

*Michael Käppler und der Singakademie Dresden gewidmet/  
Dedicated to Michael Käppler and the Singakademie Dresden*

Franz Kaern-Biederstedt

(\*1973)

# **A Song for Simeon**

Für Bariton-Solo, gemischten Chor und Harfe/  
For solo baritone, mixed choir and harp

(2021)

Text/Poem:

Thomas Stearns Eliot

Partitur mit originaler Harfenpedalisierung/  
Score with original harp pedalization

Aufführungsdauer/  
Duration of performance:  
ca./approx. 17 min.

## Thomas Stearns Eliot - A Song for Simeon

(Aus den/From the *Ariel Poems* 1927-1930. Mit freundlicher Genehmigung des Faber&Faber Verlags London/By kind permission of Faber&Faber Publishers London)

Lord, the Roman hyacinths are blooming in bowls and  
The winter sun creeps by the snow hills;  
The stubborn season has made stand.  
My life is light, waiting for the death wind,  
Like a feather on the back of my hand.  
Dust in sunlight and memory in corners  
Wait for the wind that chills towards the dead land.

Grant us thy peace.  
I have walked many years in this city,  
Kept faith and fast, provided for the poor,  
Have taken and given honour and ease.  
There went never any rejected from my door.

Who shall remember my house,  
where shall live my children's children  
When the time of sorrow is come?  
They will take to the goat's path, and the fox's home,  
Fleeing from the foreign faces and the foreign swords.

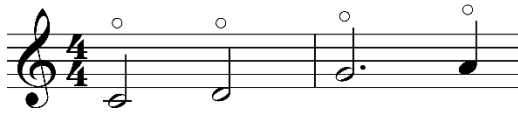
Before the time of cords and scourges and lamentation  
Grant us thy peace.  
Before the stations of the mountain of desolation,  
Before the certain hour of maternal sorrow,  
Now at this birth season of decease,  
Let the Infant, the still unspeaking and unspoken Word,  
Grant Israel's consolation  
To one who has eighty years and no to-morrow.

According to thy word,  
They shall praise Thee and suffer in every generation  
With glory and derision,  
Light upon light, mounting the saints' stair.  
Not for me the martyrdom, the ecstasy of thought and prayer,  
Not for me the ultimate vision.  
Grant me thy peace.

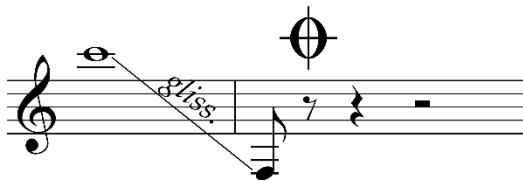
(And a sword shall pierce thy heart,  
Thine also).

I am tired with my own life and the lives of those after me,  
I am dying in my own death and the deaths of those after me.  
Let thy servant depart,  
Having seen thy salvation.

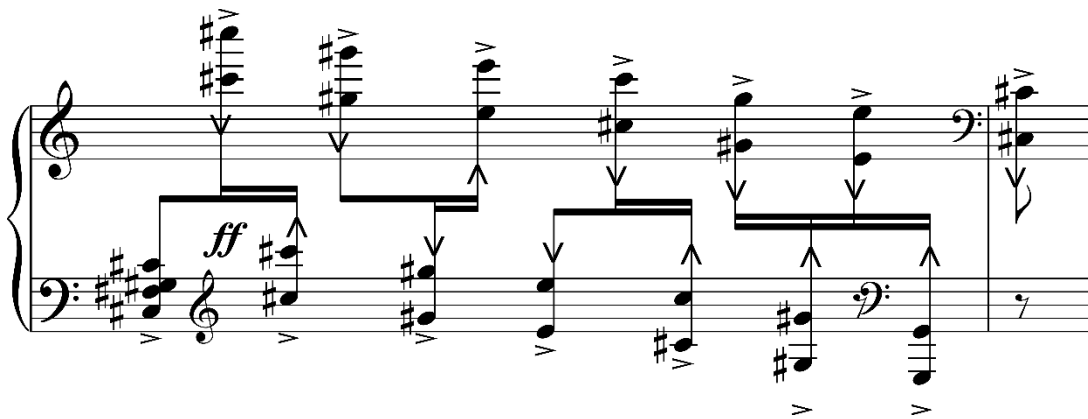
## Zeichenerklärungen für die Harfe:



