

PIERCE GRADONE

**IN THE DEPTHS**

for mezzo-soprano and piano

JAMESCREST MUSIC

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I'm standing in the depths of black turmoil awaiting my prison sentence determination

Length unfair, time unknown and undecided

Fighting to stay sane but underneath

Piles of I don't know

Anxiety as high as the sky

I'm afraid and overwhelmed

I wish I knew more

Can't God heal everyone right now?

Dirty

Coronavirus 2020

Benjamin Smidt

Score in C

Duration: c. 6 minutes

Commissioned by the Lynx Project



*Commissioned by LYNX  
for their 2020-21 Amplify Series*

# IN THE DEPTHS

*for mezzo-soprano and piano*

BENJAMIN SMIDT

PIERCE GRADONE  
(2020)

**Resonant and ponderous** ♩ = 60

Mezzo-Soprano

Piano

*con Ped. sempre*

change pedal with chords, but maintain a sustained sound  
release pedal when instructed

*8vb*

*Ped.*

6

*8vb*

*Ped.*

11       $3\text{♪} + 2\text{♪}$                    $2\text{♪} + 3\text{♪}$                    $2\text{♪} + 3\text{♪}$

*con Ped. sempre*

**A**

**p** melancholy, like a ballad or jazz standard      **mp**

I'm stand - ing stand - ing in the

con Ped. sempre

23

*mf*

wait-ing my pri - son sen - tence de - ter - mi na - nation

*mp*

*p*

*pp*

8vb-----

28

**B**      *mf*

*p*

*mf*

Length      un - fair \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ un -

(8vb) \*

*mp* freely vary speed of tremolo  
maintain *mp* dynamic of tremolo in left hand

*m.d.*

*pp*

*m.d.*

*Ped.*

32

known \_\_\_\_\_ and un - de - cid - ed \_\_\_\_\_

8va - -

*m.d.*

*f*

(*Ped.*) \_\_\_\_\_

**C Sustained and steady** ♩ = 60

*p with aggression*

Music score for section C. The top staff shows sustained notes with dynamic *p*. The bottom staff shows a continuous eighth-note pattern with dynamic *pp*. The tempo is ♩ = 60. The section ends with a repeat sign and the instruction *(Red.)*.

**accel. poco a poco** -----

Music score continuing from section C. The tempo changes to *accel. poco a poco*. The top staff shows a melodic line with various note values and dynamics (*mf*, *mp*). The bottom staff shows eighth-note patterns. The section ends with a repeat sign and the instruction *(Red.)*.

**With growing urgency** ♩ = 70 **accel. poco a poco** -----

Music score continuing from the previous section. The tempo is now ♩ = 70. The top staff shows a melodic line with dynamics (*mf*, *f*, *mp*). The bottom staff shows eighth-note patterns. The section ends with a repeat sign and the instruction *(Red.)*.

**Articulate, urgent, rhythmic** ♩ = 80

**D** 3 ♩ + 2 ♩      2 ♩ + 3 ♩ + 2 ♩

*f* *unhinged, anxious*

Fight - ing to stay      Fight - ing to stay      sane      fight - ing to stay

*f*

8<sup>vb</sup> - - -      8<sup>vb</sup> - - - - - - - - - -      8<sup>vb</sup> - - - - - - - - - -      8<sup>vb</sup> - - - - - - - - - -

49 3 ♩ + 2 ♩ + 2 ♩      3 ♩ + 2 ♩

sane      but      un - der -neath      Fight - ing to stay      Fight - ing to stay

(8<sup>vb</sup>) - -

8<sup>vb</sup> - - -      8<sup>vb</sup> - - - - - - - - - -      8<sup>vb</sup> - - - - - - - - - -      8<sup>vb</sup> - - - - - - - - - -

52 2 ♩ + 3 ♩ + 2 ♩      3 ♩ + 2 ♩ + 2 ♩      3 ♩ + 2 ♩

sane      fight - ing to stay      sane      but      un - der -neath      fight - ing to stay

