

Violin 1

Gwyneth Walker

Prayers from the Ark

*for SATB Soli and String Quartet*

# Prayers from the Ark

*for SATB Soli and String Quartet*

Carmen Bernos de Gasztold  
Rumer Godden, trans.

Gwyneth Walker

## Introduction (animal sounds)

[Singers off stage]

A raucous “symphony” of animal noises (vocal sounds) is produced by the singers (animals) *ad libitum*.... These sounds start before the strings begin to play, and continue during the playing.

*raucous sounds, ad lib.*

*, continue in alternating octaves ad lib.*

*accel.*

*sfp* *ff*

## 1. Noah's Prayer

**Slowly, dramatically**  
*as a recitative*

*f*      *p*      *f*      *p*

*a tempo*  $\text{♩} = 66$       *rit.*      **Slowly**      When will the ground cease to rock un - der my  
(Noah)  $\frac{3}{4}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$   $\frac{4}{4}$

*feet?*      *Play arco*

*p*      *f*

*rolled pizz.*

*p*

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17 *arco*

20 *rit.* **Slowly, emphatically**, *cov - en - ant. —*  
*(Noah)* *Play*

24 *poco accel.* **Slightly faster** *rit.*

28 **Slowly** *A* *men. —* *Play* *rit.*

*(Noah)* *short pause*

## Prayers from the Ark – Violin 1

## 2. The Prayer of the Dog

**At a frisky tempo**  $\text{♩} = 100$ *as a dog wagging his tail*
*rit.  
patting the dog on his head*

5  $\text{♩} = 72$  *recitativo style*

10

**More quickly**  $\text{♩} = 72$  *rit.*  
(frisky "tail-wagging" motive)

13 *a tempo* ( $\text{♩} = 72$ )

(Dog)

They call me "Good dog!"      Nice dog!"      Words...

Slightly faster  $\text{♩} = 88$

15

I take their pats and the old bones they throw me \_\_\_\_\_ and I seem pleased. \_\_\_\_\_

*rolled pizz.*

Prayers from the Ark – Violin 1

5

*Free measure*  
(Dog)

19

They really believe they make me hap - py      I take kicks      too      when they come my way.

*mf*      *f*

Original tempo (♩ = 72)

20 None of this mat - ters.

Play

25 Faster ♩ = 100  
["wagging tail" motive]

*mf*      *p*

*rit.*

29 ♩ = 72

A - men.      A - men.      A - men.

Faster

*lovingly pat instrument*

*rit.*

*final pat*

*short pause*

## Prayers from the Ark – Violin 1

## Interlude 1

*a tempo* ♩ = 100

2

*mf*

6

*p*

*attacca*

## 3. The Prayer of the Little Bird

**Lightly** ♩ = 100*as a small bird hopping on the ground**wings flapping*

(*p*)

4

*poco rit.*

*mp*

**Slightly slower***at a comfortable recitative tempo***With motion** ♩ = 72*gentle, light tremolo,  
at the tip*

7

*p*

(Bird) pray by my - self ver - y well,

Play

11

*rit.* *more reflectively* *ord.* *rit.*

*mf* *f*

Prayers from the Ark – Violin 1

7

$\text{♩} = 72$

rit.

16

**p** *pp* barely audible       $\swarrow \searrow \text{mf}$

Original tempo ( $\text{♩} = 100$ )

21

**f**      **p**

wings flapping      rit.      [BIRD holds up worm] knock knuckle on instrument

24

(Bird) A - A - A - A - Amen.      **p** short pause

Interlude 2

*a tempo*  $\text{♩} = 100$

Slowly

6

(Noah)

The days are long, Lord. All this wa - ter makes my heart sink.

(Vlc.)

Slightly faster

9

Play "bailing out the ark" motive

rit.

slow tremolo  
"wringing out robe" motive

$\text{mf}$        $\text{mp}$   $\swarrow \searrow \text{p}$

## 4. The Prayer of the Little Ducks

**Bouncy tempo** ♩ = 120*suitable for jumping in puddles**(all upbows) as ducks dancing*

*simile*

5

9

12

16

20

24

27

31

*poco rit.*

*Play*

*accel.*

*a tempo (♩ = 120)*

**Slightly slower**

*(Duck 1)*

*oth - er lus - cious things to eat.*

*mf*

*p*

*f*

Prayers from the Ark – Violin 1

9

**Freely, slower**  
*recitative style*

34 *rit.*

(Duck 2)

Pro - tect all folk who quack and

(Duck 1)

*mf*

37

ev - 'ry - one who knows how to swim.

*accel.*

*p*

*f*

40 *a tempo* ( $\text{♩} = 120$ )

*p*

*p*

43

[DUCKS jump  
in puddle]

*snap pizz.*

*f*

47 *a tempo* ( $\text{♩} = 120$ )

*arco*

*mf*

*short pause*

## 5. The Prayer of the Donkey

**Tempo ad lib.**

\*high gliss. ad lib. [HEE]

many glissandi ad lib.

Violin 1 score showing a glissando pattern. The score consists of four measures of 4/4 time. Measure 1 starts with a dynamic **f** and features six upward arrows above the notes. Measures 2 through 4 each have one upward arrow above the notes. Measure 5 begins with a dynamic **ff**.

5 (Donkey 2)

Violin 1 score continuing the glissando pattern. Violin 2 score begins with a dynamic **ff** and includes lyrics: "O God, who made me to trudge along the road al - ways, to carry heavy loads". Measure 9 follows with lyrics: "al - ways, and to be beaten al - ways!".

9

Violin 1 score continuing the glissando pattern. Violin 2 score includes lyrics: "al - ways, and to be beaten al - ways!". Both parts play eighth-note patterns with dynamics **mf** > **p**.

14

Violin 1 score includes lyrics: "Give me great cour - age and gen - tle - ness.". Violin 2 score includes lyrics: "“Hee-Haw” sounds (see m. 1)". Dynamics include **f**, **p**, and **(p)**.

17

Violin 1 score includes lyrics: "One day let some - bod - y un - der - stand me - that I may no long - er want to weep be -". Violin 2 score includes lyrics: "(Donkey 1)". Dynamics include **mf**.

\*Violins play a high, quick, upward glissando, *ad lib.*, which is answered by Viola and Cello low, quick, downward glissando *ad lib.* to simulate the “hee-haw” sounds of a donkey

20

## 6. The Prayer of the Butterfly

**Lightly**  $\text{♩} = 72$   
*as a butterfly in flight*

5

(Vlc.)

*con sord.*

(1) (2)

9 [Butterfly enters] (3) (4) (5)

12 (6) (7) (8)

15 *poco rit.*  
 (Butterfly)

Your world is beau - ti - ful!

Slightly slower

Slower

This scent of roses...

*f*

$\geqslant p$

20 *a tempo* ( $\text{♩} = 72$ )

*pizz.*

*p*

23 *a tempo*

A drop of dew rolls to spar - kle in a lil - y's heart. I have to go...

*arco, gentle tremolo, at the tip*

*p*

## Prayers from the Ark – Violin 1

13

27

Where? I do not know!

*arco, ord.*

**3**

**p** <-- **mf**

**p** <-- **mf**

*rit.*

**3**

**p** <-- **mf**

(**mf**)

*Free measure*

Where was I? Oh yes! Lord, I had something to tell you:

*pizz.*

**p**

**40** *a tempo (♩ = 72)*

**arco**

**p**

**6**

**6**

**6**

**6**

**6**

**6**

*rit.*

**44**

**V**

**V**

**V**

**V**

**V**

**V**

**V**

**V**

*via sord.*

**pp**

*short pause*

## 7. The Prayer of the Cat

(Vlc. numerous, random glissandi  
as a "cat exploring")

**A graceful tempo**  $\text{♩} = 72$   
*rolled pizz.*

**senza sord.**

**4** *arco*

**8**

**12** *p* *mf*

**17** *rit.* *recitative style*  
It is not, exactly, that I have something to ask of You!

**19** *pizz.* *mf*  
No – I ask nothing of a - ny - one – but, if You have by some chance, in some ce - les - tial

**(20)** barn, *arco* a little white mouse, or a saucer of milk,  
*pp barely audible*

## Prayers from the Ark – Violin 1

15

21

I know someone who would rel - ish them, rel - ish them, rel - ish them.

