

Lux Ezra Onigman

I Am Not There

for SATB a cappella

Perusal Score

October 2024

Text

Do not stand
By my grave, and weep.
I am not there,
I do not sleep—
I am the thousand winds that blow
I am the diamond glints in snow
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,
I am the gentle, autumn rain.
As you awake with morning's hush,
I am the swift, up-flinging rush
Of quiet birds in circling flight,
I am the day transcending night.
Do not stand
By my grave, and cry—
I am not there,
I did not die.

This is the original text of the poem "Immortality", as written by Clare Harner in 1934.

Notes

I was inspired to write this setting by a comic by Alex Brennan-Dent which used a version of this text along with illustrations of a trans man coming out to his mother.

It is a common experience within the transgender community of watching family members or friends mourn our old identities, rather than embracing our new selves, so this setting is a response to that experience.

- Lux

I Am Not There

Clare Harner

Lux Ezra Onigman

$\text{♩} = 80$

f *mp*

Soprano
Do not stand By my grave, and weep. I am not there, I do not sleep— Do not

f *mp*

Alto
Do not stand By my grave, and weep. I am not there, I do not sleep— Do not

f *mp*

Tenor
Do not stand By my grave, and weep. I am not there, I do not sleep— Do not

f *mp*

Bass
Do not stand By my grave, and weep. I am not there, I do not sleep— Do not

6

S.
stand By my grave, and cry— I am not there, I did not die.

A.
stand By my grave, and cry— I am not there, I did not die.

T.
stand By my grave, and cry— I am not there, I did not die.

B.
stand By my grave, and cry— I am not there, I did not die.

10

S. *mf* wind that blow, —

A. *mf* I am the thou - sand wind that blow, —

T. *mp* *mf* I am the thou - sand winds wind that blow, —

B. *mp* I am the thou - sand wind that blow, —

14

S. *pp* the glints in snow.

A. *mp* I am the dia - mond glints in snow. —

T. *mp* glints in snow. —

B. *mp* I am the dia - mond glints in snow. — the glints in snow. —

18 *mp* *mf*

S. I am the sun-light on ri - pened grain, [n] I am the sun - light

A. *mp* *mf*
I am the sun-light I am the sun [n] I am the sun - light

T. *mf*
I am the sun-light on ri - pened grain, [n]

B. *mp*
on ri-pened grain, [n]

22 *mp* *pp*

S. I am the gen - tle au-tumn rain. [n]

A. *mp* *pp*
I am the gen - tle au-tumn rain. [n]

T. *mp* *pp*
I am the gen - tle au-tumn rain. [n]

B. *pp*
I am the gen - tle au-tumn rain. [n]

26

S. *p* Do not stand By my grave, and weep. I am not there, I do not sleep— *mp* Do not

A. *p* Do not stand By my grave, and weep. I am not there, I do not sleep— *mp* Do not

T. *p* Do not stand By my grave, and weep. I am not there, I do not sleep— *mp* Do not

B. *p* Do not stand By my grave, and weep. I am not there, I do not sleep— *mp* Do not

31

S. stand By my grave, and cry— I am not there, I did not die.

A. *mf* stand By my grave, and cry— I am not there, I did not die. wake with

T. *mf* stand By my grave, and cry— I am not there, I did not die. you a-wake with

B. *mf* stand By my grave, and cry— I am not there, I did not die. As you a-wake with

36

S. *mp* As you a-wake, I am the swift *mf* up-fling-ing rush [sh]

A. *pp* morn-ing's hush, [sh] *mp* I am the swift *mf* up-fling-ing rush [sh]

T. *pp* morn-ing's hush, [sh] *mf* swift up-fling-ing rush [sh] *mp* Of quiet birds

B. *pp* morn-ing's hush, [sh] *mf* swift up-fling-ing rush [sh]

41

S. *p* birds in cir-cl'ing cir-cl'ing flight... *mp* *mf*

A. *p* quiet birds in cir-cl'ing cir-cl'ing cir-cl'ing flight... *mp* *mf*

T. *p* in cir-cl'ing flight. cir-cl'ing cir-cl'ing cir-cl'ing cir-cl'ing flight... *mf*

B. *p* birds in cir-cl'ing cir-cl'ing flight... *mp* *mf*

46

S. I am the day I am the day

A. I am the day I am the day I am the day

T. I am the day I am the day

B. I am the day I am the day

53

S. trans - cend - ing night I am the day trans - cend - ing night.

A. trans - cend - ing night I am the day trans - cend - ing night.

T. trans - cend - ing night I am the day trans - cend - ing night.

B. trans - cend - ing night I am the day trans - cend - ing night.

60

mp *mf*

S. Do not stand By my grave, and weep. I am not there, I do not sleep— Do not

A. Do not stand By my grave, and weep. I am not there, I do not sleep— Do not

T. Do not stand By my grave, and weep. I am not there, I do not sleep— Do not

B. Do not stand By my grave, and weep. I am not there, I do not sleep— Do not

65

f *mp*

S. stand By my grave, and cry— I am not there, I did not die.

A. stand By my grave, and cry— I am not there, I did not die.

T. stand By my grave, and cry— I am not there, I did not die.

B. stand By my grave, and cry— I am not there, I did not die.