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Serenity

Elizabeth Serine

SATB and piano

Elizabeth Serine

Elizabeth Serine, a native of Papillion, Nebraska, graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 2015 with a Bachelor of Music in Music Composition with Special Distinction and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, *summa cum laude*. She studied composition under Dr. Marvin Lamb. In addition to her academic studies, she has been involved in music ministries with a particular affinity for directing and playing in handbell choirs. Currently, Elizabeth pursues a Master of Music in Music Theory, with special interest in music cognition. Her present research focuses on the cognitive processes involved in completing aural skills dictations in hopes of improving music theory student success.

Performance Notes

Serenity was composed first and foremost as a plea. When I began writing this song, an autoimmune disease threatened my life and I found comfort in, and struggled with, Reinhold Niebuhr's beautifully, deceptively simple words. I set them to music not only to express the serene peace they evoke, but also to highlight the desperate appeal inherent within them.

Serenity

SATB and piano

from the *Serenity Prayer*,
Reinhold Niebuhr

Elizabeth Serine

Espressivo ♩ = 54

rubato

Piano *mp*

ped. *3* * pedal throughout

RH

4

7 *rit.* *a tempo*

8 *mp*
God,

7 *rit.* *a tempo*

3 *3*

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10

poco rit. a tempo

Grant me the ser-en-i-ty to accept the

10

accompagnato

poco rit. a tempo

13

things I can-not change;

13

16

Vocal score for measures 16-18. The music is in a key with three flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor) and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo markings are **con moto** and **poco rit. a tempo**. The lyrics are: cour - age to change the things I can;

Piano accompaniment for measures 16-18. The music features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand. There are several triplet markings (3) throughout the piece. The tempo markings are **con moto** and **poco rit. a tempo**.

19

Vocal score for measures 19-20. The music is in the same key and time signature. The tempo marking is **accel.**. The lyrics are: And wis - dom to

Piano accompaniment for measures 19-20. The music continues with the eighth-note accompaniment. There is a **cresc.** (crescendo) marking in the left hand and an **accel.** (accelerando) marking in the right hand. Triplet markings (3) are present in the left hand.

22

Vocal staves for measures 22-24. The top two staves are empty. The third staff contains the vocal line with lyrics: "know, To know the". Dynamics include *mf* and *mp*. The bottom staff is empty.

a tempo, risoluto

mf

mp

know,

To know

the

22

a tempo, risoluto

mf

colla voce

mp

Piano accompaniment for measures 22-24. The right hand features chords and triplets, while the left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamics include *mf* and *mp*. A *colla voce* marking is present.

25

rit.

a tempo

dif - - ference.

Vocal staves for measures 25-27. The top two staves are empty. The third staff contains the vocal line with lyrics: "dif - - ference.". Dynamics include *rit.* and *a tempo*. The bottom staff is empty.

25

rit.

a tempo

Piano accompaniment for measures 25-27. The right hand features chords and melodic lines, while the left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment with triplets. Dynamics include *rit.* and *a tempo*.

28 *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

God, Grant me the se-
 God, Grant me the se-
 God Grant me the se-
 God Grant me the se-

28 *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

God, Grant me the se-
 God Grant me the se-
 God Grant me the se-
 God Grant me the se-

31 *cresc.* *mf* *cresc.* *mf* *cresc.* *mf* *cresc.* *mf*

ren-i-ty to ac-cept the things I can-not change,
 ren-i-ty to ac-cept the things I can-not change,
 ren-i-ty to ac-cept the things I can-not change,
 ren-i-ty to ac-cept the things I can-not change,

31 *cresc.* *mf*

ren-i-ty to ac-cept the things I can-not change,
 ren-i-ty to ac-cept the things I can-not change,
 ren-i-ty to ac-cept the things I can-not change,
 ren-i-ty to ac-cept the things I can-not change,

34 *cresc.* *dim.*
 Cour - age to change the things I can,
cresc. *dim.*
 Cour - age to change the things I can,
cresc. *dim.* *mp*
 Cour - age to change the things I can, And
cresc. *dim.* *mp*
 Cour - age to change the things I can, And

34
cresc. *dim.*

37 *mf*
 to know.
mf *mp* *dim.*
 to know, to know the
mf
 wis-dom to know,
mf
 wis-dom to know,

37
cresc. *mf* *mp*

40 **molto rit.** **a tempo** **Andante** ♩ = 60

dif - - frence.