25 Original tempo  $\text{♩} = 72$

pizz.  
arco gentle trem. gliss.  
 $p$

29

Would - n't You like some - day to put a curse on the whole race of dogs?  
[cut off]  
roughly, as noisy barking  
 $p < f$

*sf* determined

30

(Cat) If so, I should say.  
 $p < ff$

## Interlude 3

 $\text{♩} = 72$ 

simile  
 $mf$

5

random ascending glissandi  
rit.  
 $p$   
short pause

## 8. The Prayer of the Elephant

**Lumbering tempo**  $\text{d} = 60$ 

[repeat as long as necessary for Alto's costume change]

(Vlc.)

**Lumbering tempo**  $\text{d} = 60$ [repeat the previous 2 measures as long as needed  
for the Elephant to come to center stage.]*Play*

6

10 *pizz., lightly*                                      *arco*                                      *pizz., lightly*

15    *Slower, more freely*                                      *great*                                      *self,*                                      *AH-*  
     *(Bar.)*                                      *v*                                      *v*                                      *v*                                      *and*                                      *(pizz.)*

19    *knock knuckle on*  
     *body of instrument*                                      *rit.*    *a tempo* ( $\text{d} = 60$ )  
     *not my fault*    *big*    *feet.*    *arco*  
     *v*    *v*    *f*    *v*

24    *Slower, more freely*

30      rit.      \*thumb vs. fingers tremolo  
on body of instrument     

Slower

(Tenor) poise.      **f**      Give me such phil - o - soph - ic thoughts      **mf**  
(Sop.)

35      ev - 'ry - where I      arco      > > >      **mf**      **f**      things.

40      *a tempo* ( $\text{d} = 60$ )     

45      arco      **pizz.**      short high gliss.  
arco      **pizz.**      arco      **pizz.**      arco      **pizz.**      arco      **pizz.**      arco      **pizz.**      arco      **pizz.**  
(time)

\*To suggest the precariousness of the situation.

## Prayers from the Ark – Violin 1

49      rit.      (Women)      A - men,      A - men      *a tempo*      arco      rit.

$\text{d} = 60$  or slightly faster  
as a bird in flight

con sord.      (repeat figure as long as necessary for preparation of next scene)

## 9. The Prayer of the Dove

Same tempo ( $\text{d} = 60$ ) or slightly faster  
with excitement of anticipation

10      2      rolled pizz.      (Alto) sign of Your      arco      gentle gliss.

17      (2)      (3)      (4)      (5)      (6)      (7)

rit.      Slower pizz.      via sord.      5      (Vln. 2)

33      arco, senza sord.

36      6      6      6      f

Raise bow in air as  
Elephant kicks and  
hold pose.

**40** **Slightly slower**, *pizz.* *rolled pizz.*, **Slower** *arco*

*p* *f*

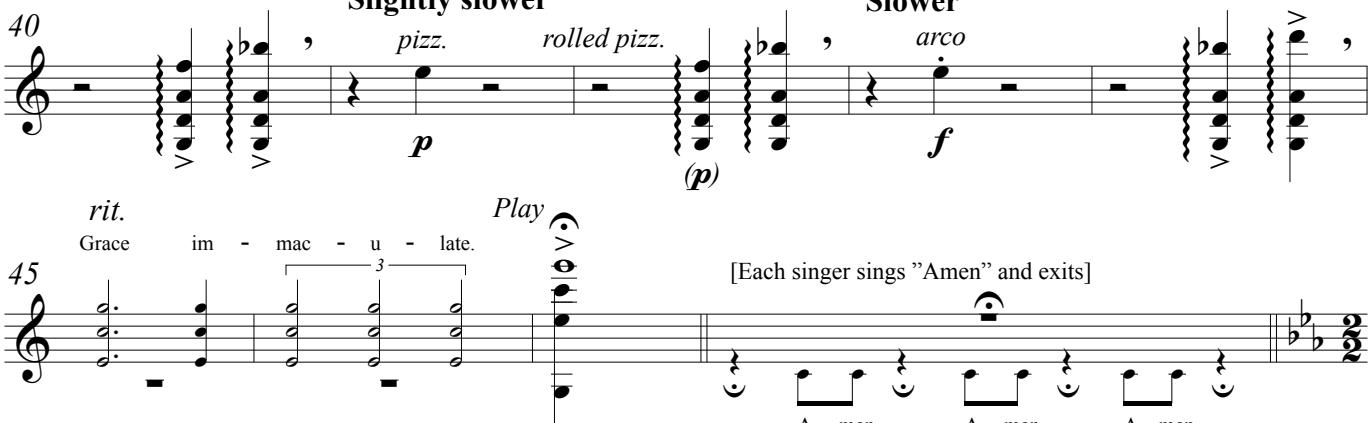
*(p)*

*rit.*  
Grace im - mac - u - late. *Play* 

[Each singer sings "Amen" and exits]

A - men. A - men. A - men.

*short pause*



## 10. Noah and the Dove *an epilogue*

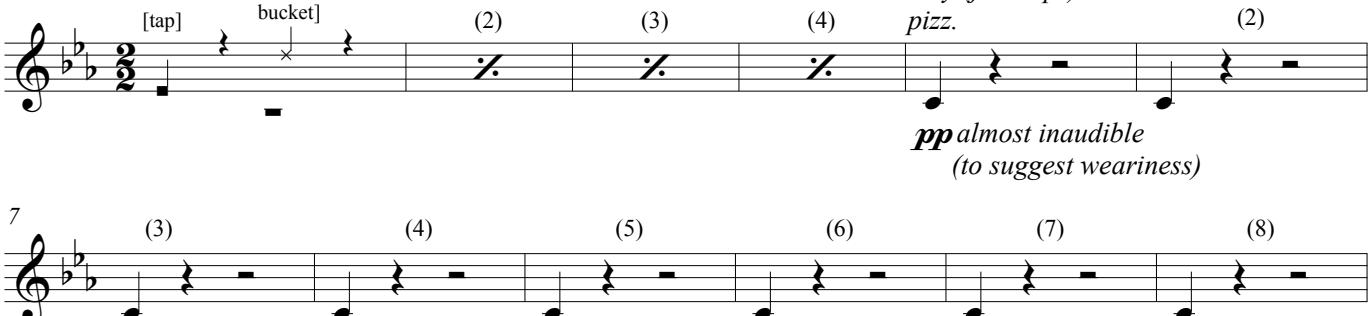
**Slowly**  $\text{♩} = 56$

(Noah cue: bailing out the Ark sounds, *do not play*)

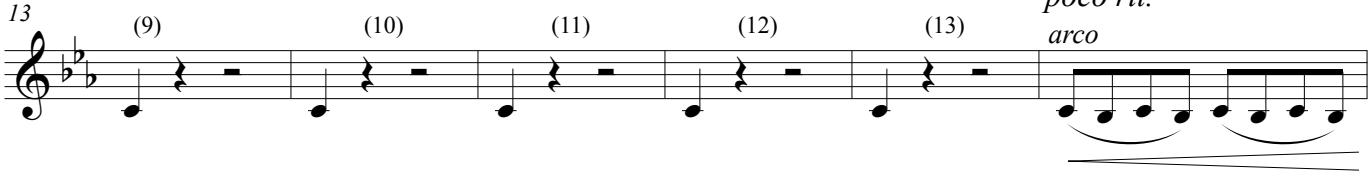
[empty bucket] (2) (3) (4) *Play (join taps)*  
*pizz.* (2)

