

DANIEL ELDER MUSIC

FROM THE DARK

FOR SATB VOICES
AND PIANO

Program Notes

When speaking of resilience and of overcoming adversity, there is one towering hurdle we all experience on the long road to wisdom. Grief tragically—yet beautifully—does not discriminate. It is one of the titans of human experience which bind us all into a shared, age-old identity. *From the Dark* sets an original poem penned by the composer dredging a deeply intimate memory of grief. In these words lies a humble attempt to reach across the stubborn divides that segregate modern humanity, and to offer the bittersweet cup of shared pain, learning, and most importantly, of growth. For it is also through grief's destruction that we learn to rebuild ourselves, stronger than before. *From the Dark* outlines a narrator's long-suffering wrestle with loss, distilled into the narrower representation of a single passing night. In it we must taste dread, weariness, and despair...but also that divine moment when the voice inside whispers to us at our most broken, "Arise!" and ignites within us the strength to stand and face another sunrise with courage and hope. Through the torment of this definitively-human crucible we accept the harsh but priceless gift of growing that much closer to the divine, and in doing so, closer to one another.

Text

I sigh—my mind undone again
and sleep has fled astray,
I fall behind the sun again
to weep until the day.
I call—the stars come cold again
as evening withers gray,
I lie with scars untold again
and grieve the hours away.

I plead in silence shrill again
where blackness blinds the heart,
I strain my trial-worn will again
but slacking, slide apart.
I wane—my pallor pales again
as spirit stakes its toll,
I bleed—my valor fails again
when fear infests my soul.

I drift—the ache now numb again
and loose my burdened brow,
I turn, I shake, but dumb again
in truce of slumber now.
I yearn to feel the sky again,
to cleave the clouds aglow—
I lift my heel to fly again
and leave the world below.

I dream—my face serene again,
a moonbeam finds me still.
I glide in place, unseen again
and swooning in the chill.
I hide for fear, enthralled again
and quailing, sense a spark—
I seem to hear that call again
which hails me from the dark:

Arise! resounds one word again,
its dawning breaks my trance.
I gaze astounded, stirred again
beyond the bleak expanse.
I raise my weary plea again
and swift, with my last might
I prise my spirit free again
to lift into the light!

My eyes consumed in sun again
as sadness quits my soul,
I know that gloom has gone again
when gladness knits me whole.
I glow with life alight again
and burn with vigor bold—
I rise! my strife made bright again
to turn these tears to gold.

About the Composer

Truth into emotion. Emotion into music. Music into emotion. Emotion into truth. Done perceptively, this cycle never ends. As a writer and lover of both vocal and instrumental idioms, Daniel Elder (b. 1986) delights in crossing the boundaries of these worlds to create music that speaks outside its niche. Asked of his style, Daniel's goal is simple: "In my writing I seek to avoid the common focus on 'my voice'—rather I attempt to tap the emotions a poet once put into words, or to tell a story with no words at all through the complex feelings of orchestral color. Through the pursuit of emotion I chase truth. The notes are merely the language." Emerging from rural Georgia Daniel's music quickly attracted the attention of renowned American choral directors and catapulted him to the international stage within three years of writing his first work. His catalogue is printed by Carus Verlag, Edition Peters, GIA Publications, Hal Leonard, Walton Music, Wingert-Jones Publications, and self-published through J.W. Pepper and SMP Press. Learn more at www.danieleldermusic.com

FROM THE DARK

words and music by
Daniel Elder (b. 1986)
(ASCAP)

Scuero ma con moto (♩ = 132)

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Scuero ma con moto (♩ = 132)

Piano

p legato

non troppo

Red. sempre ad lib.

