

Commissioned by The Shrine of The Ages Choir of Northern Arizona University, Dr. Edith Copley, conductor

PROGRAM NOTES

"Last year, my church undertook an audacious task: getting as many of our members as possible to fill out End of Life Directives, aka A Living Will. That had a practical benefit, as just about everyone knows they should have one on file in case of accident or a disabling medical condition, and you can't direct your care; yet, nobody ever really wants to do it or gets around to it. So, through the course of a handful of small-group sessions, we met and discussed the medical issues and options and how much treatment we would want in various medical scenarios.

Not the most pleasant topic, right?

But this led organically into much deeper and richer conversations that the church also facilitated: at the end of your life, what is of utmost value to you? Not just the practical medical considerations, but spiritually, what is absolutely crucial that you want your loved ones to know in your final days or hours?

I want gorgeous music around me as I leave. But more than anything, I want to hold my wife's hand, my daughters' hands. It is very much about the need and simple power of human touch."

—Brian Newhouse

Brian and I are currently working together to adapt each of the seven movements of *The Seven Last Words of Christ*. Each movement is aimed at making a marriage of the sacred and secular. Similarly to *Your Hand in Mine*, the intent of the collaboration is to produce seven meditations on Christ's last words. As someone who believes there is value in religious writing beyond traditional liturgy and religious practices, I intend to express the humanity in these sentiments as they are expressed in Christianity. Watch for updates regarding this work as Brian and I will continue to work towards a complete set of pieces for unaccompanied choir.

—Connor Koppin

TEXT

In manus tuas commendō spiritum meum.
(*Into your hands I commend my spirit.*)

At the first light,
at our first breath,
soft hands find us,
catch and hold us.

All our lives,
when our wounds are washed,
when darkness grows
over our days,
touch makes us rise.

At the last light,
this journey done,
place your hand in mine,
here is mine in yours.
All I ask is this
touch of love.

John 6:30

Brian Newhouse

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Your Hand in Mine

(In manus tuas)

for SSAATTBB Chorus unaccompanied

Brian Newhouse (ASCAP)

Connor Koppin (ASCAP)

Freely ♩ = 65

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Alto 1

Alto 2

Tenor 1

Tenor 2

Baritone

Bass

Keyboard
(for
rehearsal
only)

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5

A musical score for voice and piano. The vocal part is in soprano C-clef, and the piano part is in bass F-clef. The key signature is A major (three sharps). The vocal line consists of sustained notes with lyrics: 'as, ma - nus tu - as,' repeated three times, followed by 'ma - nus tu - as,' once, then 'as, ma - nus' once, and finally 'Ma - nus tu - -' once. The piano part features eighth-note patterns in the right hand and sustained notes in the left hand. Measure 6 begins with a dynamic *p*. Measures 7-8 show 'Ma - nus tu - -' and 'Ma - nus tu - as,' respectively, with dynamics *mp*. Measures 9-10 show 'Ma - nus tu - as,' and 'Ma - nus tu - -' with dynamics *mp*. The score concludes with a final piano section.