*pp almost inaudible*  
(to suggest weariness)

(3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8)



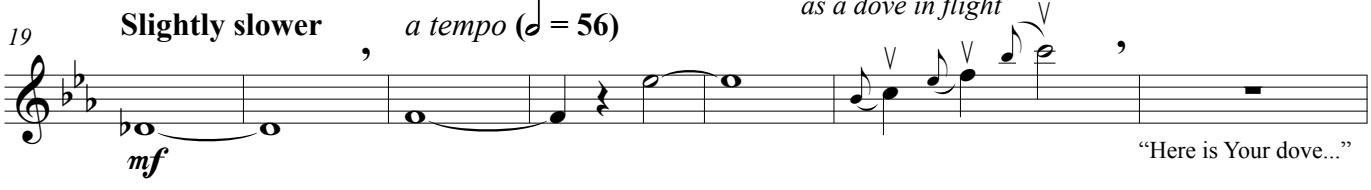
(9) (10) (11) (12) (13) *poco rit.*  
*arco*



**19** **Slightly slower**, *a tempo* ( $\text{♩} = 56$ ) *as a dove in flight* 

*mf*

"Here is Your dove..."



*finger trem. on body of instrument, fading as a dove flying away.*

**26** *rit. to end* 

"Here is Your dove..." *p* *(p)* *pp*



Violin 2

Gwyneth Walker

Prayers from the Ark

*for SATB Soli and String Quartet*

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*for SATB Soli and String Quartet*

Carmen Bernos de Gasztold

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## Introduction (animal sounds)

[Singers off stage]

A raucous “symphony” of animal noises (vocal sounds) is produced by the singers (animals) *ad libitum*.... These sounds start before the strings begin to play, and continue during the playing.

(Vln. 1)

enter *ad lib.*  
(not synchronized with Vln. 1)

raucous sounds, *ad lib.*, *continue in alternating octaves ad lib.*

accel.

*f* *sfp* *ff*

## 1. Noah's Prayer

**Slowly, dramatically**

*as a recitative*

*f* *p*

5 *rit.* *pizz.* *a tempo*  $\text{♩} = 66$  *rit.* **Slowly**

*f* *p*

9 (Noah) When will the ground cease to rock un-<sup>3</sup>der my feet? *Play arco*

*p* *f*

12 *p*

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Prayers from the Ark – Violin 2

3

*rolled pizz.*

16 *mf*

20 *rit.* **Slowly, emphatically** , , cov - en - ant. — (Noah) *Play* *p*

24 *poco accel.* **Slightly faster** *rit.* *p*

28 **Slowly** (Noah) A - - - men. — *Play* rit. *V* *V* *short pause*

## 2. The Prayer of the Dog

**At a frisky tempo ♩ = 100***as a dog wagging his tail*

rit.  
*patting the dog on his head*

5 ♩ = 72 *recitativo style*

10

**More quickly***rit.*

13 *a tempo* (♩ = 72)

(Dog)

They call me "Good dog!"      Nice dog!"      Words...

*mf*

**Slightly faster ♩ = 88**

I take their pats and the old bones they throw me \_\_\_\_\_ and I seem pleased. \_\_\_\_\_

*rolled pizz.*

*mf*

*p*

*mf*

Prayers from the Ark – Violin 2

5

*Free measure*

19 (Dog)

They really believe they make me hap - py  
I take kicks too when they come my way.

*mf*   *f*

**Original tempo (♩ = 72)**

20 None of this mat - ters. (Dog) *Play*

*mf*   *f*

25 Faster ♩ = 100  
[“wagging tail” motive]

*mf*   *p*

29 ♩ = 72

A - - - men. A - men. A - men.

*lovingly pat instrument*

*rit.*

*final pat*

*p*

*(p)*  
*short pause*

## Interlude 1

*a tempo* ♩ = 100

2

*mf*

6

attacca

## 3. The Prayer of the Little Bird

**Lightly** ♩ = 100

*as a small bird hopping on the ground*

wings flapping

(p)

4

poco rit.

*mp*

**Slightly slower**

*at a comfortable recitative tempo*

**With motion** ♩ = 72

*gentle, light tremolo,  
at the tip*

Play

7

*p*

(Bird) pray by my - self ver - y well,

11

rit. more reflectively ord. rit.

*mf*

*f*

Prayers from the Ark – Violin 2

7

*16*  $\text{♩} = 72$  *rit.*

*p pp barely audible* *mf*

*Original tempo (♩ = 100)*

*20* *f* *p*

[BIRD holds up worm] *wings flapping* *knock knuckle on instrument*

*24* *rit.* *(Bird)* A - A - A - A - A - men. *p* *short pause*

Interlude 2

*a tempo ♩ = 100*

*(p)*

**Slowly**

*6* *(Noah)*

The days are long, Lord. All this wa - ter makes my heart sink.

*(Vlc.)*

*9* **Slightly faster**

*rit.*

*mf* *p*

## 4. The Prayer of the Little Ducks

**Bouncy tempo** ♩ = 120

*suitable for jumping in puddles*

simile

5

9

13

17

21

25

*poco rit.*                            **Slightly slower**

29

(Vln. 1)

*accel.*

Prayers from the Ark – Violin 2

9

33      *a tempo* ( $\text{♩} = 120$ )      *rit.*

**Freely, slower**  
*recitative style*  
(Duck 2)

(Duck 1)

Pro - tect all folk who quack and

37      *accel.*

ev - 'ry - one who knows how to swim.

40      *a tempo* ( $\text{♩} = 120$ )

*p*      *f*

44      *rit.*

[DUCKS jump  
in puddle]

*snap pizz.*

47      *a tempo* ( $\text{♩} = 120$ )

*arco*

*mf*

short pause

## 5. The Prayer of the Donkey

**Tempo ad lib.**

\*high gliss. ad lib. [HEE]

many glissandi ad lib.

5 (Donkey 2)

O God, who made me to trudge along the road al - ways, to carry heavy loads

9

al - ways, and to be beaten al - ways!

14

Give me great cour - age and gen - tle - ness.

"Hee-Haw" sounds (see m. 1)

17

(Donkey 1)

One day let some - bod - y un - der - stand me - that I may no long - er want to weep be -

\*Violins play a high, quick, upward glissando, *ad lib.*, which is answered by Viola and Cello low, quick, downward glissando *ad lib.* to simulate the “hee-haw” sounds of a donkey

20

cause I can ne - ver say what I m - m - m - m-mean and they make fun of me. — ,

pizz.

**p**

23 *arco*

**f impassioned**

25 (Donkey 1)

and make them give me time to pick it. And, Lord, one day let me find a - gain my lit-tle

**mf**

29 *rit.* **Quickly**

broth - er of the Christ - mas crib.

**pizz.**

**p**

**arco**

**f**

(Donkeys)  
A - men.