6

mf

mp

non troppo

12

f

mf

non troppo

18

f

24

mf *mp*

30

p

I sigh— my mind un - done a - gain and

p

I sigh— my mind un - done a - gain and

p

I sigh— my mind un - done a - gain and

p

I sigh— my mind un - done a - gain and

30

p

40

36

sleep — has — fled a - stray, I fall

sleep has — fled a - stray, I fall

sleep... ...fled... I fall

sleep... ...fled... I fall

40

36

non troppo *p*

42

be - hind the sun a - gain to weep un - til the day.

be - hind the sun a - gain to weep un - til the day.

be - hind the sun a - gain ...weep un - til the day.

be - hind the sun a - gain ...weep un - til the day.

42

leggero

48

I call— the stars come

I call— the stars come

I call— the stars come

I call— the stars come

48 poco rall. 51 a tempo

mp *sub. p*

54

cold a-gain as eve - ning with - ers gray, *sub. p*

cold a-gain as eve - ning with - ers gray, *sub. p*

cold a-gain as eve - ning with - ers gray, *sub. p*

cold a-gain as eve - ning with - ers gray, *sub. p*

54

mp *mf* *p*

60

I lie with scars untold again and

I lie with scars untold again and

I lie with scars untold again and

I lie with scars untold again and

pp

60

pp

66

grieve the hours away, grieve the hours away.

grieve the hours away, grieve the hours away.

grieve the hours away, grieve the hours away.

grieve the hours away, grieve the hours away.

p

66

p *leggero*

molto rall. [73] a tempo

72 *mp* *mf* *mp*

I plead in si - lence shrill a - gain

mp *mf* *mp*

I plead in si - lence shrill a - gain

mp *mf* *mp*

I plead in si - lence shrill a - gain

mp *mf* *mp*

I plead in si - lence shrill a - gain

molto rall. [73] a tempo

72 *mp* *sfz* *mf* *pesante* *mp*

[82]

78 *p* *ma espress.* *f*

where black - ness blinds the heart, I strain

p *ma espress.* *f*

...black - ness blinds the heart, I strain

p *ma espress.* *f*

...black - ness blinds... I strain

p *ma espress.* *f*

...black - ness blinds... I strain

[82]

78 *p* *leggero* *mp* *sfz* *mf* *pesante*

84 *mp* *p* *ma espress.*

my trial - worn will a - gain but slack - ing, slide a - part.

mp *p* *ma espress.*

my trial - worn will a - gain ...slack - ing, slide a - part.

mp *p* *ma espress.*

8 my trial - worn will a - gain but slack - ing, slide...

mp *p* *ma espress.*

my trial - worn will a - gain ...slack - ing, slide...

84

mp *p* *leggero*

90 [91] *espress.* *sub. p*

I, I wane— my pal - lor pales a - gain

espress. *sub. p*

I, I wane— my pal - lor pales a - gain

espress. *sub. p*

8 I, I wane— my pal - lor pales a - gain

espress. *sub. p*

I, I wane— my pal - lor pales a - gain

90 [91]

sub. p *poco*

96

100

as spir - it stakes its toll, — I bleed — my val - or

...spir - it stakes its toll, — I bleed — my val - or

96

100

espress. *sub. p*

102

non troppo *più vivace*

fails a - gain when fear in -

fails a - gain when fear in -

when fear in

when fear in -

102

110

108

f

fests

my

soul,

my

soul.

fests

my

soul,

soul.

fests

my

soul,

my

soul.

fests

my

soul,

soul.

110

108

f *molto espress.*

114

114

120

mf

126

mp più tranquillo

132

poco rall.

138 Poco meno mosso, capriccioso

p ma vivace

I drift the ache now numb a-gain and

p ma vivace

I drift the ache now numb a-gain and

138 Poco meno mosso, capriccioso

p ma vivace

non troppo

144

*pp**non troppo*

148

(ah)

*pp**non troppo*

(ah)

8 loose my bur-dened brow, I turn, I shake,

loose my bur-dened brow, I turn, I shake,

144

148

non troppo

150

non troppo

(ah)

non troppo

(ah)

8 — but dumb a-gain in truce of slum-ber now.

— but dumb a-gain in truce of slum-ber now.

