

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

(2024)

Soprano and Piano



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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July 2024

Musical score for "If I Must Die" by John Greenleaf Whittier. The score is in 3/4 time, with a tempo of 72 beats per minute. The piano part includes a prelude and accompaniment for the vocal line. The lyrics are: "die If I must die If I must die If I must die". The piano part includes a prelude and accompaniment for the vocal line. The lyrics are: "die If I must die If I must die If I must die".

2
20

sell my things *p*

Pno.

20

mp *mf*

24

24

f *mf*

Pno.

A

30

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

27

p *mf*

Pno.

33

spoken
35 *senza tempo, teatrale*

p (make it make it

33

p

Pno.

36 sung spoken sung 40

white with a with a long tail)

Pno.

mf 3

41 **B** 45

mf so that a child, some-where in

Pno.

46 50

Ga - za while look - ing hea - ven in the eye a - wait - ing his dad who left in

Pno.

51 5/4 6/4

— a — blaze *f* who left in — a —

Pno.

f

4
54

Pocopiù lento

ff blaze *mf* and bid no one for-well not e-ven to his flesh not e-ven to him -

Pno.

C Tempoprimo ♩ = 72

self *p* (make it white with a long ta - il) so that a

Pno.

child, some where in Ga - za sees the kite, my kite you made, fly-ing up a-

Pno.

bove and thinks for a mo - ment *f* an an - gel is there

Pno.

74 bring - ing back 75 love

Pno.

p

79 80 85

D

p If I must die

mf *p*

Pno.

86 90 **Poco più veloce** ♩ = 80

If I must If I *mf* let it bring hope let it

86 90

Pno.

92

be a tale *f* If I must die 95 let it bring hope let it

Pno.

92 95

5/4

6
97

allargando

100 ♩ = 60

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

97

mf

p

Pno.

The musical score consists of two systems. The first system is for the voice, starting at measure 6 and measure 97. The tempo is marked 'allargando' and the tempo indicator is 100 ♩ = 60. The lyrics are 'be a tale', 'If I must die', and 'let it be a tale'. The dynamic marking is 'mf'. The second system is for the piano, starting at measure 97. The dynamic markings are 'mf' and 'p'. The piano part is in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The tempo is marked 'allargando' and the tempo indicator is 100 ♩ = 60.