**A bit faster (like the opening)**

**"Hee-Haw" sounds (see m. 1)**

*rit.*

**(f)**

*short pause*

## 6. The Prayer of the Butterfly

**Lightly**  $\text{♩} = 72$   
*as a butterfly in flight*

5

(Vlc.)  $\text{6}$   $\text{6}$  *con sord.*  $\text{6}$  (1)  $\text{6}$  (2)  $\text{6}$   $\text{6}$

[Butterfly enters]  $\text{6}$  (3)  $\text{6}$  (4)  $\text{6}$  (5)  $\text{6}$   $\text{6}$

**p**

9

12  $\text{6}$  (6)  $\text{6}$  (7)  $\text{6}$  (8)  $\text{6}$   $\text{6}$

15 *poco rit.*  
 (Butterfly)  
 Your world is beau - ti - ful! This scent of  
 $\text{6}$   $\text{6}$  *f*  $\gg \text{p}$

19 *a tempo* ( $\text{♩} = 72$ )  
 ros - es... (Vln. 1) *Play* *pizz.*  $\text{(p)}$

23 *a tempo*  
 A drop of dew rolls to spar - kle in a lil - y's heart. I have to go...  
*arco, gentle tremolo, at the tip*

**p**

27

Where? I do not know!

*arco, ord.*

**3**

**3**

*rit.*

*recited on pitch*

Where was I? Oh yes! Lord, I had something to tell you:

*pizz.*

**p**

*a tempo (♩ = 72)*

(Vlc.) **6**

*arco* **6** **6** **6** **6**

**p**

*rit.*

*via sord.*

*short pause*

## 7. The Prayer of the Cat

(Vlc. numerous, random glissandi  
as a "cat exploring")

**A graceful tempo**  $\text{♩} = 72$   
*senza sord.*

Play 

**mf**

4

9

13

*rit.*

18 *recitative style*

It is not, exactly, that I have something to ask of You!

**p**

19

No – I ask nothing of a - ny - one – but, if You have by some chance, in some ce - les - tial

*pizz.*

**mf**

(20)

barn, a little white mouse, or a saucer of milk,

*(pizz.)*

[Vln. 1 enters]

**p**



21

(Cat) I know someone who would rel - ish them, rel - ish them, rel - ish them.

25 **Original tempo**  $\text{♩} = 72$

*pizz.* *arco* *gentle trem. gliss.*

*mf* *p*

29

Would - n't You like some - day - to put a curse on the whole race of dogs?

[cut off]

*roughly, as noisy barking*

*sf determined* *p < f*

30

(Cat) If so, I should say,

*(f)* *p < ff*

### Interlude 3

$\text{♩} = 72$

*simile*

5

*random ascending glissandi*

*rit.*

*p*

*short pause*

**Lumbering tempo**  $\text{d} = 60$

[repeat as long as necessary for Alto's costume change]

(Vlc.)

### 8. The Prayer of the Elephant

**Lumbering tempo**  $\text{d} = 60$

[repeat the previous 2 measures as long as needed for the Elephant to come to center stage.]

Play  $f$

6  $pizz., \text{ lightly}$

11 *arco* *pizz., \text{ lightly}*

16 *Slower, more freely*  
 (Bar.) great self, AH- and (pizz.) knock knuckle on body of instrument  
 not my fault

21 rit. *a tempo (d = 60)* *Play arco f* *big feet.* *Slower, more freely*

\*thumb vs. fingers tremolo on body of instrument

27 rit. *p* (Tenor) poise. *f*

\*To suggest the precariousness of the situation.

**32 Slower**

(Sop.) Give me such phil - o - soph - ic thoughts ***pizz.*** ev - 'ry - where I

**36** ***arco*** ***a tempo (♩ = 60)*** things.

**41** ***pizz.***

**45** ***arco*** ***pizz.*** ***short high gliss.*** ***arco*** ***pizz.*** ***arco*** ***pizz.*** ***arco***

**49** ***rit.*** A - men, A - men ***a tempo*** ***arco*** ***f*** ***rit.*** ***Raise bow in air as Elephant kicks and hold pose.***

***rit.*** ***A - men,*** ***A - men*** ***a tempo*** ***arco*** ***f*** ***rit.*** ***Raise bow in air as Elephant kicks and hold pose.***

***♩ = 60 or slightly faster***

(Vln. 1, bird in flight)

**6** ***repeat as needed for preparation of next scene***

***rit.*** ***A - men,*** ***A - men*** ***a tempo*** ***arco*** ***f*** ***rit.*** ***Raise bow in air as Elephant kicks and hold pose.***

## 9. The Prayer of the Dove

**Same tempo ( $\text{d} = 60$ ) or slightly faster  
with excitement of anticipation  
con sord.**

rolled pizz.

sign of Your  
(Tenor)

8      arco      gentle gliss.

13      (4)      (5)      (6)      (7)      2      rolled pizz.

22      arco      gentle gliss.

30      (Tenor) The Ark waits, Lord; arco, senza sord.

[Vla. enters]

34

36

40      Slightly slower      rolled pizz.      Slower

(p)      f      arco

*rit.*

Grace im - mac - u - late.

45

[Each singer sings "Amen" and exits]

A - men. A - men. A - men.

*short pause*

## 10. Noah and the Dove

*an epilogue***Slowly**  $\text{♩} = 56$ (Noah cue: bailing out the Ark sounds, *do not play*)

[empty bucket]

(2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8)

Play (join taps)  
pizz.

**pp** almost inaudible  
(to suggest weariness)

7

(9) (10) (11) (12) (13) *poco rit.*  
*arco*

13

Slightly slower, a tempo ( $\text{♩} = 56$ )

as a dove in flight ,

*mf*

*finger trem. on body of instrument, fading as a dove flying away.*

19

rit. to end 2

"Here is Your dove..." **mp** "Here is Your dove..." **p** (p) ≈ pp

Viola

Gwyneth Walker

Prayers from the Ark

*for SATB Soli and String Quartet*

Viola

# Prayers from the Ark

for SATB Soli and String Quartet

Carmen Bernos de Gasztold  
Rumer Godden, trans.

Gwyneth Walker

## Introduction (animal sounds)

[Singers off stage]

A raucous “symphony” of animal noises (vocal sounds) is produced by the singers (animals) *ad libitum*.... These sounds start before the strings begin to play, and continue during the playing.

Viola      (Vln. 1)      (Vln. 2)      Cello/Vlc.

enter *ad lib.*  
an “insistent” bird  
repeat two  
patterns *ad lib.*

*f*      *accel.*      *sfp*      *ff*

[Vlc. enters]

## 1. Noah’s Prayer

Slowly, dramatically  
as a recitative

Violin 1: *f*, *p*, *rit.*, *pizz.*, *a tempo*  $\text{♩} = 66$ , *rit.*, *Slowly* (Noah) All this wa - ter makes my heart sink. *Play arco*

Violin 2: *f*, *p*

Cello/Vlc.: *(Vlns.)*, *Play* *f*

Selections from *Prayers from the Ark* are used with permission of Curtis Brown Group Ltd.

Prayers from the Ark – Viola

3

13    *rolled pizz.*

*arcō*

*rit.*     *Slowly, emphatically*

*cov - en - ant.* \_\_\_\_\_  
(Noah)

*Play*

*poco accel.*

*Slightly faster*

*rit.*

*short pause*

*A - - - men.* \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. The Prayer of the Dog

*rit.*

**At a frisky tempo**  $\text{♩} = 100$

(Vlns.)

**lovingly pat instrument as if patting a dog on his head**

**$\text{♩} = 72$  recitativo style**

**2**

**mf**

**6**

**11**

**f**

**More quickly rit.**

No one but you and I un - der - stand what faith - ful - ness is. \_\_\_\_\_

**13**

**a tempo ( $\text{♩} = 72$ )**

**(Dog)**

They call me "Good dog!"      Nice dog!"      Words...

**rolled pizz.**

*an especially nice pat on the Dog's head →*

**10**

**mf**

**Slightly faster**  $\text{♩} = 88$

**15**

I take their pats and the old bones they throw me \_\_\_\_\_ and I seem pleased. \_\_\_\_\_

**arco**

**$\text{mf}$**

**8**

**p**

**rolled pizz.**

**$\text{mf}$**

Prayers from the Ark – Viola

5

*Free measure*

(Dog)

19

They really believe they make me hap - py I take kicks too when they come my way.

