

**Matthew 27: 75**

*Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him,  
"Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."  
And he went out and wept bitterly.*

**Lay Him Down Gently** is a hauntingly beautiful anthem for Lent or Holy Week. Suggested corresponding scripture readings include Isaiah 53: 7-9, Matthew 26: 69-75 & 27: 57-61, Luke 23: 50-56 and John 19: 38-42. One basic homiletical theme is mourning the death of the Prince of Peace, who suffered and died for our salvation.

Perform this anthem with a gentle feeling of one pulse per measure and artful text declamation. The composer highly recommends that the parts for 2 C-instruments be played by flute and oboe.

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# LAY HIM DOWN GENTLY

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied,  
with two opt. C-instruments

Words by  
**JOHN PARKER III (ASCAP)**

Music by  
**DAVID LANTZ III (ASCAP)**

Gently, with a lilt (♩ = ca. 104)

C-INST. I (FLUTE)

C-INST. II (OBOE)

ACCOMP.

Gently, with a lilt (♩ = ca. 104)

5 UNISON WOMEN

mp

9

With cold, hard

5

9

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It features two C-instrument parts (Flute and Oboe), an accompaniment part, and a unison women part. The tempo is marked 'Gently, with a lilt' at approximately 104 beats per minute. The dynamics are marked 'mp' (mezzo-piano). The unison women part begins at measure 5 and includes lyrics 'With cold, hard' starting at measure 9. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score, with the text 'Legal use Requires Purchase' written below it.

10

nails He was cru - ci - fied, a crown of thorns on His

10

This system contains the first vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts at measure 10 with the lyrics 'nails He was cru - ci - fied, a crown of thorns on His'. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note melody in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand.

15

head. They drove a spear in - to His

17

This system contains the second vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts at measure 15 with the lyrics 'head. They drove a spear in - to His'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note melody and bass line.

15

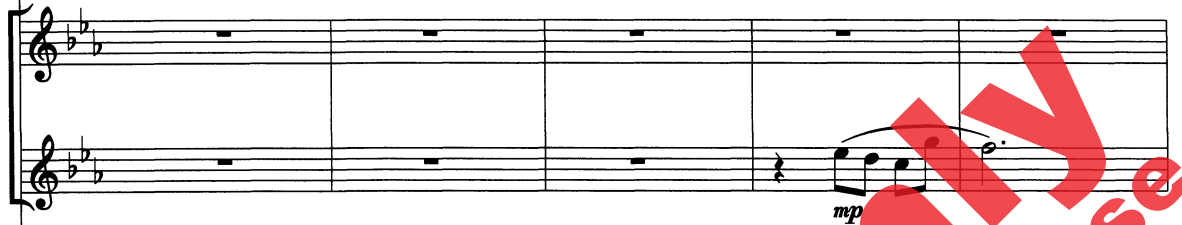
17

This system contains the third piano accompaniment system, continuing the eighth-note melody and bass line from the previous systems.

20



side. All was dark, now at last He was dead.



*mp*

20




25



*mp*

25



30 SOPRANO 31 *p*

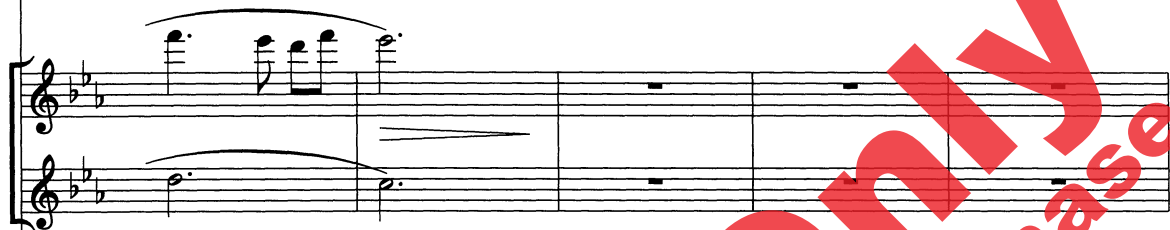
ALTO

TENOR (mel.) *mp*

BASS

They took the bod - y and pre-

They took the bod - y of the Lord and pre-



30 31



35 39

pared it for the grave. Bor-rowed

pared it for the grave. A bor - rowed



35 39



40

tomb He could af - ford; His . life He could \_ not,

tomb He \_ could af - ford; His . life He \_ could \_ not

40

45

could not save. Lay Him down gen - tly, the

save Lay Him down, \_\_\_\_\_

47 (mel.) mf

*mp* *mf*

*mp* *mf*

45

47 *mf*

49

Prince of Peace, thorns His on - ly His

on - ly

49

53

55

crown. on - ly crown. Fine lin - en for His roy - al

crown.

53

55

58 *mp*

robe; with ten - der - ness, lay Him down, with *mp*

58

63

ten - der - ness, lay Him down

*mp*

63 *mp*



68 SOLO

*mf*

It

Musical notation for the first system, including vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a whole rest followed by a quarter note G4. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

68

*dim.*

Musical notation for the second system, including vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line continues with a quarter note G4. The piano accompaniment includes a *dim.* marking. A large red watermark is overlaid on this section.

73

was for me the Sav - ior died;

S. *p*

A.

