Matt Geer

Pietà pyramid

for baritone and organ 2020

Programme note

Pietà pyramid is a musical funeral monument for the dying body of Jesus Christ lying on the Blessed Virgin Mary's lap. In sculpture, this scene is represented as a pyramid shape, known as a pietà, where the BVM's head is the highest tip of the sculpture. The text is taken from extracts of the Edward Caswall translation of the Stabat Mater.

Let me share with thee His pain, who for all my sins was slain, who for me in torments died.

Let me mingle tears with thee, mourning Him who mourned for me, all the days that I may live:

Let me, to my latest breath, in my body bear the death of that dying Son of thine.

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Duration c. 10'

Performance instructions:

- The placement of performance techniques (staccati, tenuti) are process-led and may seem counterintuitive. However, the singer is welcome to find their own balance between liguistic stress and notated technique.
- The choice of organ stops is up to the performer, but the dynamics should remain *piano* throughout for both the organist and singer.

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