20 Original tempo ( $\text{♩} = 72$ )

None of this mat - ters. — I keep watch! Lord, do not let me die un -

24 Faster  $\text{♩} = 100$  rit.  $\text{♩} = 72$

til, for them, all dan - ger is driv - en a - way. — A - - - men.  
rolled pizz.

*as if patting a dog's head*

30 Faster rit.

A - men. — A - men.

*lovingly pat instrument* (Vlns.)

*final pat*

*short pause*

## Prayers from the Ark – Viola

## Interlude 1

*a tempo* ♩ = 100

2      *arco*

mf

7

*lightly knock knuckle on instrument  
[to simulate a bird hopping]*

p      *attacca*

## 3. The Prayer of the Little Bird

**Lightly** ♩ = 100

*as a small bird hopping on the ground*

arco

wings flapping

(p)

5      poco rit.      at a comfortable recitative tempo      Play

mp      p      (Bird) pray by my-self ver-y well,

With motion ♩ = 72

gentle, light tremolo, at the tip

9

13      rit.      more reflectively      rit.      ♩ = 72

ord.

mf      f      p      pp barely audible

18      rit.

mf      f

**Original tempo ( $\text{♩} = 100$ )**

22 *wings flapping*

25 *rit.* (Bird) A - A - A - A - - - A - men. [BIRD holds up worm] *knock knuckle on instrument*

*p* *short pause*

## Interlude 2

*a tempo  $\text{♩} = 100$*       **Slowly**

(Noah) The days are long, Lord. All this wa-ter makes my heart sink.

(Vlc.)

**Slightly faster**

9 *Play* *rit.* (Vlc.) *Play* *p*

## 4. The Prayer of the Little Ducks

**Bouncy tempo ♩ = 120***suitable for jumping in puddles*

*mf*

5

9

13

17

21

25

*poco rit.*

Slightly slower

30

(Vln. 1)

*accel.*

33      *a tempo* ( $\text{♩} = 120$ )      *rit.*

**Freely, slower**  
*recitative style*  
(Duck 2)

Pro - tect all folk who

36      (Duck 1)      *accel.*

quack and ev - 'ry - one who knows how to swim. \_\_\_\_\_

40      *a tempo* ( $\text{♩} = 120$ )

44      *rit.*      *snap pizz.*

47      *arco*      *mf*

[DUCKS jump  
in puddle]

short pause

## 5. The Prayer of the Donkey

**Tempo ad lib.**

\*low gliss. ad lib. [HAW]

many glissandi ad lib.

**10** (Donkey 1)  
 al - ways,  
**5** (Donkey 2)  
 O God, who made me to trudge along the road al - ways, to carry heavy loads al - ways,  
*col Tenor*  
**10** al - ways, al - ways!  
 and to be beaten al - ways! Give me great cour - age and  
**15** gen - tle - ness. One day let some - bod - y un - der -  
*"Hee-Haw" sounds (see m. 1)*  
**18** stand me - that I may no long - er want to weep be - cause I can ne - ver say what I  
*mf*

\*Violins play a high, quick, upward glissando, *ad lib.*, which is answered by Viola and Cello low, quick, downward glissando *ad lib.* to simulate the “hee-haw” sounds of a donkey

21

m - m - m - m - mean

and they make fun of me. —

25 (Donkey 1)

pick it.

And, Lord,

one day let me find a - gain my lit - tle

*mf*

29 rit.

Quickly

broth - er of the Christ - mas crib.

*p*

*pizz.*

*arco*

(Donkeys)

A bit faster (like the opening)

rit.

32 A - men.

"Hee-Haw" sounds (see m. 1)

*(f)*

*short pause*

## 6. The Prayer of the Butterfly

**Lightly**  $\text{♩} = 72$   
*as a butterfly in flight*

*con sord.*



6

(2) (3) (4)

9 [Butterfly enters] (5) (6) (7)

12 (8) (9) (10)

15 *poco rit.* (Butterfly) Slightly slower Slower

Your world is beau - ti - ful! This scent of ros - es...

20 *a tempo* ( $\text{♩} = 72$ ) *a tempo*

A drop of dew rolls to spar-kle in a

(Vlns.) *Play pizz.* *arco, gentle tremolo, at the tip*

$(p)$

25

lil - y's heart. — I have to go... Where? I do not know!

*ord.*

**p**

29

(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)

**mf**

34

(6) (7) (8) (9) *rit.*

39 *Free measure*

Where was I? Oh yes! Lord, I had something to tell you:

(Vlns. *pizz.*)

40 *a tempo* ( $\text{♩} = 72$ )

*Play*

(1) (2) (3) (4)

**p**

44 *rit.*

**v** **v**

**pp** *via sord.*

*short pause*

## 7. The Prayer of the Cat

(Vlc. numerous, random glissandi  
as a "cat exploring")

**A graceful tempo**  $\text{d} = 72$   
*senza sord.*

4

8

12 *random pitches  
(but in rhythm)*

17 *rit.* *recitative style*

It is not, exactly, that I have something to ask of You!

**p**

19

No – I ask nothing of a - ny - one – but, if You have by some chance, in some ce - les - tial

*pizz.*

**mf**

barn, a little white mouse, (pizz.) or a saucer of milk,

(20) [Vln. 1 enters] **p**

Prayers from the Ark – Viola

15

21

(Cat) I know someone who would rel - ish them, rel - ish them, rel - ish them.

Original tempo  $\text{♩} = 72$

25 *arco* *pizz.* *arco* *gentle trem. gliss.*

*mf* *p*

Would - n't You like some - day \_ to put a curse on the whole race of dogs?

29

Would - n't You like some - day \_ to put a curse on the whole race of dogs?

[cut off]

roughly, as noisy barking

*sfp determined* *p < f*

30

(Cat) If so, I should say,

*(f)* *p < ff*

Interlude 3

$\text{♩} = 72$

*mf*

*simile*

5

*rit.* *p*

*short pause*

**Lumbering tempo**  $\text{d} = 60$

[repeat as long as necessary for Alto's costume change]

(Vlc.)

### 8. The Prayer of the Elephant

**Lumbering tempo**  $\text{d} = 60$

*Play*

[repeat the previous 2 measures as long as needed  
for the Elephant to come to center stage.]

6

*pizz., lightly*

11

*arco* *pizz., lightly*

16

**Slower, more freely**

(Bar.) great self, AH- and **Play** (pizz.) knock knuckle on body of instrument **rit.**

not my fault

22 (rit.)

*a tempo* ( $\text{d} = 60$ ) **Play arco** **Slower, more freely**

big feet.

\*thumb vs. fingers tremolo  
on body of instrument

27

rit. (Tenor) poise. **Slower**

(Sop.) Give me such phil - o -

$> p$

\*To suggest the precariousness of the situation.

33      soph - ic thoughts *pizz.*      ev - 'ry - where I *arco* *mf* *f*

39      *a tempo* ( $\text{d} = 60$ )      things. *f*

44      *pizz.*      *arco* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco*

49      *rit.*      (Women) A - men, A - men *a tempo* *arco* *(f)*      *rit.*      Raise bow in air as Elephant kicks and hold pose.

