

Epitaph
(2015)

for Chorus
(SSAATTBB)

by

Sean Osborn

poem by

Merrit Malloy

Epitaph

By Merrit Malloy

When I die
Give what's left of me away
To children
And old me that wait to die.

And if you need to cry,
Cry for your brother
Walking the street beside you.
And when you need me,
Put your arms
Around anyone
And give them
What you need to give to me.

I want to leave you something,
Something better
Than words
Or sounds.

Look for me
In the people I've known
Or loved,
And if you cannot give me away,
At least let me live on in your eyes
And not your mind.

You can love me most
By letting
Hands touch hands,
By letting bodies touch bodies,
And by letting go
Of children
That need to be free.

Love doesn't die,
People do.
So, when all that's left of me
Is love,
Give me away.

Ranges

Soprano I D4-A5
Soprano II B3-F#5

Alto I B3-D5
Alto II G3-B4

Tenor I D3-G4
Tenor II C#3-D#4

Bass I A2-C#4
Bass II D2-G#3

Epitaph

Merrit Malloy

Sean Osborn

Slowly

for SSAATTBB choir

(2015)

Sopranos

Musical notation for Sopranos. The score consists of two staves. The first staff has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a whole note in the second measure, and then rests in the third and fourth measures. The second staff has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a whole note in the second measure, and then rests in the third and fourth measures. A first ending bracket labeled '1' spans the first two measures of both staves. The lyrics 'mf When I' are written below the second measure of the second staff.

Altos

Musical notation for Altos. The score consists of two staves. The first staff has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a whole note in the second measure, and then rests in the third and fourth measures. The second staff has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a whole note in the second measure, and then rests in the third and fourth measures. A first ending bracket labeled '1' spans the first two measures of both staves. The lyrics 'mp When I die' are written below the second measure of the second staff, and 'cresc. I die' are written below the fourth measure of the second staff.

Tenors

Musical notation for Tenors. The score consists of two staves. The first staff has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a whole note in the second measure, and then rests in the third and fourth measures. The second staff has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a whole note in the second measure, and then rests in the third and fourth measures. A first ending bracket labeled '1' spans the first two measures of both staves. The lyrics 'p When I die' are written below the second measure of the first staff, 'mp When I die' below the second measure of the second staff, and 'cresc. When I die' below the fourth measure of the second staff.

Basses

Musical notation for Basses. The score consists of two staves. The first staff has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a whole note in the second measure, and then rests in the third and fourth measures. The second staff has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a whole note in the second measure, and then rests in the third and fourth measures. A first ending bracket labeled '1' spans the first two measures of both staves. The lyrics 'p When I die' are written below the second measure of the first staff, 'mp When I die' below the second measure of the second staff, and 'cresc. When I die' below the fourth measure of the second staff.

Piano
(rehearsal
only)

Musical notation for Piano. The score consists of two staves. The first staff has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a whole note in the second measure, and then rests in the third and fourth measures. The second staff has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a whole note in the second measure, and then rests in the third and fourth measures. A first ending bracket labeled '1' spans the first two measures of both staves. The lyrics 'p' are written below the second measure of the first staff, 'mp' below the second measure of the second staff, and 'mf' below the fourth measure of the second staff.

half spoken, and slightly breathy

p
Give

die— a - way

p
What's left of me to Child - ren—

p
a - way When I

mp
and old men—

die— When I die

p
When I die

p
When I die—

p *mp*

Slightly more moving

13 *p* When I die When I die

13 *p* When I die

13 *p* die When I die When I die

8 - that wait to *p* die *mp* And if you

13 - When I die

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of a musical score. It features four vocal staves and two piano staves. The vocal parts are in treble clef, and the piano parts are in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into four measures. The first measure is mostly rests. The second measure begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and the lyrics 'When I die'. The third measure continues with 'When I die'. The fourth measure concludes with 'die' and 'And if you' in mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamics. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and melodic lines that support the vocal parts.

Slightly more moving

13 *p* *p* *mp*

Detailed description: This block contains the piano accompaniment for the second system of the score, corresponding to measures 13-16. It features two staves in bass clef. The key signature has one flat, and the time signature is 4/4. The piano part begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes a crescendo hairpin. The dynamics change to piano (*p*) in the second measure and mezzo-piano (*mp*) in the fourth measure. The accompaniment consists of chords and melodic lines that support the vocal parts.

13

When I die. When I

19 When I die. When I die.

When I die. When I die.

19 When I die

need to cry cry for your brother. Walk-ing the street be-side you

19

When I die When I

19 *p* When I die When I

When I die When I

19

die
When I die

24 When I die When I die When I

24 mp When And give them -

8 And when you need me Put your arms A-round an-y-one

24 mp And when you need me Put your amrs A-round an-y-one

24 die When I When I die

24 mp mf mp

Again slightly
more moving

When I die _____
to give - to me

die When I die _____
to give - to me

to give to me.
to give to me

When I die _____
to give to me. When I die

What you need _____
to give to me. When

What you need _____
to me.

pp p cresc.