Flageolet – klingt eine Oktave höher



Schnelles Abdämpfen aller Saiten nach einem Glissando



Accords en jet (nach Carlos Salzedo): sehr schnelle und brüske Glissandi zwischen den beiden angegebenen Tonhöhen; die Pfeile markieren die Bewegungsrichtung der Glissandi (abwärts mit dem Daumen, aufwärts mit dem 3. Finger).

l.v. (lascia vibrare): Die Saite(n) ausklingen lassen, nicht abdämpfen.

p.d.l.t. (près de la table): Die Saiten werden nahe am Resonanzkasten gezupft.

non arp. (non arpeggio, plaqué): Ein Akkord wird nicht arpeggiert, also gebrochen, sondern simultan angerissen.

## Zeichenerklärungen für den Chor:



Der Chor singt ohne festgelegten Rhythmus, alle Sänger\_innen der jeweiligen Stimmen mit individuellem Tempo.

oa = offenes o

oh = geschlossenes o

oh \_\_\_\_\_ [mm] \_\_\_\_\_ ah:

Vom Vokal aus langsam den Mund zum m schließen oder vom m aus langsam den Mund zum Vokal öffnen. Dies geschieht nicht mit allen Sänger\_innen auf einmal, sondern graduell und durch alle beteiligten Sänger\_innen im individuellen Tempo innerhalb des angegebenen Zeitraums.



**a tempo** ♩ = 45

S. *p* uh (synchron)

A. *p* uh (synchron)

Hfe. *p*

(individuell beschleunigen oder ritardieren, auf oberem oder unterem Ton des Pendels stehen bleiben)

**accel.** . . . . .

12

S. (chorisch nachatmen)

A. (chorisch nachatmen)

Hfe. *mp*

rit.

a tempo

3

♩ = 45

S.

A.

Hfe.

Mit nostalgischer Wehmut

S. 
  
Lord, the Ro - man hy - a - cinths\_ are bloo -

A. 
  
the hy - a - - cinths

T. 
  
oh

B. 
  
oh

Hfe.

20

S. *mf*  
 3 - - - - - ming in bowls

A. *mf*  
 are bloo - - - - - ming in bowls

T. *p* (kopfig) *p*  
 uh mm

B. *p* *mf*  
 uh oa

Hfe. *accel. il gliss.*  
*gliss.* *gliss.*

22

S. *portamento*

A. *portamento*  
 (etwas Brustresonanz dazu)

T. *mf* *p*  
 (allmählich zu oh öffnen, individuell) [oh]

B. *portamento*

Hfe. *mf*  
 3 3 3 3



25

S. *p* ah

A.

T. *mp* and the

B. *pp* and the *mp*

Hfe.

27

S. *p* oh

A. *p* ah *mp* oh

T. *mfp* win-ter sun creeps by the snow hills;

B. win-ter sun creeps by the snow

Hfe.

accel. il gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

29 *mf* portamento portamento

S. the stub-born sea - son

A. the stub-born sea - son

T. the stub-born sea - son has made, has

B. hills; the stub-born sea - son has made,

Hfe. *mp* gliss.

32 *p* *pp*

S. has made... ah

A. has made... ah

T. made... ah

B. has made stand.

Hfe. *pp* *p* *mp* l.v.

34 7

S. *mf* *pp*  
oh mm

A. *mf* *pp*  
oh mm

T.

