

# When Morality Becomes Lax

*For Soprano, Violin, Cello,  
Tubular Bell, and Organ*

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Tom Armitage

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By Tom Armitage

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**Duration: c. 6'30**

The pressure that the views of society put on individual people is explored. The soprano, torn between her desires and her conscience, finds herself under an omnipotent, watchful eye (tubular bell and organ) as she prays for forgiveness for her sins, whilst in the meantime she finds herself surrounded by temptation (violin and cello). Her battle is a constant one between traditional morality and her need to break free from conservative restraints.

The title is used ironically, as they are often the words used by outdated conservative forces to push the idea of the degradation of society at the hands of progressive movements.

*This piece was a finalist in the Philip Bates Prize 2013.*

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2013

Very Aggressive with lots of vitality ( $\text{♩}=80$ )

*ff*

*pizz.*

*arco*

*tr*

*gliss.*

approx. note

*molto vib.*

Soft 16' 8'

7

*f*

*gliss.*

The score is divided into two systems. The first system includes Violin, Violoncello, Tubular Bells, and Organ Ped. The second system includes Vln., Vc., Tub. B., and Ped. The Violin and Violoncello parts are marked *ff* and feature a tempo of  $\text{♩}=80$ . The Violoncello part includes a *pizz.* section and an *arco* section. The Violin part includes a *tr* (trill) and a *gliss.* (glissando). The Violoncello part includes a *tr* (trill) and a *gliss.* (glissando). The Violin part includes an *approx. note* and a *molto vib.* (molto vibrato) section. The Organ Ped. part is marked *Soft 16' 8'*. The Vln. part starts at measure 7 and includes a *gliss.* (glissando). The Vc. part includes triplets and a *gliss.* (glissando). The Tub. B. part includes a *f* (forte) dynamic. The Ped. part includes a *gliss.* (glissando).

Quasi recit.

2

17

S. *f* Lord, Lord, Hear, Lord, the prayers we of-fer from con - trite hearts. *mp* Have pi - ty,

Vln. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Vc. pizz. arco pizz. *Improvise around this note only*

Ped.

33

S. *<f* have pi - ty on us al - ways, *mf* as we ac - know - ledge our sins, *f* we ac - know - ledge our sins, \_\_\_\_\_ we ac - know - ledge our sins. \_\_\_\_\_ *5* Lead us back to the

Vln. *p* *f* *p* *ff* *p*

Vc. arco *p* *ff* *p*

Tub. B. *sffz* *sffz*

Ped.

50

S. *mp*

way of ho-li-ness. pro-TECT us now and al-ways from the wounds of sin. Pro-TECT us now and al-ways, Pro-TECT us now and al-ways,

Vln.

Vc. *f p f p f p f p*

Tub. B.

Ped.

64

S. *pp* *f*

Pro-TECT us, May we e-ver keep safe, May we

*senza vib.*

Vln. *mp mf mp*

Vc. *f p f mp mf*

Tub. B.

Ped.

83

S.   
e-ver keep safe, \_\_\_\_\_ in all its full - ness, May we e-ver keep safe, \_\_\_\_\_

Vln. 

Vc. 

Tub. B. 

Ped. 

100

S.   
May we e - ver keep safe, \_\_\_\_\_ in all its full - ness,

Vln. 

Vc. 

Tub. B. 

Ped. 

114

S. May we e - ver keep safe, in all its full - -

Vln. *5*

Vc. *5*

Tub. B. *5*

Ped. *5*

123

S. ness, The gift your love once gave us And now your *mp*

Vln. *5* *p*

Vc. *5* *p*

Tub. B. *5*

Ped. *5*

132

S. mer - cy re - stores.

Vln. 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

Vc. 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

Tub. B. *p* *fff*

Ped.

141

(♩=80)

S.

Vln. 5 3 3 (*fff*) (*mf*) 5

Vc. 5 5 5 5 (*fff*) pizz. arco *f* 3 3 sim. 3

Tub. B.

Ped.



**Sprechstimme**

156 Prayerfully

S.  Hear, Lord, Hear, Lord, Hear, Lord, Hear, Lord, Hear, Lord.

Vln. 

Vc. 

Tub. B. 

Ped. 

172

Panicked!

S.  Hear, Lord, Hear, Lord, Hear, Lord, our prayers, Hear, Lord, Hear, Lord, Hear, Lord, our prayer from con-trite hearts, Hear, Lord, our prayer from

Vln. 

Vc. 

Tub. B. 

Ped. 

**Constantly gathering momentum**

Gradually turning into a shout (disregard pitches)

184

S. *senza misura*

con-trite hearts, Hear, Lord, our prayer from con-trite hearts, Hear, Lord, our prayer from con-trite hearts, Hear, Lord, our prayer from con-trite hearts,

Vln. *ppp*

Vc. *ppp*

Tub. B.

Ped.

193

S. *fff* (Sung) *(ff)*

Hear, Lord, our prayer from con-trite hearts, Hear, Lord, our prayer from con-trite hearts, Hear, Lord,

Vln. *ff*

Vc. *ff*

Tub. B.

Ped.

200

S.

Vln.

Vc.

Tub. B.

Ped.

206

S.

Vln.

Vc.

Tub. B.

Ped.

212

S. Lord, the prayers we of-fer from con-trite hearts Have

Vln. *3*

Vc. *3*

Tub. B.

Ped.

219

S. pi-ty, Have pi-ty, Have pi-ty,

Vln. Heavy  $\square \nabla$  *v sim.* *3*

Vc. Heavy  $\square \nabla$  *v sim.* *3*

Tub. B.

Ped.

238

S.

Vln.

Vc.

Tub. B.

Ped.