$\text{d} = 60$  or slightly faster  
(Vln. 1, bird in flight)  
6

repeat as needed for preparation of next scene

## 9. The Prayer of the Dove

**Same tempo ( $\text{d} = 60$ ) or slightly faster**  
with excitement of anticipation  
*con sord.*

*arco, gentle gliss.*  
(in harmonics, Sul C)

8 IV 3 rolled pizz. (Tenor) sign of Your

16 3 rolled pizz. (Alto) sign of Your arco

24 rit. (Sop.) sign of Your arco

a tempo ( $\text{d} = 60$ )  
with building energy

31 *arco, senza sord.*

*f*

33

36

*f*

Slightly slower, pizz. rolled pizz. Slower, arco

*p* (p) *f*

*rit.*

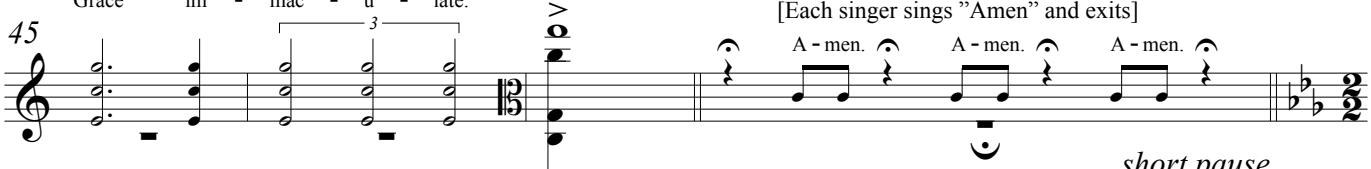
Grace im - mac - u - late. *Play* 

[Each singer sings "Amen" and exits]

A - men. A - men. A - men.

*short pause*

45



## 10. Noah and the Dove *an epilogue*

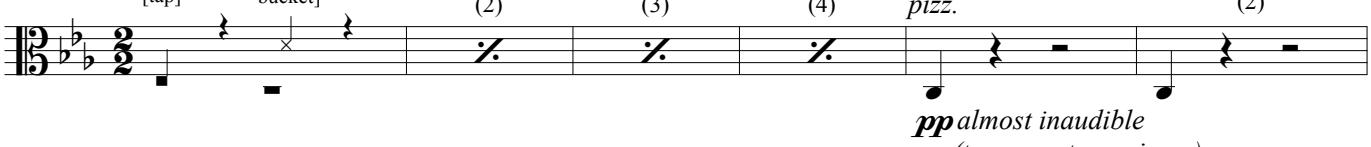
**Slowly**  $\text{♩} = 56$

(Noah cue: bailing out the Ark sounds, *do not play*)

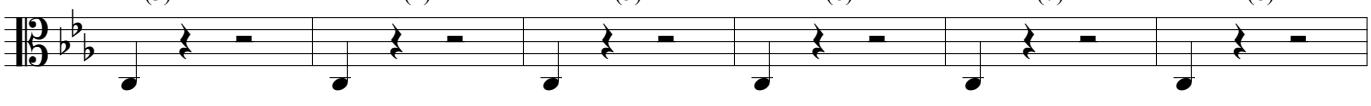
[empty bucket] (2) (3) (4) *Play (join taps)* (2)

*pizz.*

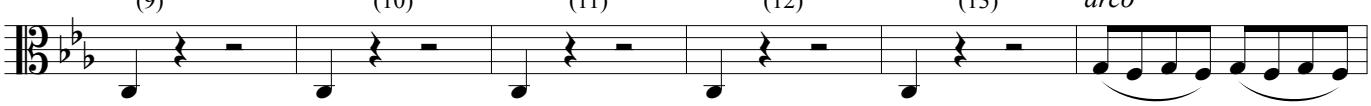
**pp** almost inaudible  
(to suggest weariness)



7 (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8)



13 (9) (10) (11) (12) (13) *poco rit.* *arco*



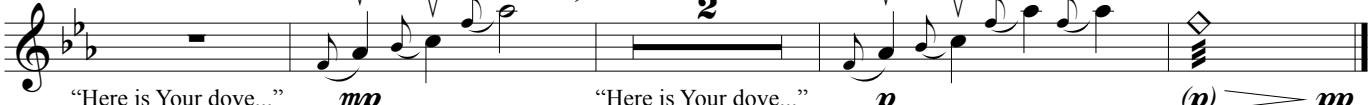
19 **Slightly slower**, *a tempo* ( $\text{♩} = 56$ ) as a dove in flight ,

*mf*



25 , *rit. to end* **2** “Here is Your dove...” *mp* “Here is Your dove...” *p* (p) *>> pp*

*finger trem. on body of instrument, fading as a dove flying away.*



Violoncello

Gwyneth Walker

Prayers from the Ark

*for SATB Soli and String Quartet*

2 Violoncello

# Prayers from the Ark

for SATB Soli and String Quartet

Carmen Bernos de Gasztold  
Rumer Godden, trans.

Gwyneth Walker

## Introduction (animal sounds)

[Singers off stage]

A raucous “symphony” of animal noises (vocal sounds) is produced by the singers (animals) *ad libitum*....  
These sounds start before the strings begin to play, and continue during the playing.

(Vln. 1)  
(Vln. 2)  
(Vla.)

enter *ad lib.*  
as a donkey “hee-haw”  
repeat a few times  
accel.  
*f* *sfp* *ff*

## 1. Noah’s Prayer

**Slowly, dramatically**

*as a recitative*

*f* *p* *rit.*

6      *a tempo*  $\text{♩} = 66$       *rit.*      **Slowly**  
*p* *lifeless, tired*

10      (Vlns.) *Play*      *f* *p*

Selections from *Prayers from the Ark* are used with permission of Curtis Brown Group Ltd.

Prayers from the Ark – Violoncello

3

14                      *pizz.*                      *rolled pizz.*                      *arco*  
  
*rit.*     **Slowly, emphatically**     *(Vln. 1)*  
*poco accel.*     **Slightly faster**     *rit.*  
*Play*  
*p*     *mf*     *p*  
*short pause*

28     **Slowly**     *rit.*  
*short pause*

## Prayers from the Ark – Violoncello

## 2. The Prayer of the Dog

*rit.**lovingly pat instrument as if patting a dog on his head***At a frisky tempo ♩ = 100**

(Vlns.)

**2**

**3**

**mf**

**5** ♩ = 72 *recitativo style*

Lord, I keep watch! If I am not here who will guard their

*pizz.*

**8**

house? Watch o - ver their sheep? Be\_\_\_ faith - ful?

*arco*

**11**

No one but you and I un - der - stand what faith - ful - ness is.

**14** **15**

**f** **p**

**13** *a tempo (♩ = 72)*

*(Dog)*

They call me "Good dog!" Nice dog!"

*rolled pizz.*

*an especially nice pat on the Dog's head →*

**mf**

Prayers from the Ark – Violoncello

5

**Slightly faster** ♩ = 88

15

I take their pats and the old bones they throw me \_\_\_\_\_ and I seem pleased.

*arco*

*rolled pizz.*

*mf*

*p*

19 *Free measure*

They really believe they make me hap - py

I take kicks too when they come my way.

*arco*

*f*

**Original tempo** ♩ = 72

None of this mat-ters.— I keep watch! Lord, do not let me

20 (Dog) | | | | | |

*Play*

*f*

*mf*

25 **Faster** ♩ = 100 *rit.* ♩ = 72

A - men. A - men. A - men.

*as if patting a dog's head*

*rolled pizz.*

*lovingly pat instrument*

*mf*

*mp*

(Vlns.) *8va-----*

**Faster**

*rit.*

(Vlns.)