Hfe. *f* *mf*  
*non arp.*

**Gütig**

36 *molto legato* *mp* *p* (fast geflüstert/almost whispered)

Bar. Solo  
My life is\_\_ light, wait-ing\_ for the death wind.\_\_\_\_

S. *p* *pp*  
uh mm\_\_ uh mm

A. *p* *pp*  
uh mm\_\_ uh mm mm

Hfe. *mp* *p* *mp*  
D<sub>4</sub> l.v.

Bar. Solo

*mp*

like a fea-ther on the back of my hand.

S.

*ppp*

*ppp*

*p*

*p*

*ppp*

*pp*

*ppp*

*non arp.*

A.

*ppp*

*p*

*p*

*ppp*

*pp*

*ppp*

T.

uh

B.

mm

Hfe.

[Sopran und Alt:  
schnell zu 'm' schließen]

S.

Dust in sun-light...

mem-o-ry

A.

Dust in sun-light...

mem-o-ry

T.

...and mem-o-ry in cor-ners

B.

...mem-o-ry in cor-ners

Hfe.

*pp*

*mp*

*l.v.*

*mf*

*p*

*p*

47

S. *p > pp*  
wait for the wind that chills towards the dead

A. *p > pp*  
wait for the wind that chills towards the dead

T. *ppp* *p > pp*  
wait for the wind that chills towards the dead

B. *ppp* *p > pp*  
wait for the wind that chills towards the dead

Hfe. *mp* *p* *pp*  
*p* l.v.

Mit dringlicher Bitte

♩ = 55

50

S. land.

A. land.

T. land.

B. land. *mp* Grant us thy

Hfe. *bisbigliando rit. e morendo (unregelmäßig) il bisbigliando* *mf*  
*bisbigliando* l.v.

53

S. *mp* *3* *3* Grant us thy peace.

A. *mp* *p* Grant us thy peace.

T. *mp* *molto legato* *p* Grant us thy peace. uh

B. *p* peace.

Hfe. *mp* *mf* *3* *3* *l.v.*

56

S. *fp* Grant us thy

A. *mf* *3* *3* *fp* Grant us thy peace.

T. *mf* *3* Grant us thy peace.

B. *mp* *mf* uh

Hfe. *f* *3* *3* *l.v.* *l.v.*

58 *steigernd/intensified* , *f*

S. peace, thy peace, thy peace.

A. *mf* ...thy peace.

T. *mp* uh *mf* ...thy *f*

B.

Hfe. *f* *gliss.*

Mit Selbstgewissheit und Würde

♩ = 60

61 *f*

A.

T. *f* peace.

B. *f* ...thy peace.

Hfe. *ff* *sempre non arp.*

64

Hfe.

68

Bar. Solo

*mf*

I have walked ma-ny

Hfe.

*mf*

72

Bar. Solo

years in this ci - ty, kept faith and

Hfe.

75

Bar. Solo

fast, pro - vi - ded for the poor,

Hfe.



78

Bar. Solo

have ta-ken and gi-ven ho - nour and ease.

Hfe.

*pp* *[pp]*

*pp* *mp*

deutlich/marked

81

Bar. Solo

There went ne - ver an - y re -

Hfe.

*pp* *mp*

l.v.

83

Bar. Solo

jec - ted from my door.

Hfe.

*pp* *mf*

l.v.

85

Hfe.

**Etwas nachdenklicher**

89 *poco rit.* ♩ = 56 *p*

Bar. Solo

Who shall re - mem - ber my house,

Hfe.

*pp* *arp.* *non arp.!* *pp*

91

Bar. Solo

Where shall live

Hfe.

*[pp]* *mp* *pp*

*deutlich/marked*

93

Bar. Solo

my child - ren's child - ren when the time

Hfe.

*mp* *pp*

*weinend/weeping portamento*

95

Bar. Solo

of sor - row has come?

Hfe.

*pp*

accel. *sempre non arp.*

Hfe.