40 **molto rit.** **a tempo** **Andante** ♩ = 60

mp cantabile

43

mp
Liv-ing
mp
Liv-ing

43

46

mp

En-joy-ing one mo-ment at a
one day at a time, En-joy-ing one mo-ment at a
one day at a time,

Detailed description: This block contains the vocal score for measures 46, 47, and 48. It features four staves: two vocal staves (Soprano and Alto) and two piano accompaniment staves (Right and Left Hand). The music is in 3/4 time. The vocal lines include lyrics and are marked with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The piano accompaniment features triplet patterns in the right hand and eighth-note patterns in the left hand.

46

Detailed description: This block shows the piano accompaniment for measures 46, 47, and 48. It consists of two staves (Right and Left Hand) in 3/4 time. The right hand has a melodic line with triplet markings, and the left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment with triplet markings.

49

time.

time.

mp

Ac-cept-ing hard - ships as path - ways to
Ac-cept-ing hard - ships as path - ways to

Detailed description: This block contains the vocal score for measures 49, 50, and 51. It features four staves: two vocal staves (Soprano and Alto) and two piano accompaniment staves (Right and Left Hand). The music is in 4/4 time. The vocal lines include lyrics and are marked with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a rhythmic accompaniment in the left hand.

49

Detailed description: This block shows the piano accompaniment for measures 49, 50, and 51. It consists of two staves (Right and Left Hand) in 4/4 time. The right hand has a melodic line with triplet markings, and the left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment with triplet markings.

52 a tempo

Tak-ing, as He did, this sim-ple

peace.

peace.

52 a tempo

55

world, as it is,

not as I would have it.

55

57 *mp cresc.* *f*
 Know-ing that He will make all things right if I sur - ren - der

mp cresc. *f*
 Know-ing that He will make all things right if I sur ren -

mf cresc. *f*
 Will make all things right if I sur -

mf cresc. *f*
 All things right if I sur -

57 *mp cresc.* *f*

59 *molto rit.*
 to His will, I sur - ren - der

der to His will, I sur - ren - der

ren - der, sur - ren - der to Him, I sur - ren - der

ren - der, sur - ren - der, I sur - ren - der

59 *molto rit.*

62 **a tempo** **molto rit.**

to His will.

to His will.

to His will.

to His will.

62 **a tempo** **molto rit.**

3 *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3*

65 **a tempo** **poco rit.** **a tempo**

mp

65 **a tempo** **poco rit.** **a tempo**

mp *reflective*

3 *3* *3*

68

Three vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor) with rests for measures 68, 69, and 70.

hap - py in this life and al - so with Him

68

Piano accompaniment for measures 68-70. The right hand features chords and moving lines, while the left hand has triplet patterns.

71

Vocal staves for measures 71 and 72. The lyrics are: "in the next For - e - ver, For -". The word "For" is repeated in each staff.

in the next For - e - ver, For -

71

Piano accompaniment for measures 71-72. Measure 71 continues the previous accompaniment. Measure 72 features a *cresc.* (crescendo) marking and triplet patterns in the left hand.

73 **molto rit.** *p*

e - - - ver, For -

p

e - - - ver, For -

mp

8 e - - - ver, For -

mp

e - - - ver, For -

73 **molto rit.** *f*

75 **piu rit.**

e - ver, A - men. —

e - ver, A - men. —

8 e - ver, A - men. —

e - ver, A - men. —

75 **piu rit.** *mp*

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