(8<sup>vb</sup>) - -

55       $3\text{♪} + 2\text{♪} + 2\text{♪}$

sane but un - der -neath Pi - les of I don't knows Pi - les of

$\left\{ \begin{matrix} 16 \\ 16 \\ 16 \end{matrix} \right.$        $\left\{ \begin{matrix} 6 \\ 16 \\ 6 \end{matrix} \right.$        $\left\{ \begin{matrix} 3 \\ 3 \end{matrix} \right.$

$\downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow$        $\downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow$        $\downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow$

$8^{\text{vb}} - - - - -$

E

58

I don't know An -

$8^{\text{va}} - - - - -$

$5 \quad 5 \quad 5$

legato       $mf$

$8^{\text{vb}} - - - - -$

$\wedge$

$\text{Re.} - - - - -$

$5 \quad 5 \quad 5$

$\text{xi} - \text{e} - \text{ty} \quad \text{as} \quad \text{high} \quad \text{as} \quad \text{the} \quad \text{sky} \quad \text{♩} = 100$

$(8^{\text{va}}) - - - - -$

$5 \quad 5 \quad 5 \quad 5 \quad 5$

$5 \quad 5 \quad 5$

$5 \quad 5 \quad 5$

$5 \quad 5 \quad 5$

$\text{(Re.)} - - - - -$

63

(Ped.)

**F**  $\text{♩} = 66$

*p*

let piano resonance fade slightly before singing I'm a -  
*Sva* - - -

non rit. (keep up the rhythmic intensity!)

*mp* *p*

(Ped.)

*mf*

fraid — A - fraid and O — ver -

*Sva* - - -

*pp*

(Ped.)

**G** Steady, with a slight groove  $\text{♩} = 100$ 

2 ♩ + 2 ♩ + 3 ♩

accel. poco a poco -----

whelmed -----

D4 should always be the quietest note;  
attack should be barely audible

*pp*

*p*

I'm afraid -----

81

**H**
 $\text{♩} = 106$ 
*mp*

I'm a - fraid -----

(I'm) ----- ^

87

accel. poco a poco -----
 $\text{♩} = 112$

*mf*

O - ver - whelmed A - fraid and - o - ver - whelmed I -----

(I'm) ----- ^

I

92

wish \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_

*like a bell*

(Red.)

 $2\text{ } \text{♪} + 2\text{ } \text{♪} + 3\text{ } \text{♪}$ 

97

knew \_\_\_\_\_ more \_\_\_\_\_

*subito p*

(Red.)

*mp*

102

Knew \_\_\_\_\_ more \_\_\_\_\_

*mf*

(Red.)

Red.

**J** *mf*

Can't God heal ev - 'ry - one now now

(*Red.*)

113 **K** *pp sotto voce*

now DIRT - y

(*Red.*)

116 *mp increasingly agitated*

**mf**

**ff**

Dirt - y

*Red.*

# L | Resonant and ponderous ♩ = 64

**p** melancholy, like a ballad or jazz standard

Stand - ing \_\_\_\_\_ Stand - ing in the \_\_\_\_\_ Stand - ing

Stand - ing in the \_\_\_\_\_

Stand - ing

change pedal with chords, but maintain a sustained sound  
release pedal when instructed

125

*mp*

*mf*

*p*

in the depths of black tur - moi - l

Musical score for measures 1-5:

- Measure 1: Treble clef, 3/4 time. Dynamics: *p*. Measure ends with a fermata.
- Measure 2: Time signature changes to 2/4. Dynamics: *mf*.
- Measure 3: Time signature changes to 6/8. Dynamics: *mp*.
- Measure 4: Time signature changes to 4/4. Dynamics: *pp*. Measures 4-5 are grouped by a bracket labeled "3".
- Measure 5: Dynamics: *p*. Measures 5-6 are grouped by a bracket labeled "3".

Below the bass staff:

- (8<sup>vb</sup>) - - - - - - - - - -
- \*
- Ped. \_\_\_\_\_

**rit.** — — —

Musical score for orchestra, page 129, measures 1-2. The score consists of four staves. The top staff (treble clef) has a fermata over the first note. The second staff (alto clef) has a dynamic *p*. The third staff (bass clef) has a dynamic *pp*. The bottom staff (double bass clef) has a dynamic *mp*. Measure 1 ends with a fermata over the last note. Measure 2 begins with a dynamic *p*, followed by *pp*. The bass staff has a dynamic *p*.