*mp* *pp*

Mit etwas Hektik

$\text{♩} = 70$

S. *mp*  
They will take to the goat's path,

A. *mp*  
They will take to the goat's path,

T. *mp*  
They will take to the goat's path,

Hfe. *mf*

S. *mf*  
and the fox' - s home,

A. *mf*  
and the fox' - s home,

T. *mf*  
and the fox' - s home,

Hfe. *f*

103 *f*

S. *f*  
Flee - ing from the for-eign fac - es and the for - eign

A. *f*  
Flee - ing from the for-eign fac - es and the for - eign

T. *f*  
Flee - ing from the for-eign fac - es and the for - eign

Hfe.

105

S. *f*  
swords.

A. *f*  
swords.

T. *f*  
swords.

Hfe.

107

S. *piú f* Be-fore the time of cords and scourg-es and la-ment-a - tion *mp*

A. *piú f* Be-fore the time of cords and scourg-es and la-ment-a - tion *mp*

T. *piú f* Be-fore the time of cords and scourg-es and la-ment-a - tion *mp*

B. *piú f* Be-fore the time of cords and scourg-es and la-ment-a - tion *mp*

Hfe. *sfz sfz ff mf*

Dringlicher und steigender als das erste Mal

109

S. *f*

A. *f*

T. *f* *mf* Grant us thy peace,

B. *f* *mf* Grant us thy peace.

Hfe. *f* *mf*

*gliss.*

*l.v.*

112

S. *mf* Grant us thy peace.

A. *mf* Grant us thy peace.

T. thy peace. oh

B.

Hfe.

*mf*

l.v.

114

S. *poco f* Grant us thy

A. *poco f* Grant us thy peace.

T. *poco f* Grant us thy peace.

B. oh

Hfe.

*poco f*

l.v.

116

*f*

S.

peace, thy peace, thy peace.

A.

Grant us

T.

oh

Grant us thy peace,

B.

Grant us thy peace, grant us thy peace.

Hfe.

118

*ff*

S.

Grant us thy peace.

A.

thy peace.

T.

grant us thy peace. Grant us thy peace.

B.

oh

Hfe.

*ff*

l.v.

120

*ff* 3

S. Grant us thy peace. Be - fore the

*ff* 3

A. Grant us thy peace. Be - fore the

T. Be - fore the

B. Be - fore the

Hfe.

122

3

S. sta - tions\_ of the moun - tain\_ of de - sol - a - tion,

3

A. sta - tions\_ of the moun - tain\_ of de - sol - a - tion,

3

T. sta - tions\_ of the moun - tain\_ of de - sol - a - tion,

3

B. sta - tions\_ of the moun - tain\_ of de - sol - a - tion,

Hfe.

A#

*gliss.*

*gliss.*

*gliss.*

*gliss.*



124

S. Be - fore the cer - tain hour\_ of ma - ter - nal sor - row,

A. Be - fore the cer - tain hour\_ of ma - ter - - nal sor - row,

T. Be - fore the cer - tain hour\_ of ma - ter - nal sor - row,

B. Be - fore the cer - tain hour\_ of ma - ter - - nal sor - row,

Hfe.

Noch drängender

126

S. ...at this

A. *f* *p* Now at this

T. *fp* Now

B. Now...

Hfe. *gliss.* *p.d.l.t.* *mp* *ord.* *mp*

128 *f*

S. birth sea - - - son of de -

A. birth sea - - - son of de -

T. at this birth sea - son of de -

B. at this sea - son of de -

Hfe. *f* ord. *gliss.* *gliss.*

130 *ff*

S. cease,

A. cease,

T. cease,

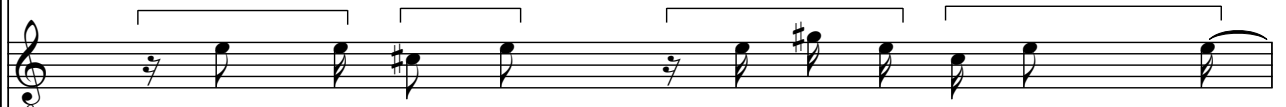
B. cease,

Hfe. *ff* (Accords en jet)

