

In loving memory of August M. Scattini

IN PACE

from 'Sempiterna'

for a cappella mixed chorus with divisi

(2008)

by
Jeffrey Parola

In pace

(text and translation)

3. In pace (Ps. 4:9, 132:4)

In pace in idipsum,
dormiam et requiescam.
Si dederō somnum oculis meis,
et palpebris meis dormitationem,
dormiam et requiescam.

*In peace, in true peace,
I shall sleep and rest.
If I give slumber to my eyes,
and to my eyelids drowsiness,
I shall sleep and rest.*

Composer's Note:

"In pace" is the third and final movement of a larger work, called *Sempiterna*. *Sempiterna* strives to be a meditation on passing from temporal to eternal life. Each of the three movements depicts a specific stage of the transition: the throes of death, the willful resignation of the soul to the trust of the Creator, and the soul in a state of never-ending serenity and peace. In relationship to the other movements, "In pace" acts as freedom from physical and spiritual agony expressed in the first movement, and as release of tension and fear as conveyed in the second.

While thinking of ways to capture the essence of true peace in "In pace," an image of a mother (the Creator) cradling her newborn child (the soul) came to mind, which served as fodder for compositional material. The opening soprano and alto lines set in motion a rocking gesture, while the tenors sing a simple, lullaby-like melody, which mirrors the image of a mother rocking and softly singing her child to sleep. The basses complement the rocking gesture set by the sopranos and altos.

The entire choral texture arrives at the words, "dormiam et requiescam," which marks the moment when the child begins to nod off and reluctantly sink into sleep. At "Si dederō..." the child struggles to stay awake, and the music races a bit, only to return to "dormiam et requiescam," as the child is drawn closer and closer to sleep. Eventually, the tender lullaby succeeds, and the soul is slowly rocked to an eternal slumber in the arms of the Creator.

Sempiterna is dedicated to my grandfather, August M. Scattini, who passed away 18 August 2007.

Thank you:

Grandpa Augie, Grandma Josie, Mom, David Macias, Mrs. Holly, David Conte, Vance George, Sam Smith, Robin Estrada, Schola Cantorum San Francisco, Ateneo Chamber Singers, and San Francisco State Chamber Singers.

- Jeffrey Parola

For more information about performing/purchasing this work or others by Jeffrey Parola, please visit www.parola.org, or e-mail jeffrey@parola.org.

3. In pace

Psalm 4:9, 132:4

Jeffrey Parola (b. 1979)

Slow, calm and sustained (♩ = ca. 76)

p *p* *sim.*

Soprano
In pa - ce in id ip - sum, in pa - ce

Alto
In pa - ce in id ip - sum, in pa - ce

Tenor

Bass

Keyboard (rehearsal only)

10

S.
in id ip - sum, in pa - ce in id ip - sum, in pa - ce

A.
in id ip - sum, in pa - ce in id ip - sum, in pa - ce

T.
mf
In pa - ce in id ip - sum, dor - mi - am et

B.

Kbd.