

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

(2024)

Tenor 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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Davide Verotta

July 2024

First System:

Tenor: $\text{♩} = 72$

Piano: *p*

p If I must

Second System:

T: 8 10 *rallentando* *a tempo*

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

Pno.: 8 10 *p*

Third System:

T: 15

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

Pno.: 15 *mf*

2
20

T

8

sell my things *p*

Pno.

20

mp *mf*

24

T

8

24

f *mf*

Pno.

25

3

A

T

8

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

Pno.

27

p *mf*

30

33

T

8

spoken
35 *senza tempo, teatrale*

p (make it make it

Pno.

33

p

35

36 sung spoken sung **Pocopiù veloce** ♩ = 80 3

T 8 white with a with a long tail)

Pno. 36 40 *mf* 3

41 **B** 45 *mf* so that a child, some-where in

T 8

Pno. 41 45

46 50 Ga - za while look - ing hea - ven in the eye a - wait - ing his dad who left in

T 8

Pno. 46 50

51 *f* who left in a

T 8

Pno. 51 *f*

4
54

Pocopiù lento

T 8 *ff* blaze *mf* and bid no one for-well not e-ven to his flesh not e-ven to him -

Pno. 54 *ff* 55 *mf*

58

T 8 self *p* (make it white with a long ta - il) so that a

Pno. 58 *p* tremoli leggermente (very soft) 60

C Tempoprimo ♩ = 72

62

T 8 child, some where in Ga - za sees the kite, my kite you made, fly - ing

Pno. 62 65

68

T 8 up a - bove and thinks for a mo - ment an an - gel is there

Pno. 68 70 *f*

T 74 bring - ing back love 75

Pno. 74 75 *p*

T 79 80 **D** 85 *p* If I must die

Pno. 79 80 85 *mf* *p*

T 86 90 *mf* Pocopiù veloce ♩ = 80 let it bring hope let it

Pno. 86 90

T 92 95 *f* be a tale If I must die let it bring hope let it

Pno. 92 95 *f*

6
97

allargando

100 ♩ = 60

T

8

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

97

100

Pno.

mf

p

The musical score is for a voice and piano piece. The voice part (T) is written in treble clef and includes the lyrics "be a tale", "If I must die", and "let it be a tale". The piano part (Pno.) is written in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *p* (piano), and tempo markings like *allargando* and a metronome marking of 100 ♩ = 60. The score is divided into measures by bar lines, and the key signature is one flat (B-flat).