131

S.   
Let the In - fant, the still un - speak - ing and\_


A.   
Let the In - fant, the still un - speak - ing and\_


T.   
Let the In - fant, the still un - speak - ing and\_

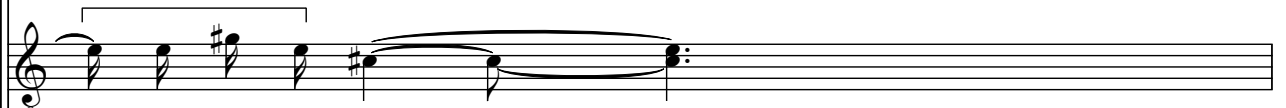
B.   
Let the In - fant, the still un - speak - ing and\_


Hfe. 

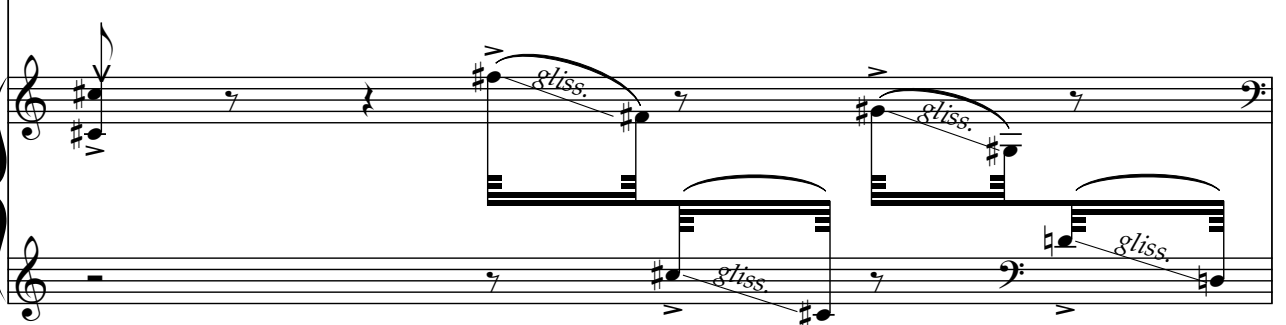
132

S.   
un - spok - en Word,

A.   
un - spok - en Word,

T.   
un - spok - en Word,

B.   
un - spok - en Word,

Hfe. 

Sehr nachdrücklich, steigend

133 ♩=66

S. *mf* Grant Is - ra -

A. *mf* Grant Is - ra - el's con - sol -

T. *mf* Grant Is - ra - el's con - sol - a - tion, —

B. *mf* Grant Is - ra - el's con - sol - a - - - tion, — con - sol -

Hfe. *mf*

rit. . . . . Zusammenfassend

135 ♩=64

S. *f* el's con - sol - a - tion — To one who — has eight-y years —

A. *f* a - - - tion — To one who — has eight-y years —

T. *f* con - sol - a - tion — To one who — has eight-y years —

B. *f* a - - - tion — To one who — has eight-y years —

Hfe. *ff* E#

rit.

Sehr entspannt

*pp*

♩ = 60

25

138

and no to - mor - row.

S.

and no to - mor - row.

A.

and no to - mor - row.

T.

and no to - mor - row.

B.

and no to - mor - row.

*sehr zart, fast unhörbar (very soft, almost inaudible)*

Hfe.

*ppppp* *mp*

*pp*  
l.v.

141

Hfe.

*gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.*

l.v. l.v.

144

Hfe.

*gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.*

l.v. l.v. l.v.

rit. . . . . Etwas zurückgehalten

♩ = 57 *legato*  
*mp*

147

A. *legato mp*  
Ac-cord-ing to thy word, \_\_\_\_\_

T. *legato mp*  
Ac-cord-ing to thy word, \_\_\_\_\_

Hfe. *mp*  
gliss. gliss.