29

Musical score for a vocal and piano piece. The score consists of several staves. The top staff is the vocal line, and the bottom staff is the piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Or sounds. look for me. Some-thing bet-ter Than words Or sounds. Look for me. When I die bet-ter Than words Or sounds. Look look for me. leave you some-thing, Some-thing bet-ter Than words Or sounds. Look When I". The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp*, *mf*, *f*, and *p*, as well as a *cresc.* marking. The tempo is marked with a common time signature (C). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines, and the time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4.

mf *mp* *mf* *f* *p*
 - In the peo-ple I've known Or loved,

39 *mf* *mp* *mf* *f* *p*
 - In peo-ple I've known Or loved,

mf *mp* *mf* *f* *p*
 - In the peo-ple I've known Or loved,

39 *mf* *mp* *mf* *f* *p*
mf die When I die Or loved, And if you can-not give me a -

mf *mp* *mf* *f* *p*
 me When I die Or loved, And if you can-not give me a -

39 *mf* *mf* *f* *p*
 - When I die loved, When I

mf *mf* *f* *p*
 When I die When I die loved, When I

39 *mf* *f* *p*
 When I die When I loved,

mf *mp* *mf* *f* *p*

39

50 *mp* You can love You can

p When I— die— love— *mp* You can

50 die When I die— love—

— When I— die

8 *p* When I die *mp* You can love When I— die—

50 I die When I die When I— die—

p When I die When I die love—

50 *p* When I die love—

50 *mp* *p* *mp*

love me most By let-ting hands touch hands. By let-ting bo-dies touch bo-dies, *mf* *ten.*

55 love me most By let-ting hands touch hands, By let-ting bo-dies touch bo-dies, *mf* *ten.*

mp love let-ting hands touch hands, bo-dies touch bo-dies, *mf* *ten.*

55 *mp* love let-ting hands touch hands, By let-ting bo-dies touch bo-dies, *mf* *ten.*

8 love bo-dies touch bo-dies, *mf* *ten.*

55 *mp* When I die bo-dies touch bo-dies, *mf* *ten.*

mp bo-dies touch bo-dies, *mf* *ten.*

55 *mp* When I die bo-dies touch bo-dies, *mf* *ten.*

55 *mf* *ten.*

Slightly slower

mf
Child-ren love.

mp
love.

mp
love.

f
When I die.

f
When I die.

60

p
And by let-ting

mf
Of child-ren

mf
That need to be free.

mf
need to be free.

60

mp
When I die. When I die.

mp
be free.

p
Go

mp
free.

60

Slightly slower

p

mp

mf

mf

f

60

Again faster

Musical score for a vocal ensemble, consisting of six systems of staves. Each system includes vocal parts and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Love When I die Love doe-sn't die Love", "Love When I die When I die When I die Love", "When I die Love", "When I die Love", "When I die Love", "When I die Love". Dynamics include *f*, *mf*, and *cresc.*. The tempo marking "Again faster" is present at the beginning of the first system.

Again faster

Piano accompaniment for the "Again faster" section, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef). The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes. Dynamics include *mf* and *cresc.*. The tempo marking "Again faster" is present at the beginning of the section.

push the tempo

- doe - sn't die When I die Love. doe - sn't die doe - sn't die doe - sn't

- doe - sn't die When I die doe - sn't When I die doe - sn't die

When I die When I die Love Love When I die

When I die Love Love Love Love

When I die Love Love Love Love

die Love When i die When I die Love

Love When I When I die doe - sn't

die Love Love When I When I die

- When I die When Love doe - sn't

push the tempo

- When I die When Love doe - sn't

71

Tempo I

die doe-sn't die. doe-sn't die doe-sn't die doe-sn't

ff When I die!

75 doe-sn't doe-sn't die. doe-sn't die doe-sn't die doe-sn't

ff When I die!

When I die When I die Love Love

ff When I die!

resigned

75 - Love When I die Love Love

ff When I die!

p People do,

- Love When I die Love Love

ff When I die!

8 - Love Love When I die

ff When I die!

75 die When I die Love When I die

ff When I die!

When I die doe-sn't die I die When I die When I

ff When I die!

75 die doe-sn't die Doe-sn't die When I

ff When I die!

Tempo I

resigned

75 die doe-sn't die Doe-sn't die When I

ff When I die!

75 die doe-sn't die Doe-sn't die When I

ff When I die!

ff When I die!

p

ff When I die!

rit.

80 *p* > *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*
 So, — when all that's left of me — Is love Give me a — way —
ten. So, — when all that's left of me — Give — way —
 80 *pp* Is —

ten. *pp*
 When I die — Is —
 80 *p* > *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*
 So, — when all that's left of me — Is — Give — When I
 80 *pp* When I

ten. *rit.* *moving*
pp *ten.* *p* *pp* *pp*
 80

poco rit. al fine

pp
When I die When I die When I die

87

pp
When I die When I die When I die

87

pp
When I die When I die When I die When I die When I die Love

87

die

pp
Love

87

die

poco rit. al fine

87

87