150

non troppo

156 *espress.* *sub. p*

I, I yearn to feel, feel the

159 *espress.* *sub. p*

I, I yearn to feel, feel the

156 *espress.* *sub. p*

I, I yearn to feel, feel the

159 *espress.* *sub. p*

I, I yearn to feel, feel the

156 *sub. p*

162 *ma dolce*

sky a-gain, to cleave the clouds a - glow—

162 *ma dolce*

sky a-gain, to cleave the clouds a - glow—

162 *ma dolce*

sky a-gain, to cleave the clouds a - glow—

162 *ma dolce*

sky a-gain, to cleave the clouds a - glow—

162 *sub. p* *mf ma dolce* *espress.*

168 Poco piú mosso

brio *f* poco accel.

...my heel to fly a - gain and

...lift my heel to fly a - gain and

...lift, I lift to fly a - gain and

I lift to fly a - gain and

168 Poco piú mosso

sub. p *f* poco accel.

177 Molto liberamente, capriccioso

174

leave the world be - low.

whisper (continue making subtle wind imitations, scattered sparsely between sections)

leave the world be - low.

whisper (continue making subtle wind imitations, scattered sparsely between sections)

leave the world be - low.

whisper (continue making subtle wind imitations, scattered sparsely between sections)

leave the world be - low.

177 Molto liberamente, capriccioso

174

sub. p *sfz* *mp*

180 *al niente*

(join in wind imitations)

(wind imitations continue)

(wind imitations continue)

(wind imitations continue)

180

186

(wind imitations continue)

189 *Liberamente, piú scuro*

p

I dream—

p

I dream—

p

I dream—

p

I dream—

189 *Liberamente, piú scuro*

186

192

leggero

(m) my face — se - rene a - gain, a moon - beam

(m) my face se - rene a - gain, a moon - beam

(m) my face se - rene a - gain, a moon - beam

(m) my face se - rene a - gain, a moon - beam

192

p

198

202

finds me still, I glide, I glide

finds me still, I glide

finds me still, I glide

finds me still, I glide

198

202

p

204

in place, un - seen a - gain and

in place, un - seen a - gain and

in place, un - seen a - gain and

in place, un - seen a - gain and

p

204

p

210

swoon - ing in the chill. I

swoon - ing in the chill. I

swoon - ing in the chill. I

swoon - ing in the chill. I

p

210

p

216 **Meno mosso, liberamente**

sotto voce

hide _____ for fear, _____ en - thralled a - gain and

sotto voce

hide _____ for fear, _____ en - thralled a - gain and

sotto voce

8 hide _____ for fear, _____ en - thralled a - gain and

sotto voce

hide _____ for fear, _____ en - thralled a - gain and

216 **Meno mosso, liberamente**

Empty musical staves for piano accompaniment.

222

non troppo *sotto voce*

quail - ing, _____ sense a spark—

non troppo *sotto voce*

quail - ing, _____ sense a spark—

non troppo *sotto voce*

8 quail - ing, _____ sense a spark—

non troppo *sotto voce*

quail - ing, _____ sense a spark—

222

Empty musical staves for piano accompaniment, ending with a *p* (piano) dynamic marking.

230 a tempo

228 *p*

I seem to hear that call a -

p

I seem to hear that call a -

non troppo

...to hear...

non troppo

...to hear...

230 a tempo

228 *pp* *scurio*

poco accel.

234

gain which hails me from the dark:

gain which hails me from the dark:

p

which hails me from the dark:

p

which hails me from the dark:

poco accel.

234 *mp*

240

molto lunga [242] A tempo primo, misterioso

p non espress.

...rise!" "A

p non espress.

"...rise!" "A - rise!"

p non espress.

"...rise!" "A - rise!" A -

p non espress.