149

S. *legato mp*  
Ac-cord-ing to thy word, \_\_\_\_\_ to thy word,

A. *legato mp*  
to thy word, \_\_\_\_\_ to thy word,

T. *legato mp*  
to thy word, \_\_\_\_\_ to thy

B. *legato mp*  
Ac - cord-ing to thy word, \_\_\_\_\_ to thy word, \_\_\_\_\_

Hfe. *mp*

Gelöster  
(gleicher Ton!)

151 *f* *mf* *mp*

S. They shall praise Thee and suf - fer in eve - ry gen - e -

A. They shall praise Thee and suf - fer in eve - ry gen - e -

T. word, They shall praise Thee and suf - fer in eve - ry gen - e -

B. They shall praise Thee and suf - fer in eve - ry gen - e -

Hfe. *mf* *f* *mf* *mp*

153 *p* *pp*

S. ra - tion With glo - ry and de -

A. ra - tion With glo - ry and de -

T. ra - tion With glo - ry and de -

B. ra - tion With glo - ry

Hfe. *p* *pp* non arp.

3

# Fließende Halbe

156

rit. . . . . ♩ = 68

*mf*

Bar. Solo

Not for me

S.

ris - ion, Light up

A.

ris - ion, Light up

T.

ris - ion, Light up

B.

and de - ris - ion, Light up

Hfe.

158

Bar. Solo

the mar - tyr - dom,

S.

on light,

A.

on light,

T.

on light,

B.

on light,

Hfe.



160 *mf* 29

Bar. Solo

the ec - - -

S. Light up - - -

A. Light up -

T. Light up -

B. Light up - - -

Hfe.

162 *f*

Bar. Solo

- sta - cy of thoughts and

S. on light,

A. on light,

T. on light,

B. on light,

Hfe.

Bar. Solo

prayer, mount - - - ing

mount - - - ing

mount - - - -

mount - - - -

Hfe.

Bar. Solo

*ff* Not for me - - -

*f* - - - ing the saints'

*f* the saints'

*f* - - - ing the saints'

*f* - - - ing the saints'

Hfe.



Zunehmend entspannt, voller Wärme und Dankbarkeit

32

171 ♩ = 58

Bar. Solo

*mf*  
Grant me thy peace,

S. *pp* (aber warm) *p*  
mm uh

A. *pp* (aber warm) *p*  
mm uh

T. *pp* (aber warm) *p*  
mm uh

B. *pp* (aber warm) *p*  
mm uh

Hfe. *p* l.v. *mp*  
l.v. *mp*

173

Bar. Solo

grant me thy peace,

S. *pp* *p*  
mm uh

A. *pp* *p*  
mm uh

T. *pp* *p*  
mm uh

B. *pp* *p*  
mm uh

Hfe. l.v. *mp*  
l.v. *mp*

175 33

Bar. Solo

grant me thy peace, grant me thy peace,

S. *pp*

A. *pp*

T. *pp*

B. *pp*

Hfe. *l.v.*

177

Bar. Solo

grant me thy peace, thy peace.

S. *pp* *ppp*

A. *pp* *ppp*

T. *pp* *ppp*

B. *pp* *ppp* *pppp*

Hfe.

Sehr eindringlich

180

Bar. Solo

S. *pp* (aber intensiv!)  
(And a sword \_\_\_\_\_ shall pierce thy\_

A. *pp* (aber intensiv!)  
(And a sword \_\_\_\_\_ shall pierce thy

T. *pp* (aber intensiv!)  
(And a sword shall

B. *pp* (aber intensiv!)  
(And a sword shall

Hfe. *sfz*  
D#

l.v.

184

S. *mp*  
heart, \_\_\_\_\_ And a sword \_\_\_\_\_ shall pierce thy\_

A. *mp*  
heart, \_\_\_\_\_ And a sword \_\_\_\_\_ shall pierce thy

T. *mp*  
pierce thy heart, \_\_\_\_\_ And a sword shall

B. *mp*  
pierce thy heart, \_\_\_\_\_ And a sword shall

187 *mf* *f* *pp*

S. heart, Thine also.)

A. heart, Thine also.)

T. pierce heart, Thine al - so.)

B. pierce thy heart, Thine al - so.)

**Erschöpft, aber gelöst**

191 ♩=50 *mezza voce, trance-like*  
*mp*

Bar. Solo I am ti - red with my own life

Hfe. *mp* *sempre non arp.*  
E<sub>b</sub> E<sub>#</sub> E<sub>b</sub> F<sub>b</sub> F<sub>#</sub> F<sub>b</sub>

NB: Die Alterationen der Harfe ab hier immer als Pedal-Glissando.

