



Malcolm Hill

(1944 - )

# Weep, Erato

**Text from  
Tasso**

**for Two Sopranos  
and Chamber Organ  
(or 3 Viols)**

mj331.2 composed 2013

[www.malcolm-hill.co.uk](http://www.malcolm-hill.co.uk)

IMSLP Licence: Performance Restricted  
Attribution–NonCommercial–NoDerivs 3.0



## **Five Vocal Symphonies to fit between Six Motets by Don Carlo Gesualdo**

In a letter to Gesualdo of 10 December 1592 the poet Torquato Tasso (1544-95) wrote that he had sent over 40 texts for Gesualdo's sole use in madrigals, following the composer's specific requirements. Six days later he sent another five sonnets. Although they were great friends, Gesualdo set only a few of these texts. The friendship abruptly stopped when Tasso produced two poems which seemed to side with the murdered couple.

Malcolm Hill divided each of two Tasso sonnets *In Morte di due Nobilissimi Amanti* and *Sullo Stresso Argomento* in two, to give the freely-translated text for four vocal symphonies to be sung between the first five Gesualdo motets. While the motets should be performed unaccompanied, the vocal lines of the symphonies are accompanied by either chamber organ or three viols.

Gesualdo : *Deus refugium*

Solo vocal symphony : *Weep, O Graces*

Gesualdo : *Reminiscere miserationum*

This motet is scored for SSATB, the text comes from the Introit for the second Sunday of Lent.

*Reminiscere miserationum tuarum Domine Deus meus et ne memineris delicta juventutis meae.*

Remember, O Lord my God, thy tender mercies and thy loving kindnesses, and remember not the sins of my youth.

Duo vocal symphony : ***Weep, Erato***

Weep, Erato and Clio, for this terrible event, and hereafter with mournful sound dispense your bitter grievance, rather than sweet waters, O Parnassus. Weep, sad Naples, arrayed in mourning, weep for the dark doom of beauty and virtue, and may the song address its harmony to grief.

Gesualdo : *Ave, dulcissima Maria* [SATTB]

Solo vocal symphony : *O souls*

Gesualdo : *Gaudeamus omnes*

Solo vocal symphony : *Let whoever blames you*

Gesualdo : *Peccantem me*

Solo vocal symphony : *Nobles are exempt*

Gesualdo : *Ave sanctissima* [SSATTB]



# Weep, Erato

Between Gesualdo's *Reminiscere* and *Ave dulcissima*  
for Two Sopranos and Chamber Organ (or 3 Viols)

Tasso

Malcolm Hill  
2013 mj331.2

♩ = 74

*p*

Weep, — E - ra - to and Cli - o, for this

*p*

Weep, — E - ra - to and Cli - o, for this

7

ter - ri-ble e - vent, and here - af - ter with mourn - - ful

ter - ri-ble e - vent, and here - af - ter with mourn - - ful

13

sound dis - pense your bit - ter griev - ence, ra - ther than sweet

sound dis - pense your bit - ter griev - ence,



19

wa - ters, O Par - nas - sus. Weep, sad -  
ra - ther than sweet wa - ters. Weep, sad -

The musical score for measures 19-25 is written for three staves. The top two staves are for vocal parts, and the bottom staff is for piano accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The vocal parts have lyrics: 'wa - ters, O Par - nas - sus. Weep, sad -' and 'ra - ther than sweet wa - ters. Weep, sad -'. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands.

26

Na - - - ples, ar - rayed in mourn - - -  
Na - - - ples, ar - rayed in mourn - - -

The musical score for measures 26-30 continues the vocal and piano parts. The lyrics are 'Na - - - ples, ar - rayed in mourn - - -' and 'Na - - - ples, ar - rayed in mourn - - -'. The piano accompaniment continues with harmonic support.

31

ing, weep for the dark doom of beau - ty and  
ing, weep for the dark doom of beau -

The musical score for measures 31-35 concludes the vocal and piano parts. The lyrics are 'ing, weep for the dark doom of beau - ty and' and 'ing, weep for the dark doom of beau -'. The piano accompaniment continues with harmonic support.



37

vir - tue,  
- ty and vir - tue,

43

and may the song ad -  
and may the song ad -

48

dress its har - - - mo - ny to grief.  
dress its har - - - mo - ny to grief.