

Absalon fili mi

(2009)
for TTBB Choir

text - 2 Samuel 18:33
music by Jocelyn Morlock

Written for
Diane Loomer and the Chor Leoni Men's Choir
with the generous assistance of the Canada Council for the Arts

Absalon fili mi

for TTBB choir

Text and Program Note:

Absalon fili mi (translation: “Absalon, my son, would that I might die for you!”) takes as its text 2 Samuel 18:33, where King David mourns his child’s death. The music starts very quietly, hushed and reminiscent of early music, and gradually builds to fortissimo, where it expresses the universal feeling of someone who grieves, wishing they could have died in the other person’s place. The conclusion is lulling but restless, as if trying to forget a little, to reach some feeling of resolution, but never being able to do so.

Absalon fili mi

2 Samuel 18:33

Jocelyn Morlock

tempo ♩ = 60

hushed, legato
sempre pp

TENOR 1

Ah Ab - sa - lon fi - li mi

hushed, legato
sempre pp

TENOR 2

Ah Ah Ab - sa - lom

BARITONE

Ah Ah

BASS

Ah Ah

6

T. 1

Ab - sa - lon fi - li mi Ab -

T. 2

fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon

Bar.

mp *(poco a poco cresc.)* *mf*

Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah

Bass

mp *(poco a poco cresc.)* *mf*

Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah

11

T. 1

8

- - sa - lon fi - - li mi Ab - sa -

T. 2

8

Ab - - sa - lon Ab - sa lon Ab - sa -

Bar.

(poco a poco cresc.)

poco f

Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah fi-li mi

Bass

(poco a poco cresc.)

poco f

Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah fi-li mi

15

T. 1

8

lon Ab - - - sa - - - lon

T. 2

8

mf

lon *Ab - sa - lon Ab-sa - lon Ah Ah Ah

lon Ab - - - sa - - - lon

mf

lon *Ab- sa - lon Ab - sa - lon Ab-sa - lon Ah Ah Ah

Bar.

fi - li mi fi - li mi Ab - sa lon

Bass

fi - li mi fi - li mi Ab - sa lon

* Entry approximate - randomly repeat phrase on given pitches, gradually increasing speed.

♩ = 80

3

18 *ff*

T. 1

8 Quis mi - hi tri - bu - at tri - bu

T. 2

8 Quis mi - hi tri - bu - at tri - bu

Bar.

fff

Quis tri - bu - at tri - bu

Bass

fff

Quis Quis tri - bu

23

T. 1

8 at ut e - go e - go

T. 2

8 at ut e - go e - go

Bar.

at ut e - go e - go

Bass

at ut e - go e - go

29

T. 1

8

mo - ri - ar _____ mo - ri _____ ar _____ pro _____

T. 2

8

mo - ri ar _____ mo - ri _____ ar _____ pro _____

Bar.

mo - ri _____ ar _____ mo - ri _____ ar _____ pro _____

Bass

mo - ri - ar _____ mo - ri - ar _____ pro _____

34 *fff*

T. 1

8

te _____ pro _____ te _____

T. 2

8

fff

te _____ pro _____ te _____

Bar.

fff

te pro _____ te pro _____ te _____

Bass

fff

te _____ pro _____ te _____

42 *mf* *poco rit.*

T. 1
8 ut e - go mo - ri - ar pro te

T. 2
8 ut e - go mo - ri - ar pro te

Bar.
8 ut e - go mo - - - ri - ar

Bass
8 ut e - go mo - - - ri - ar

Slightly slower ♩ = 72

47 *sub. p*

T. 1
8 Ab - sa lon Ab - sa lon

T. 2
8 Ab - sa lon Ab - sa lon

Bar.
8 Ab - sa lon Ab - sa lon

Bass
8 Ab - sa lon Ab - sa lon

52 Slightly faster ♩ = 88

pp

T. 1

8

Quis mi - hi

T. 2

8

Bar.

sempre p

Ah Ah Ah

Bass

sempre p

Ah Ah Ah

58

poco f

T. 1

8

tri - bu - at ut e - go mo - ri - ar pro te

T. 2

8

pp

Quis

Bar.

Ah Ah

Bass

Ah Ah

64 *pp*

T. 1 ** mo - ri - ar* pro

T. 2 mi - hi tri - bu - ar ut e - go mo - ri - ar

Bar. Ah

Bass Ah Ah

69 *pp*

T. 1 te

T. 2 *poco f* pro te *pp* * ut e - go

Bar. Ab - - sa lon Ab - sa lon

Bass Ab - - sa lon Ab - sa lon

* Entry approximate - randomly repeat phrase on given pitches. Rhythms are very approximate.

74 ** (gradually all change to whispering "Absalon")

T. 1

T. 2

mo - ri - ar _____ pro te _____

Bar.

Ab - sa lon _____ Mm (hum) _____

Bass

Ab - sa lon _____ Mm (hum) _____

81

T. 1

niente

** (gradually all change to whispering "Absalon")

T. 2

niente

Bar.

niente

Mm (hum) _____

Bass

niente

Mm (hum) _____

**Tenor 1 - finish phrase and begin whispering Absalon between mm.74 - 80.
 **Tenor 2 - finish phrase and begin whispering Absalon between mm.78 - 83.