193 (gleicher Ton!)

Bar. Solo and the lives of those af - ter me,

Hfe. B<sub>b</sub> B<sub>#</sub> B<sub>b</sub> C<sub>b</sub> C<sub>#</sub> C<sub>b</sub>

195

Bar. Solo

I am dy- ing... I am dy -

*portamento*

Hfe.

A $\flat$  A $\sharp$  A $\flat$  D $\flat$  D $\sharp$  D $\flat$

197

Bar. Solo

-ing in my own death

Hfe.

G $\flat$  G $\sharp$  G $\flat$  D $\flat$  A $\flat$  C $\flat$  E $\flat$

200

Bar. Solo

and the deaths of those af - ter me.

*portamento*

Hfe.

F $\flat$  F $\sharp$  F $\flat$  B $\flat$  B $\sharp$  B $\flat$



202 *dying away*

Bar. Solo

Hfe.

*non gliss.!*

G $\flat$  G $\natural$  G $\flat$  G $\natural$  G $\flat$  G $\natural$  G $\flat$  G $\natural$  G $\flat$

204

A.

*pp*

Let

Hfe.

**Verklärt, völlig entspannt**

205

S. *pp*

Let thy

A.

thy

T. *pp*

Let thy

B. *pp*

Let thy

Hfe. *ppp*

6 etc.

206

S. ser - - - - -

A. ser - - - - - vant

T. ser - - - - -

B. ser - - - - - vant

Hfe.

207

S. - - - - - vant

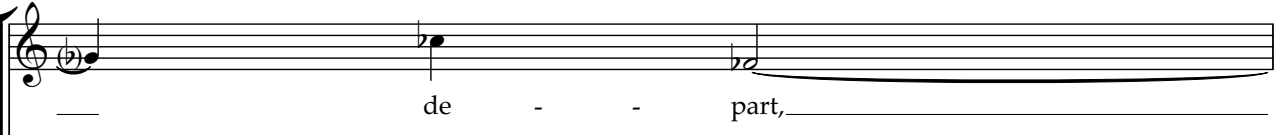
A. - - - - -

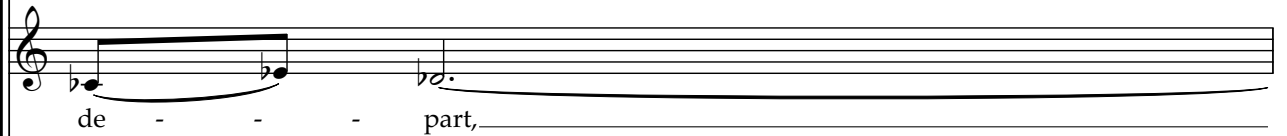
T. - - - - - vant

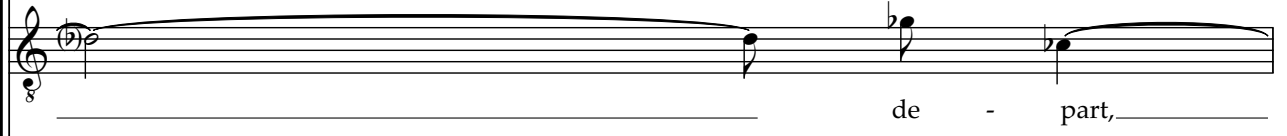
B. - - - - - de -

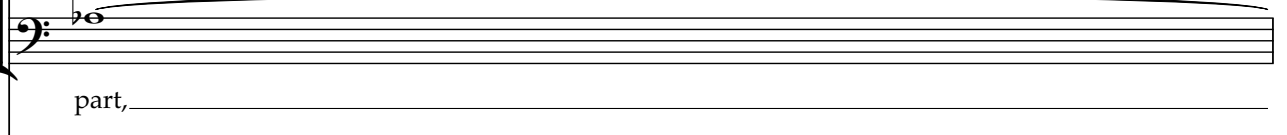
Hfe.

