! bugles! blow!
Through the windows – through the doors burst like a ruthless force,
Into the solemn church, and scatter the congregation;
Into the school where the scholar is studying;
Leave not the bridegroom quiet – no happiness must he have now with his bride;
Nor the peaceful farmer any peace, ploughing his field, or gathering in his grain;
So fierce you whirr and pound you drums – so shrill you bugles blow.

Beat! beat! drums! – Blow! bugles! blow!
Over the traffic of cities – over the rumble of wheels in the streets:
Are beds prepared for the sleepers at night in the houses?
No sleepers must sleep in those beds;
No bargainers' bargains by day – no brokers or speculators – would they continue?
Would the talkers be talking? Would the singer attempt to sing?
Then rattle quicker, heavier drums – you bugles wilder blow.

Beat! beat! drums! – Blow! bugles! blow!
Make no parley – stop for no expostulation,
Mind not the timid – mind not the weeper or prayer;
Mind not the old man beseeching the young man;
Let not the child's voice be heard, nor the mother's entreaties;
Make even the trestles to shake the dead where they lie awaiting the hearses,
So strong you thump O terrible drums – so loud you bugles blow.

- Walt Whitman (1819–1892)

[3] III Reconciliation (Allegro moderato)

Word over all, beautiful as the sky,
Beautiful that war and all its deeds of carnage must in time be utterly
lost, That the hands of the sisters Death and Night incessantly, softly,
wash again and ever again this soiled world;
For my enemy is dead, a man divine as myself is dead,
I look where he lies white-faced and still in the coffin I draw near,
Bend down and touch lightly with my lips the white face in the coffin.

- Walt Whitman (1819–1892)

[4] IV Dirge for Two Veterans (Moderato alla marcia)

The last sunbeam
Lightly falls from the finished Sabbath,
On the pavement here, and there beyond it is looking
Down a new-made double grave.

Lo, the moon ascending,
Up from the east the silvery round moon,
Beautiful over the house-tops, ghastly, phantom moon,
Immense and silent moon.

I see a sad procession,
And I hear the sound of coming full-keyed bugles,
All the channels of the city streets they're flooding
As with voices and with tears.

I hear the great drums pounding,
And the small drums steady whirring,
And every blow of the great convulsive drums
Strikes me through and through.
For the son is brought with the father,
In the foremost ranks of the fierce assault they fell,
Two veterans, son and father, dropped together,
And the double grave awaits them.

Now nearer blow the bugles,
And the drums strike more convulsive,
And the daylight o'er the pavement quite has faded,
And the strong dead-march enwraps me.

In the eastern sky up-buoying,
The sorrowful vast phantom moves illumined,
'Tis some mother's large transparent face,
In heaven brighter growing.

O strong dead-march you please me!
O moon immense with your silvery face you soothe me!
O my soldiers twain! O my veterans passing to burial!
What I have I also give you.

The moon gives you light,
And the bugles and the drums give you music,
And my heart, O my soldiers, my veterans,
My heart gives you love.

- *Walt Whitman (1819–1892)*

[5] V The Angel of Death has been abroad

The Angel of Death has been abroad throughout the land; you may almost hear the beating of his wings. There is no one as of old . . . to sprinkle with blood the lintel and the two side-posts of our doors, that he may spare and pass on.

- *John Bright (1811–1889)*

Dona nobis pacem.

(TRANSLATION: Grant us peace)

We looked for peace, but no good came; and for a time of health, and behold trouble! The snorting of his horses was heard from Dan; the whole land trembled at the sound of the neighing of his strong ones; for they are come, and have devoured the land...and those that dwell therein...

The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved... Is there no balm in Gilead?; is there no physician there? Why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?

- *Jeremiah 8: 15-16, 20, 22*

[6] O man greatly beloved, fear not, peace be unto thee, be strong, yea be strong.

- *Daniel 10: 19*

The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former ... and in this place will I give peace.

- *Haggai 2: 9*

Nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

- *Isaiah 2: 4*

And none shall make them afraid,...neither shall the sword go through their land.

- *Leviticus, 26: 6*

Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

- *Psalms 85: 10*

Open to me the gates of righteousness, I will go into them.

- *Psalms 118: 19*

Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled; ... and let them hear, and say, it is the truth.

- *Isaiah 43: 9*

And it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and see my glory. And I will set a sign among them ... and they shall declare my glory among the nations. For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, so shall your seed and your name remain forever.

- *Isaiah 66: 18-19, 22*

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

- *Luke 2: 14*

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SANCTA CIVITAS

(An Oratorio for Baritone and Tenor Soli, Chorus, Semi-chorus, Distant Chorus and Orchestra)

[7] I was in the Spirit, and I heard a great voice of much people praising God and saying 'Alleluia'. Salvation and glory, honour and power unto the Lord our God. Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. Alleluia, Amen. And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters saying, 'Alleluia'. For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her it was given that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white. Blessed are they that are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

[8] And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat thereon was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no one knew, but he himself. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a two-edged sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And on his vesture and on his thigh there was a name written, 'King of Kings and Lord of Lords'.

[9] And I saw an Angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, 'Come, gather yourselves together'. And the kings of the earth and their armies were gathered together to make war against him that sat upon the horse, and against his army, and were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

[10] Babylon the great is fallen. Alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour is thy judgement come. The kings of the earth shall bewail her and lament over her. And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her. And the fruits thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all. Babylon the great is fallen. Alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and precious stones. What city is like unto this great city! Alas, for in one hour art thou made desolate.

[11] Rejoice over her, O heavens; for God hath avenged you on her. And a mighty angel took up a millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, 'Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.' And the voice of the harpers shall be heard no more at all in thee. And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee. Babylon the great is fallen.

[12] And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first earth and the first heaven were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I saw the holy city coming down from heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband, having the Glory of God. And her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; and had twelve gates, and on the gates twelve angels, and the twelve gates were twelve pearls; and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass. And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty is the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither the moon, to lighten her: for the glory of God did lighten her. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and the honour of the nations into it.

[13] Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; for he that sitteth on the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters.

[14] And I saw a pure river of the water of life, and on either side of the river was there the tree of life: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads, and there shall be no night there; and they shall need no candle, for the Lord God shall give them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

[15] Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty.

[16] Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee O Lord most High. Behold, I come quickly, I am the bright and the morning star. Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord.

*- Book of Revelations with additions
from Taverner's Bible (1539)
and other sources.*