as, ma - nus tu - as,

p

Ma - nus tu - as, ma - nus tu - as,

ma - nus tu - as, ma - nus tu - as,

ma - nus tu - as, ma - nus tu - as,

as, ma - nus

mp

Ma - nus tu - -

mp

Ma - nus tu - as, ma - nus

mp

Ma - nus tu - as, ma - nus

mp

Ma - - - nus tu - -

9

mf

ma - nus tu - as, — ma - nus tu - as, —

mf

ma - nus tu - as, ma - nus tu - as,

mf

ma - nus tu - as, ma - nus tu -

mf

ma - nus tu - as, ma - nus tu - as, —

mf

- as, ma - nus, ma - -

mf

tu - as, ma - - - nus, ma - -

mf

tu - as, ma - -

mf

as, ma - -

mf

13 *rit.* $\text{♩} = 65$

ma - nus tu - as, man - nus - tu - as,

ma - nus tu - as ma - nus tu - as,

as ma - nus tu - as, ma - nus tu - as,

ma - nus tu - as, ma - nus tu - as,

- nus tu - as, ma - nus, ma - -

- nus tu - as, ma - nus, ma - -

nus tu - as, ma - nus, ma - -

nus tu - as, ma - nus, ma - -

rit. $\text{♩} = 65$

17

Revieng is illegal!
copy only

nus, ma - - nus tu - as,

21

mp pleading

in ma - nus tu - as, —

mp

in ma - nus tu - as, —

mp pleading

in ma - nus tu - as, —

mp

in ma - nus tu - as, —

mp pleading

in ma - nus tu - as, —

mp

in ma - nus tu - as, —

8

ma - nus,

8

ma - nus,

ma - nus, —

ma - nus, —

{

ma - nus

8

ma - nus, —

24

in ma - nus tu - as com -

in ma - nus tu - as com -

in ma - nus tu - as com -

in ma - nus tu - as com -

in ma - nus tu - as com -

8 in ma - nus tu - as, tu - as com -

in ma - nus tu - as, tu - as com -

in ma - nus tu - as, tu - as com -

in ma - nus tu - as, tu - as com -

in ma - nus tu - as, tu - as com -

27

men - do, com - men - do spi - ri - tum, com -

men - do, com - men - do spi - ri - tum, com -

men - do, com - men - do spi - ri - tum, spi - ri - tum, com -

men - do, com - men - do spi - ri - tum, spi - ri - tum, com -

men - do spi - ri - tum me - um, com -

men - do spi - ri - tum me - um, com -

men - do spi - ri - tum me - um, com -

men - do spi - ri - tum me - um, com -

men - do spi - ri - tum me - um, com -

29

men - do, com - men - do spi - ri - tum, spi - ri - tum me - um,

men - do, com - men do spi - ri - tum, spi - ri - tum me - um,

men - do, com - men - do spi - ri - tum, spi - ri - tum me - um,

men - do, com - men - do spi - ri - tum, spi - ri - tum me - um,

men - do spi - ri - tum me - um, spi - ri - tum

men - do spi - ri - tum me - um, spi - ri - tum

men - do spi - ri - tum me - um, spi - ri - tum

men - do spi - ri - tum me - um, spi - ri - tum

3

32 *rit.* **Tenderly ♩=65**

3 spi·ri·tum me·um. At the first light, at our

3 spi·ri·tum me·um. At the first light, at our

3 spi·ri·tum me·um. First light,

3 spi·ri·tum me·um. First light,-

8 me·um, me·um. First light,

8 me·um, me·um. First light,

me·um, me·um. First light,-

me·um, me·um. First light,-

rit. **Tenderly ♩=65**

3

3

39

S *mp* 3 ,
catch us and hold us.

A *mp* 3 ,
catch us and hold us.

T *mp* 3 ,
catch us and hold us.

B *unis. mp* 3 ,
catch us and hold us.

,

41

All *mp* our lives, when our wounds are

All *mp* our lives, all our lives, wounds,

All *mp* our lives, all our lives, wounds,

mp unis. All our lives, wounds,

43

washed, when dark - ness grows
washed, when dark - ness grows
washed, dark - ness grows
washed, dark - ness grows

,

45

o - ver our days,
o - ver our days,
o - ver, o - ver our days,
o - ver, o - ver our days,

rit.

47 Meno mosso ♩ = 60

S

S 2

A 1

A

T 1

T

B 1

B

Soprano (S): -

Alto 1 (A 1): -

Alto 2 (Soprano 2 / S 2): -

Tenor 1 (T 1): touch, makes us

Tenor 2 (T 2): touch, makes us

Bass 1 (B 1): touch, makes us

Bass 2 (B 2): touch, makes us

Piano: -

Meno mosso ♩ = 60

Piano: -

50 *mf* *rall.*

rise. _____

mf *mf sub.*

rise, _____ rise, _____ rise, _____ rise.

mf

— rise, _____ rise. Ma - nus

mf sub.

— rise, _____ rise. Ma - nus

mf

8 rise, _____ rise. Ma - nus

mf

8 rise, _____ rise. Ma - nus

mf

rise, _____ rise. Ma - nus

mf

rise, _____ rise. Ma - nus

rall.

Copying is illegal

53 $\text{♩} = 65$

molto rit. ***mp***

tu - as, ma - nus tu - as, ma - nus

tu - as, ma - nus tu - as, ma - nus

tu - as, ma - nus tu - as, ma - nus

tu - as, ma - nus tu - as, ma - nus

tu - as, ma - nus tu - as, ma - nus

tu - as, ma - nus tu - as, ma - nus

tu - as, ma - nus tu - as, ma - nus

Reviene in copy only

$\text{♩} = 65$ *molto rit.*

mp

57

$\text{♩} = 55$

p **pp**

tu - as, in ma - nus tu - as.

p **pp**

tu - as, in ma - nus tu - as.

p **pp**

tu - as, in ma - nus tu - as.

p **pp**

tu - as, in ma - nus tu - as.

p **pp** **p**

tu - as. At our last light, this

p **pp** **p**

tu - as. At our last light, this

p **pp**

tu - as.

$\text{♩} = 55$

tu - as.

*rit.*With conviction $\text{♩} = 50$

61

p , **f**

Jour - ney done, place your hand in mine, _____

p , **f**

Jour - ney done, place your hand in mine, _____

p , **f**

Jour - ney done, place your hand in mine, _____

p , **f**

Jour - ney done, place your hand in mine, _____

f

jour - ney done, place your hand in mine, _____

f

jour - ney done, place your hand in mine, _____

p , **f**

Jour - ney done, place your hand in mine, _____

p , **f**

Jour - ney done, place your hand in mine, _____

rit.

With conviction $\text{♩} = 50$

As before ♩ = 65

rit.

65

here is mine_ in yours,—

mine, in mine, mine_ in yours,—

mine, in mine, mine_ in yours,—

mine, in mine, mine_ in yours,—

— in mine, mine in yours,—

— in mine, mine in yours,—

in mine, mine in yours,—

in mine, mine in yours,—

rit.

As before ♩ = 65

70

mine in yours, _____

mine in yours, mm,

Review Copy Only

Lingering

rit. al fine

74 *p*

All I ask is this touch of love.

of love.

of love.

of love.

pp
mm
of love.

pp
mm
of love.

pp
mm
of love.

pp
mm
of love.

Lingering

rit. al fine

rit. al fine