

Voice of the Martyrs #6 1973

music by Maxwell Steer 24/9/73

words translated from the Rumanian of David Klassen

Originally conceived for Radio, the piece was intended to be preceded by a radiophonic sequence:

We are walking down a street; we hear bright jazz or peasant music in a café some way ahead, laughter, the sound of glasses. We pause outside the café, surveying the thoughtless gaiety, then we walk on down the deserted street. A couple of lovers emerge from the café and overtake us, preoccupied with each other. As they fade into the night, a lone car passes. Then we catch the sound of a prayer meeting. We approach a half-opened door, and slide into the packed room.

The voices may be doubled by an organ, in which case the pedals should be used. The basses may sing 8va if they wish.

System 1:

T: *mf*
B: *mp* *mf*

At mid- night I bowed my knee be- fore God &

System 2:

T: *poco animando e cresc*
B: *poco animando e cresc*

thanked him for all his gra- ces whichhe has

thanked him for all his gra- ces whichhe has

System 3:

T: *f*
B: *f*

shown us. He has for- giv- en all our

shown us. He has for, He

IO

Wm

For- give us

T

sins, *ff* pla- ces us on the way of

B

has for- giv- en, He

13

Wm

O show us what com- fort,

T

truth. He comforts us in our mis-er- y.

B

guides us, He strength- ens,

16

Wm

ff thank you Lord. *p mf* We will pray for the cleans- ing

T

fff in our suff- ring, in our sep- ar- a- tion. *mf* We will pray for the cleans- ing

B

ff Thank you Lord. *pmf* We will pray for the cleans- ing

$\text{♩} = 73$ $\text{♩} = 146$

Intently

$\text{♩} = 62$ $\text{♩} = 124$ $\text{♩} = 73$ $\text{♩} = 146$

Wm
 20 of the church of Christ that she may bring more fruit. We will

T
 20 of the church of Christ that she may bring more fruit. We will

B
 20 of the church of Christ that she may bring more fruit. We will

Wm
 24 pray for themi- ni- sters, for youth, for the pri- son- ers &

T
 24 pray for themi- ni- sters, for youth, for the pri- son- ers &

B
 24 pray for themi- ni- sters, for youth, for the pri- son- ers &

$\text{♩} = 51$ $\text{♩} = 153$ *Slow one in a bar, almost dan*

Wm
 27 their fa- mi- lies, for our count- ry and its gov- ern- ment. Don't weep

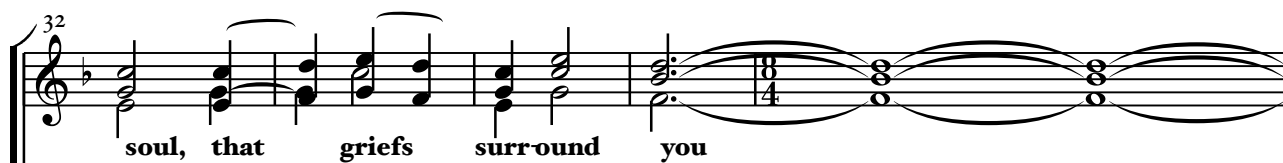
T
 27 their fa- mi- lies, for our count- ry and its gov- ern- ment.

B
 27 their fa- mi- lies, for our count- ry and its gov- ern- ment.

Solo



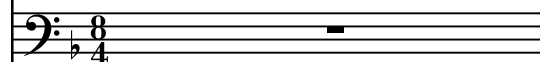
Wm



T



B



Solo



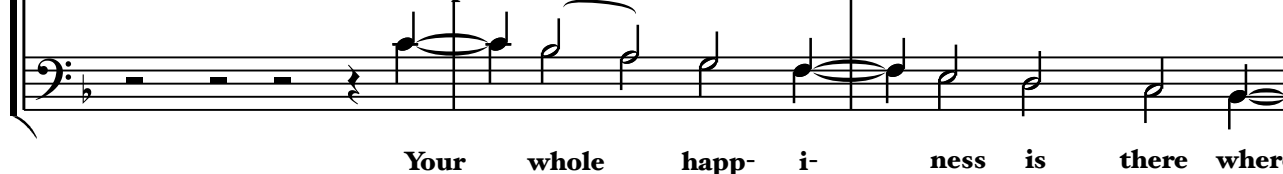
Wm



T



B



40

Solo

is there where saints who fin- ish'd their course

Wm

saints who fin- ish- their course

T

weep
1: fin- 2: peace- full- y sleep
3: saints who fin- ish'd their course

B

saints who 1/2: fin- 3: sleep ish'd their course sleep

42

Solo

sleep peace- full- y.

Wm

sleep peace- full- y.

T

peace- full- y.

B

peace- full- y.

soul.

Yes,

$\text{half note} = 54$ $\text{quarter note} = 107$

45

B

I was ob- liged to go this way. There is no oth- er way

48

T

And if some- one wish- es to be

B

for me as a min- i- ster; And God's thoughts

animando e cresc

51
T a min- i- ster, he must know be- fore- hand, that when Isr- ael ent- ered
B are not our thoughts, neith-

54
Wm God's thoughts are not
T in- to the Hol- y Land, cross- ing the Jord-
B er his ways

57
Wm our thoughts, neith- er his ways our ways.
T an, the priests entered first in the dang' rous wat- er
B our ways.

60
Wm *Sub p*
T *dim* and were *Molto Rit*
B *sub p* were the last to leave it.

David Klassen was (is?) a Mennonite minister. He wrote these words in 1973 during detention in a lunatic asylum.
Two years later, while he was still in detention he was ransomed by some West German Christians for \$26,000,
but had become so ill as a result of his 'treatment' that he could no longer walk.