Oo

T. *p*

B.

Musical notation for the third system, including vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line contains the lyrics "was for me the Sav - ior died;". The piano accompaniment includes markings for Soprano (S. *p*), Alto (A.), Tenor (T. *p*), and Bass (B.). A large red watermark is overlaid on this section.

(tacet)

(tacet)

73

*mp*

Musical notation for the fourth system, including vocal line and piano accompaniment. The piano accompaniment includes a *mp* marking. A large red watermark is overlaid on this section.

77

will-ing-ly He bore my shame. Now they

This block contains the vocal line for measures 77-80. The melody starts on a G4 note, moves to A4, B4, and then has a long note on C5. The lyrics are: "will-ing-ly He bore my shame. Now they".

77

This block contains the piano accompaniment for measures 77-80. The right hand plays a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a steady bass line with quarter notes.

81

lay Him down in a cold, dark tomb. I am the

This block contains the vocal line for measures 81-84. The melody starts on a G4 note, moves to A4, B4, and then has a long note on C5. The lyrics are: "lay Him down in a cold, dark tomb. I am the".

81

This block contains the piano accompaniment for measures 81-84. The right hand plays a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a steady bass line with quarter notes.

86

one — to blame.

*mp* I — am the — one — to

86

91

*cresc.*

93

*mf*

blame. — Lay Him down gen - tly, the Prince of

*cresc.* Lay Him down, —

FLUTE

*mp*  $\leftarrow$  *mf*

OBOE

*mp cresc.* *mf*

91

*cresc.*

93

*mf*

96

Peace, thorns His on - ly crown. Fine  
crown, His on - ly crown.

thorns His on - ly crown.

This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics: "Peace, thorns His on - ly crown. Fine" and "crown, His on - ly crown." The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment line with lyrics: "thorns His on - ly crown." The music is in a key with two flats and a 4/4 time signature.

This system shows the piano accompaniment for the first system, consisting of two staves. The music is in a key with two flats and a 4/4 time signature.

96

This system shows the piano accompaniment for the second system, consisting of two staves. The music is in a key with two flats and a 4/4 time signature.

101

lin - en for His roy - al robe; with ten - der-ness,

This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics: "lin - en for His roy - al robe; with ten - der-ness,". The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment line. The music is in a key with two flats and a 4/4 time signature.

This system shows the piano accompaniment for the third system, consisting of two staves. The music is in a key with two flats and a 4/4 time signature.

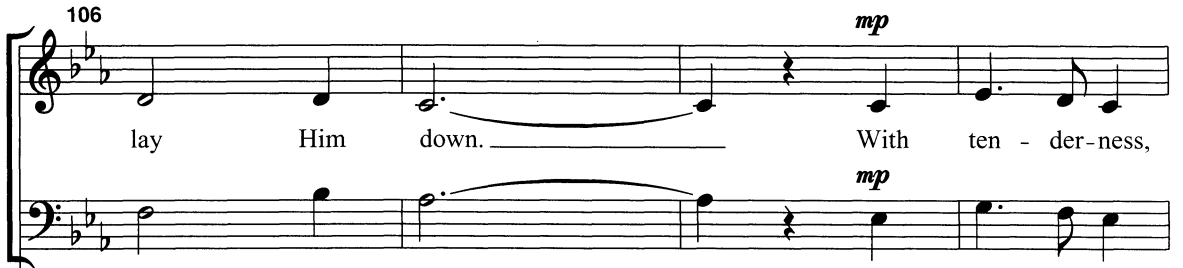
101

This system shows the piano accompaniment for the fourth system, consisting of two staves. The music is in a key with two flats and a 4/4 time signature.

106 *mp*

lay Him down. With ten - der - ness,

*mp*



*mp*

*mp*



106 *mp*



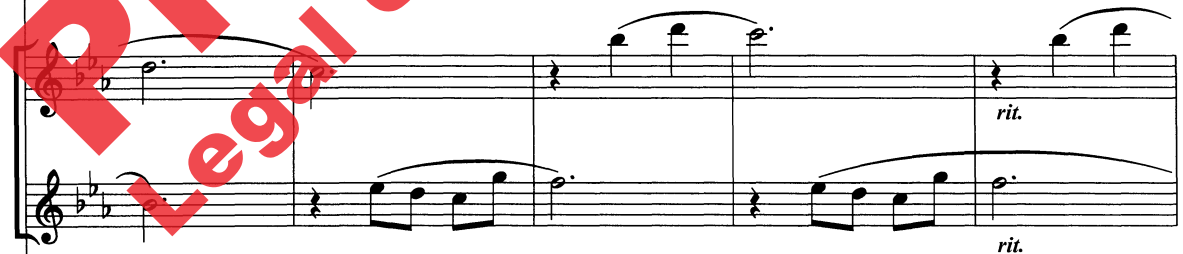
110 *rit.*

lay Him down, lay Him down, lay Him



*rit.*

*rit.*



110 *rit.*



115 *p* A little slower 117

down. Gen - tly, lay *p* Him

Gen - tly, lay, gen - tly,

A little slower

115 A little slower 117 *p*

120 *rit.*

down.

lay, gen - tly, lay Him down.

*p* *rit.*

*rit.*

120 *rit.*

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