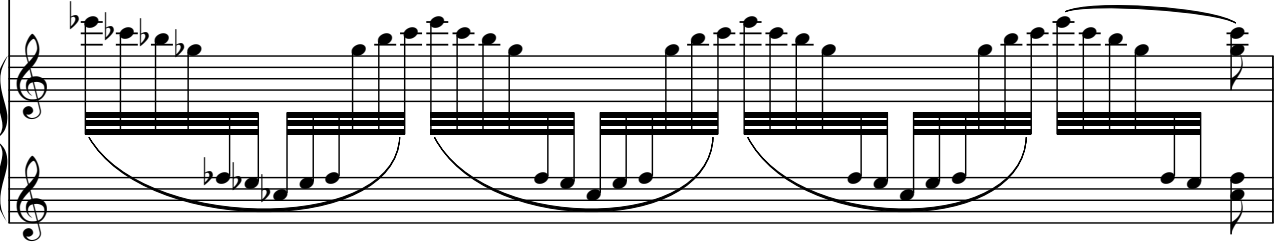
208

S.   
de - - part,


A.   
de - - part,


T.   
de - part,


B.   
part,


Hfe. 

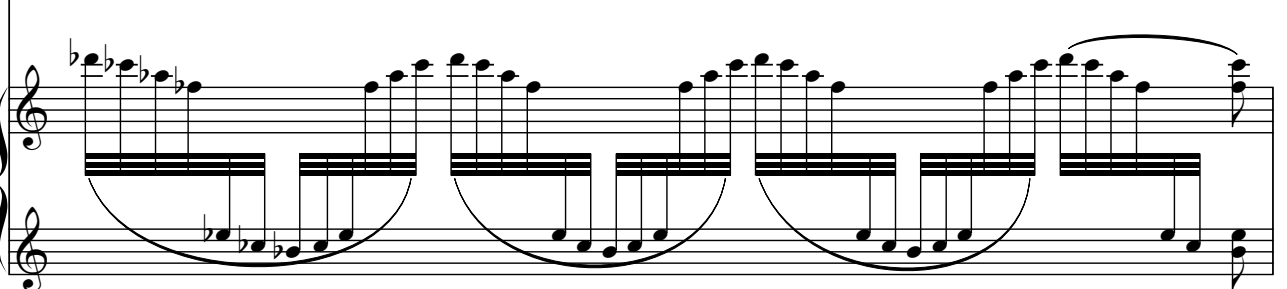
209

S.   
Hav - ing seen thy sal -

A.   
Hav - ing seen thy sal -

T.   
Hav - ing seen thy sal -

B.   
Hav - ing seen thy sal -

Hfe. 

210

S. va - - - - tion,

A. va - - - - tion,

T. va - - - - tion,

B. va - - - - tion,

Hfe. *mf*

211

Hfe. [*ppp*]

*l.v. mf*

*mp*

6

212

Hfe. *poco rall.* *a tempo*

*mp*

*l.v. mp*

213

Hfe. *p*

6 3 3

215

S. *ppp*  
Hav-ing seen thy sal - va - tion, thy sal -

A. *ppp*  
Hav-ing seen thy sal - va - tion, thy sal -

T. *ppp*  
Hav-ing seen thy sal - va - tion, thy sal -

B. *ppp*  
Hav - ing seen thy sal - va - tion, thy sal -

Hfe. *pp* *mp*

219

Tutti: auf 'n' aushalten (chorisch nachatmen)

S. va - tion.

A. va - tion.

T. va - tion.

B. va - tion.

Hfe. *mf* *pp*