"A - rise!" "A -

molto lunga [242] A tempo primo, misterioso

240

sfz

p dolce

poco rall. [249] A tempo, molto appassionato

246

f

rise!" "A - rise!" "A - rise!" re-sounds _ one word a - gain,

f

"A - rise!" "A - rise!" re-sounds _ one word a - gain,

f

rise!" "A - rise!" re-sounds _ one word a - gain,

f

rise!" "A - rise!" re-sounds _ one word a - gain,

poco rall. [249] A tempo, molto appassionato

246

f

252

poco rall.

its dawn-ing breaks my trance. I

its dawn-ing breaks my trance. I

its dawn-ing breaks my trance. I

its dawn-ing breaks my trance. I

252

poco rall.

sub. *p*

258 a tempo

gaze as - tound-ed, stirred a-gain___ be - yond the bleak___ ex - panse.

gaze as - tound-ed, stirred a-gain___ be - yond the bleak___ ex - panse.

gaze as - tound-ed, stirred a-gain___ be - yond the bleak___ ex - panse.

gaze as - tound-ed, stirred a-gain___ be - yond the bleak___ ex - panse.

258 a tempo

f

fp

264

— I raise my wea - ry plea a - gain — ...swift, with

— I raise my wea - ry plea a - gain — and swift, with

8 — I raise my wea - ry plea a - gain — and... — ...with...

— I raise my wea - ry plea a - gain — ...swift,

264

f *sfz* *sfz* *f*

270

my last might I, I prise — my spi - rit

my last might I, I prise, I prise my spi - rit

8 — ...last... — ...prise, I prise — my spi - rit

...my... ...might I prise — my spi - rit

fp *ff* *fp* *ff* *fp* *ff* *fp* *ff*

270

sub. p *sfz*

276

free a - gain _____ to lift in - to _____ the light! _____

free a - gain _____ to lift in - to _____ the light! _____

8 free a - gain _____ to lift in - to _____ the light! _____

free a - gain _____ to lift in - to _____ the light! _____

276

sfz *sfz mp*

(tremolo between all four notes in sequence)

molto rall.

282

ffp *f brioso*

288 A tempo liberamente, molto grandioso

sfz mf *sfz mf ff*

294

sfz *mf* *sfz* *mf* *ff*

300 SOPRANO *poco rall.* *p* My

ALTO *p* My

300 *sfz* *mf* *sfz* *poco rall.* *più dolce*

306 Poco meno mosso, tranquillo

dolcissimo

eyes con - sumed in sun a - gain as sad - ness

dolcissimo

eyes con - sumed in sun a - gain as sad - ness

306 Poco meno mosso, tranquillo

p

312

quits my soul, — I know — that gloom has — gone a - gain

quits my soul, — I know — that gloom has — gone a - gain

318

when — glad - ness knits me whole.

when — glad - ness knits me whole.

322

318

322

324

mp

sub. p

poco rall.

331 a tempo

330

p

I glow with life a - light a - gain

p

I glow with life a - light a - gain

p

I glow with life a - light a - gain

p

I glow with life a - light a - gain

poco rall.

331 a tempo

330

sfz

p

poco

336

and burn with vig-or bold

and burn with vig-or bold

and burn bold... *cresc. poco a poco* ...rise!

and burn bold *cresc. poco a poco* I rise!

336

mf

p

342

mf *sfz*

I, I rise! I

...rise! I, I rise! I

I rise! I rise! I

I rise! I

342

poco cresc. *sfz*

348

sfz *ff* *mf*

rise! I rise! my strife

sfz *ff* *mf*

rise! I rise! my strife

sfz *ff* *mf*

rise! I rise! my strife

sfz *ff* *mf*

rise! I rise! my strife

348

sfz *ff* *mf*

354

ritenuto
sotto voce

— made bright a - gain — to turn

— made bright a - gain — to turn

— made bright a - gain — to turn

— made bright a - gain — to turn

354

ritenuto

p *pp*

360

365 **Meno mosso,**
liberamente
pp

these tears to gold, —

these tears to gold, —

these tears to gold, —

these tears to gold, —

360

365 **Meno mosso,**
liberamente

pp *dolcissimo*

[illegible]

For Review Only