

Davide Verotta
If I Must Die, Let It Be a Tale

(2024)

Soprano and Flute



PERFORMANCE NOTES

In the vocal part a smaller note indicates an alternate pitch. All accidentals apply only at the given octave.

If I must Die, Let It Be a Tale is scored for soprano and flute, tenor and clarinet in B^b, soprano or tenor and piano.

PROGRAM NOTES

If I Must Die, Let It Be a Tale is a poem by Refaat Alareer. Alareer was born in Gaza City in 1979. A graduate from University College Landon, and University Putra Malaysia, with a dissertation on John Donne, he taught literature and creative writing at the Islamic University of Gaza. Just weeks after he wrote this poem, on December 6, 2023, Alareer was killed by an Israeli airstrike in northern Gaza, along with his brother, sister, and four of his nephews, during the Israeli invasion of the Gaza Strip.

If I Must Die, Let It Be a Tale*

If I must die,
you must live
to tell my story
to sell my things
to buy a piece of cloth
and some strings,
(make it white with a long tail)
so that a child, somewhere in Gaza
while looking heaven in the eye
awaiting his dad who left in a blaze—
and bid no one farewell
not even to his flesh
not even to himself—
sees the kite, my kite you made, flying up above
and thinks for a moment an angel is there
bringing back love
If I must die
let it bring hope
let it be a tale

Refaat Alareer
(23 September 1979 – 6 December 2023)

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If I Must Die, Let It Be a Tale

Davide Verotta

July 2024

$\text{♩} = 72$

Soprano

Flute

p If I must

8 10 *rallentando* *a tempo*

S die If I must If I I *mp* If I must die

Fl. 8 10 *mp*

15

S — you must live *mf* to tell my sto - ry to

Fl. 15 *mf*

20

S sell my things *p*

Fl. 20 *p* *mp* *mf*

24 25

S

Fl. 24 *f* *mf* *f*

2 **A**

S *mf* to sell my things to buy a piece of cloth and some strings,

Fl. *p* *mf*

S spoken
35 *senza tempo, teatrale*
p (make it make it

Fl. *p*

S sung spoken sung
white with a with a long tail)

Fl. *mf*

Poco più veloce ♩ = 80

B

S *mf* so that a child, some-where in Ga - za

Fl.

S while look-ing hea-ven in the eye a-wait-ing his dad who left in a blaze

Fl.

52

S

who left in a blaze *mf* and

f *ff*

Fl.

f *ff* *mf*

52

Pocopiù lento

55

S

bid no one for-well not e-ven to his flesh not e-ven to him - self *p*

55

Fl.

C Tempoprimo ♩ = 72

60

S

(make it white with a long ta - il) so that a child, some where in Ga - za

60

Fl.

p

64

S

sees the kite, my kite you made, fly - ing up a - bove and

64

Fl.

70

S

thinks for a mo - ment an an - gel is there bring-ing back love

f

70

Fl.

f

4
76

S

Fl.

p

80

3/4

81

S

Fl.

D

p If I must die If I must If

mf

p

85

3/4

89

S

Fl.

mf let it bring hope let it be a tale *f* If I must die

mf

f

90

Poco più veloce ♩ = 80

3/4

95

S

Fl.

let it bring hope let it be a tale *mf* If I must die let

mf

allargando

95

5/4

100

S

Fl.

it be a tale

p

100

3/4