*final pat*

*p*

*short pause*

## Prayers from the Ark – Violoncello

## Interlude 1

*a tempo* ♩ = 100

pizz. (1) (2) (3) (4)

**mf**

6 **2** *lightly knock knuckle on instrument  
[to simulate a bird hopping]*

**p** *attacca*

## 3. The Prayer of the Little Bird

**Lightly** ♩ = 100*as a small bird hopping on the ground*

*arco* V V V V

4 *wings flapping* *poco rit.*

**(p)** *mp*

**Slightly slower***at a comfortable recitative tempo*

7 *Play* ♩ **p** *With motion* ♩ = 72

*(Bird) pray by my - self ver - y well,*

10

12 *gentle, light tremolo, at the tip*

**rit.** **Slower** *more reflectively* **rit.**

*ord.* ♩ = 72

**mf** *f* **p**

Prayers from the Ark – Violoncello

7

17    *rit.*

**Original tempo ( $\text{♩} = 100$ )**

22    *wings flapping*

**p**

25    *rit.*

(Bird) A - A - A - A - A - men.

[BIRD holds up worm]  
knock knuckle  
on instrument

**p**  
short pause

### Interlude 2

*a tempo  $\text{♩} = 100$*

(Vlns.)

*Play*

(2) (3) (4)

**p**

**Slowly**

6    (Noah)

The days are long, Lord. All this wa-ter makes my heart sink.

**p**

9    *rit.*

Slightly faster

(Vlns.)

*Play*

**p**

## 4. The Prayer of the Little Ducks

**Bouncy tempo** ♩ = 120

*suitable for jumping in puddles*

simile

*mf*

5

9

12

*p*      *mf*

16

20

*f*

*rolled pizz.*

*arco*

25

*poco rit.*

*Slightly slower*

*mf*

29

(Vln. 1) *Play rolled pizz.*

*accel.*

*arco*

*f*

Prayers from the Ark – Violoncello

9

33      *a tempo* ( $\text{♩} = 120$ )      *rit.*

**Freely, slower**  
*recitative style*  
(Duck 2)

Pro - tect all folk who

36      (Duck 1)      *p*  
quack and ev - 'ry - one who knows how to swim. \_\_\_\_\_

39      *accel.*      *a tempo* ( $\text{♩} = 120$ )      *p*      *p*

43      *f*      *rolled pizz.*      *rit.*      *arco*      [DUCKS jump in puddle]      *snap pizz.*

47      *a tempo* ( $\text{♩} = 120$ )      *arco*      *mf*      short pause

## 5. The Prayer of the Donkey

**Tempo ad lib.**

\*low gliss. ad lib. [HAW]

*many  
glissandi  
ad lib.*

The musical score consists of four staves of bass clef music. The first staff shows a descending glissando from a high note to a low note, marked with a dynamic **f**. The second staff begins at measure 5, with two voices: (Donkey 1) and (Donkey 2). The lyrics are:

(Donkey 1) al - ways,  
(Donkey 2) O God, who made me to trudge along the road al - ways,  
to carry heavy loads al - ways,

Measure 10 continues with the lyrics:

al - ways, al - ways!  
and to be beaten al - ways! Give me great cour - age and

Measure 15 continues with the lyrics:

gen - tle - ness. One day let some - bod - y un - der -  
“Hee-Haw” sounds (see m. 1)

Measure 18 continues with the lyrics:

stand me- that I may no long - er want to weep be -

Dynamics include **p**, **sfp**, **f**, and **mf**. Measure 18 includes a 3/4 time signature. Measure 15 includes a 5/4 time signature. Measure 18 includes a 5/4 time signature.

\*Violins play a high, quick, upward glissando, *ad lib.*, which is answered by Viola and Cello low, quick, downward glissando *ad lib.* to simulate the “hee-haw” sounds of a donkey

20

cause I can ne - ver say what I m - m - m - m - mean and they make fun of me.

*snap pizz.*

**f**

23 (Donkey 1)

and make them give me time to pick it. And, Lord,

*arco*

**mf**

28

one day let me find a - gain my lit - tle broth - er of the Christ - mas crib.

*rit.*

**Quickly**

**p**

(Donkeys)  
A - men.

A bit faster (like the opening)  
“Hee-Haw” sounds (see m. 1)

rit.

32

**(f)**

*short pause*

## 6. The Prayer of the Butterfly

**Lightly**  $\text{d} = 72$   
*as a butterfly in flight*      *con sord.*

(Vla.)

**p**

6 (1) (2) (3)

[Butterfly enters] (4) (5) (6)

**p**

9 (7) (8) (9)

**poco rit.** (Butterfly)

Slightly slower

Slower

15 Your world is beau - ti - ful! This scent of

(10) **f**      **> p**

19 *a tempo* ( $\text{d} = 72$ )

ros - es... (Vlns.) **pizz.** **(p)**

23 *a tempo*

A drop of dew rolls to spar - kle in a lil - y's heart. I have to go... **arco** **p**

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is for the Cello (Violoncello), and the bottom staff is for the Violin (Vlns.). The score is in common time, with a key signature of four flats. The tempo is indicated as Lightly  $\text{d} = 72$ , with a note above it reading "as a butterfly in flight". A dynamic marking "con sord." is placed above the violin staff. The cello part features sixteenth-note patterns with grace marks, grouped in threes. The violin part follows, also with sixteenth-note patterns and grace marks, grouped in threes. Measure 6 starts with a dynamic **p**. Measures 9 and 12 begin with dynamics **mf** and **p** respectively. Measures 15 through 19 show the cello playing eighth notes while the violin provides harmonic support. The lyrics "Your world is beau - ti - ful! This scent of ros - es..." are spoken over the music. Measure 23 concludes with a dynamic **p**.

Prayers from the Ark – Violoncello

13

27 (Vlns. & Vla.) *Play*  
*Where? I do not know!* *mf* 6 6

30 6 6 6 6 6 6  
*mf*

33 6 6 6 6 6 6

36 6 6 6 6 rit.  
*Free measure* (Butterfly) *a tempo* ( $\text{d} = 72$ )  
*Where was I? Oh yes! Lord, I had something to tell you:* (Vlns. pizz.) (Vla.) 6 6

41 (1) (2) (3)  
*p*

44 rit. via sord.  $\gg pp$  short pause

## 7. The Prayer of the Cat

*short, random, glissandi, on any string, in different ranges, to simulate a cat exploring the barn  
senza sord.*

Measure 1: Bass clef, key signature of two sharps. The instruction is to play short, random, glissandi on any string, in different ranges, to simulate a cat exploring the barn. The dynamic is **f**. The tempo is **A graceful tempo**,  $\text{♩} = 72$ .

Measure 2: Key signature changes to six sharps. The tempo is  $\text{♩} = 72$ . The dynamic is **mf**. The measure is divided into five groups labeled (1) through (5).

Measure 10: Key signature changes to four sharps. The dynamic is **(mf)**. The instruction is to play random pitches (but in rhythm). The dynamic is **pizz.**

Measure 16: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp. The dynamic is **rit.** The style is **recitative style**. The lyrics are: "It is not, exactly, that I have something to ask of You!" The dynamic is **arco** and **p**.

Measure 19: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are: "No – I ask nothing of a - ny - one – but, if You have by some chance, in some ce - les - tial". The dynamic is **pizz.**

Measure (20): Treble clef, key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are: "barn, a little white mouse, or a saucer of milk,". The dynamic is **p**. A downward arrow points to the word "barn". The instruction [Vln. 1 enters] is written below the bass clef staff.

Prayers from the Ark – Violoncello

15

21

(Cat) I know someone who would rel - ish them, rel - ish them, rel - ish them. rit.

Original tempo  $\text{d} = 72$

25 *arcō*

*arcō*

*mf*

*p*

29

Would - n't You like some - day to put a curse on the whole race of dogs?

[cut off]

*sfp determined*

30

(Cat) If so, I should say,

*f*

*ff*

Interlude 3

$\text{d} = 72$

*mf*

5

random ascending glissandi

rit.

