

# A Litany in Time of Plague

for Voice and Two/Three parts Accompaniment

Stefano Paparozzi  
text by: Thomas Nashe (1567-1601)

**♩=50**

Voice *pp*

A-dieu, fare-well, earth's bliss; this world un-cer-tain is; fond are life's lust-ful joys; etc.

Accomp. 1 *pp*

Accomp. 2 *pp* legato sempre

Accomp. 3 (opt.)

5

V. death proves them all but toys; none from his darts can fly; I am sick I must die.

A. 1

A. 2

A. 3 *pp*

9

V. Rich men, trust not in wealth, gold can-not buy you health; phy-sic him-self must fade. All things to end are made,

A. 1

A. 2

13

V. the plague full swift goes by; I am sick I must die. Beau-ty is but a flow'r

A. 1

A. 2

A. 3 *pp*

17

V. which wrin-les will de- vour; bright-ness falls from the air; queens have died young and fair; dust hath closed He-len's eve.

A. 1

A. 2

21

V. I am sick, I must die. Strenght stoops un-to the grave, worms feed on Hec-tor brave;

A. 1

A. 2

A. 3

*pp*

25

V. swords may no fight with fate, Earth still holds ope(n) her gate. "Come, come!" the bells do cry. I am sick, I must

A. 1

A. 2

A. 3

*pp*

29

V. die. Wit with his wan-ton-ness tast-eth death's bit-ter-ness; Hell's ex-e-cu-tio-ner

A. 1

A. 2

A. 3

33

V. hath no ears for to hear what vain art can re- ply. I am sick, I must die.

A. 1

A. 2

A. 3

*pp*

37

V. Haste, there- fore, each de- gree, to wel- come de- sti- ny; Heav'n is our he- ri- tage, Earth but a play- er's stage;

A. 1

A. 2

41

V. mount we un-to the sky. I am sick, I must die.

A. 1

A. 2

A. 3

*pp*

The Litany can be sung by any Voice (solo or group) and accompanied by any Instrument (solo or a 2/3/4 etc.) capable of playing their parts. They can sing/play at their more comfortable register, even with octave doubling. The chosen octave must be the same throughout all the piece.

The stem-less notes in **Voice** part are free in rhythm, the singer(s) should respect just the barlines and the breaths. Expressive interpretation is free.

For the **Accompaniment** part, the chosen technique should be the same throughout all the piece (e.g. Strings starting *pizzicato* should always play *pizzicato*). One or all the Accompaniment part could be sung (vocalizing or with closed mouth).

Acc. 1 and 2 should be played as much *legato* as possible (masking bow changes for strings, breathing very quickly – or even with circular breath – with woodwinds etc.). For Acc. 2, the ability to holding the sound at the same dynamic level for its actual requested length is not required. Acc. 3 is optional.

A polyphonic instrument can play alone all Accompaniment parts.

Adieu, farewell, earth's bliss;  
This world uncertain is;  
Fond are life's lustful joys;  
Death proves them all but toys;  
None from his darts can fly;  
I am sick, I must die.  
Lord, have mercy on us!

Rich men, trust not in wealth,  
Gold cannot buy you health;  
Physic himself must fade.  
All things to end are made,  
The plague full swift goes by;  
I am sick, I must die.  
Lord, have mercy on us!

Beauty is but a flower  
Which wrinkles will devour;  
Brightness falls from the air;  
Queens have died young and fair;  
Dust hath closed Helen's eye.  
I am sick, I must die.  
Lord, have mercy on us!

Strength stoops unto the grave,  
Worms feed on Hector brave;  
Swords may not fight with fate,  
Earth still holds open her gate.  
"Come, come!" the bells do cry.  
I am sick, I must die.  
Lord, have mercy on us!

Wit with his wantonness  
Tasteth death's bitterness;  
Hell's executioner  
Hath no ears for to hear  
What vain art can reply.  
I am sick, I must die.  
Lord, have mercy on us!

Haste, therefore, each degree,  
To welcome destiny;  
Heaven is our heritage,  
Earth but a player's stage;  
Mount we unto the sky.  
I am sick, I must die.  
Lord, have mercy on us!