*p*

short pause

**Lumbering tempo**  $\text{d} = 60$

[repeat as long as necessary for Alto's costume change]

### 8. The Prayer of the Elephant

**Lumbering tempo**  $\text{d} = 60$

[repeat the previous 2 measures as long as needed for the Elephant to come to center stage.]

6 *pizz., lightly*

11 *arco* *pizz., lightly*

16 *Slower, more freely*

(Bar.) great self, AH- and Play (pizz.) knock knuckle on body of instrument

not my fault

21 *rit.* *a tempo* ( $\text{d} = 60$ ) *Play arco* *Slower, more freely*

big feet.

\*thumb vs. fingers tremolo  
on body of instrument

30 *rit.* *Slower* *pizz.*

(Tenor) poise. *f* Give me such phil - o - soph - ic thoughts (Sop.) *mf*

\*To suggest the precariousness of the situation.

35 ev - 'ry-where I

*arco**a tempo* ( $\text{♩} = 60$ )*mf**f*

things.

42

*pizz.**rit.*

(Women)

A - men, A - men

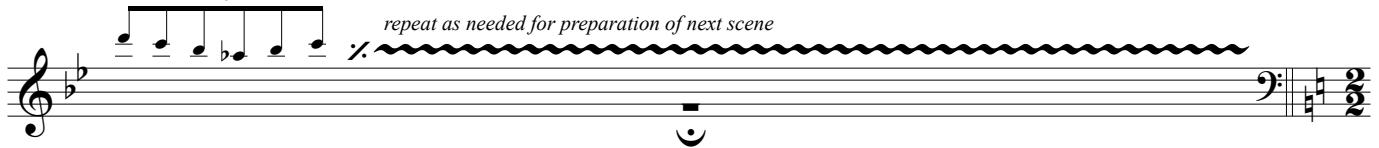
*a tempo**arco**rit.*Raise bow in air as  
Elephant kicks and  
hold pose.

48

*(f)* $\text{♩} = 60$  or slightly faster

(Vln. 1, bird in flight)

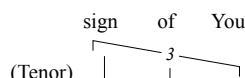
repeat as needed for preparation of next scene



## 9. The Prayer of the Dove

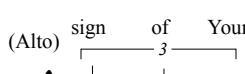
**Same tempo ( $\text{d} = 60$ ) or slightly faster***with excitement of anticipation  
con sord.*

*rolled pizz.*

*sign of Your*  
(Tenor) 

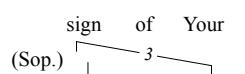
*arco, gentle gliss.*  
(in harmonics, Sul C)

*rolled pizz.*

*sign of Your*  
(Alto) 

*arco*

*rolled pizz.*

*sign of Your*  
(Sop.) 

*arco*

*rit.*

**Slower**

*pizz.*

*via sord.*

*comes from You.*

*arco, senza sord.*  
*slight accent*

*(1)*

*a tempo ( $\text{d} = 60$ )*  
*with building energy*

*(2)*      *(3)*      *(4)*      *(5)*      *(6)*

*(7)*      *(8)*

*f*

**Slightly slower**

*pizz.*

*rolled pizz.*

*arco*

*(p)*

*rit.*

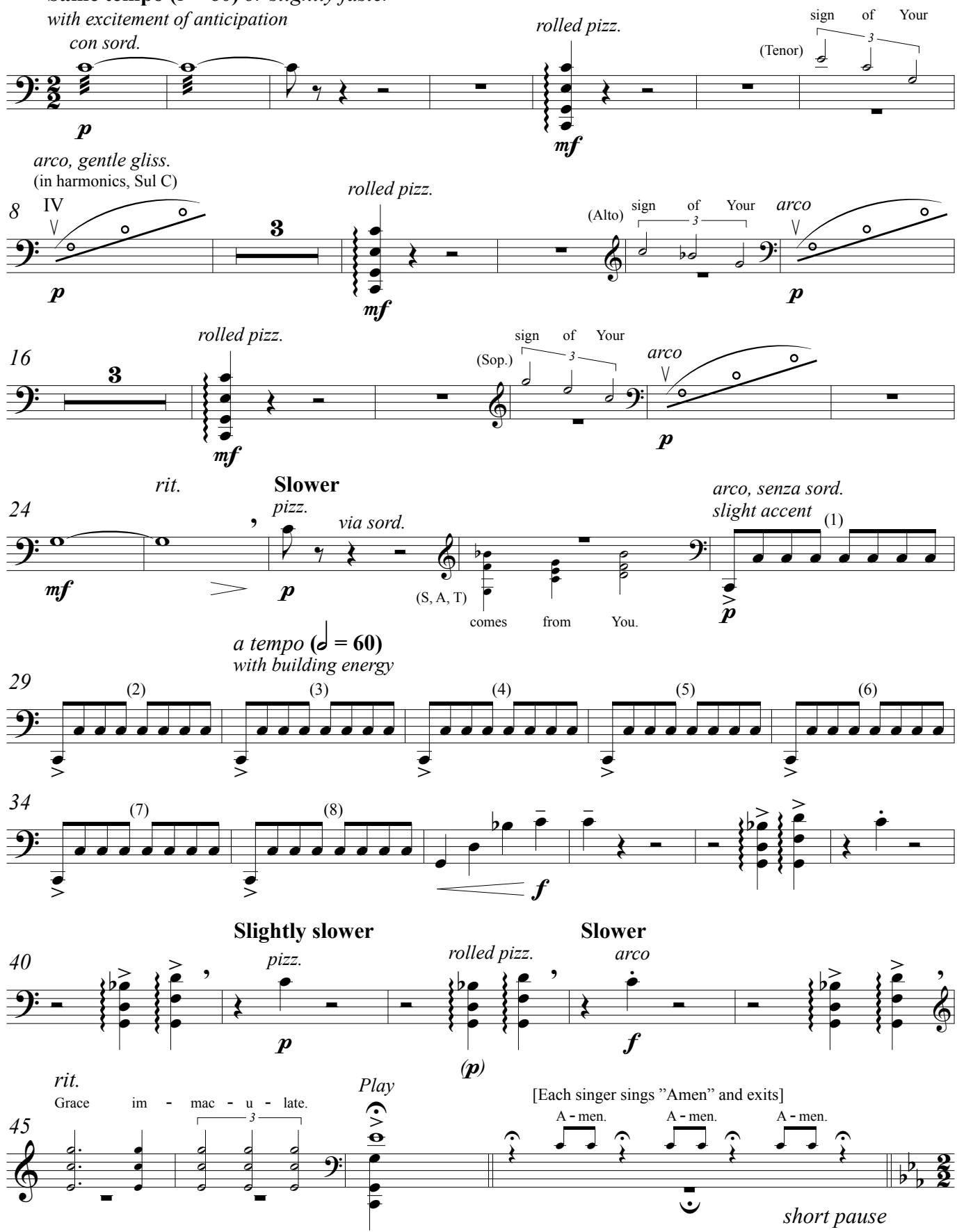
Grace im - mac - u - late.

*Play*

[Each singer sings "Amen" and exits]

A - men.      A - men.      A - men.

*short pause*



## 10. Noah and the Dove

*an epilogue*

**Slowly**  $\text{♩} = 56$

(Noah cue: bailing out the Ark sounds, *do not play*)

[empty  
bucket]

*Play (join taps)*

*pizz.*

***pp*** almost inaudible  
(to suggest weariness)

6 (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7)

12 (8) (9) (10) (11) (12) (13)

18 *poco rit.*      **Slightly slower**      *arco*      *a tempo* ( $\text{♩} = 56$ )

***mf***
***finger trem. on body of instrument, fading as a dove flying away.***

24 , **2** **2** *rit. to end*      (Vlns. & Vla.)

***p***
***pp***

“Here is Your dove...” “Here is Your dove...”