

# Lament

*for chorus and orchestra*

David Gompper

## Program Notes

Lament is written for chorus and orchestra and set in Greek to an ancient text used in the funeral rite found in the Greek Orthodox Church. Four years ago I came upon an article that reprinted a chant written by the medieval composer Koukouzeles in 1431, just before Bosnia fell to the Turks in 1463. The spirit of the Greek text and the music of Koukouzeles pervades this work. The addition of the cello solo toward the end is a reference to Vedran Smailovic, a cellist who in the 1992 siege of Sarajevo would play Albinoni's Adagio at 4 pm every afternoon outside a bakery. Although several phrases of the Albinoni can be heard, the work finishes with the cellist playing the end of the chant.

The text speaks of souls who finally return to the beauty from which they came, and understands in a moment what it is like to be dead. The writer wonders why there are those who among the living give into self-destruction, and looks, on behalf of the departed, to a final transformation (metastasis) to that place of peace (anápafsin).

I am grateful to Marvin Bell, whose poem Requiem for Bosnia gave inspiration to this composition. My piece is dedicated to the memory of my teacher and mentor, William Albright, who passed away unexpectedly the day it was finished, September 17, 1998.

for William Hatcher and The University of Iowa Kantorei  
in memory of William Albright

# Lament

for chorus, 2 pianos, 2 percussion and cello

David Gompper (1998)

$\text{♩} = 44$

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano I

Piano II

Percussion. I

Percussion. II

Violoncello

*ff* *l.v.* *Ped.* *8va*

*ff* *l.v.* *Ped.* *8va*

*f* *l.v.*

*f* *l.v.*

*f* *l.v.*

*f* *l.v.*

*f* *l.v.*

*f*

*f*

*p* *5* *3* *7*

4

S. *p*  
nn

A. *p*  
nn

T. *p*  
Thri - thri -

B. *p*  
Thri - thri -

Pno. *l.v.* *mp on string*  
Ped. *8va*

Pno. *l.v.* *mp on string*  
Ped. *8va*

Perc. I *l.v.* *l.v.* *PPP*  
marimba

Perc. II

Vc. 3 5

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score, page 2, starting at measure 4. It features seven staves: Soprano (S.), Alto (A.), Tenor (T.), Bass (B.), Piano (Pno.), Percussion I (Perc. I), Percussion II (Perc. II), and Violoncello (Vc.). The vocal parts (S., A., T., B.) are in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The Soprano and Alto parts have a whole note G4 with a fermata and a dynamic marking of *p*. The Tenor and Bass parts have a half note G3 with a fermata and a dynamic marking of *p*, with lyrics "Thri - thri -". The Piano parts consist of two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and contains a series of chords with a dynamic marking of *l.v.* and *mp on string*. The lower staff has a bass clef and contains a series of chords with a dynamic marking of *l.v.* and *mp on string*. Both piano parts include a *Ped.* (pedal) marking and an *8va* (octave) marking. Percussion I has a treble clef and contains a series of chords with a dynamic marking of *l.v.* and *PPP*, with the instrument name "marimba" written below. Percussion II has a treble clef and contains a series of chords. The Violoncello part has a treble clef and contains a series of chords with a dynamic marking of *l.v.* and *PPP*, with the instrument name "Vc." written below. The page number "2" is in the top left corner, and the measure number "4" is at the top left of the first staff.

8

S. Thri - thri - thri - no\_ ke o - di - ro - me

A. Thri - thri - thri - no\_ ke o - di ro - me, o - di - ro

T. - thri - thri - thri - thri - no\_ ke nn\_ Thri - no\_ ke o - di - ro -

B. - thri - thri - thri - thri - no\_ ke nn\_ Thri - no\_ ke o - di -

Pno.

Pno.

Vc.

## Available full and parts score publications of works by David K. Gompper

Scores for the listed works below may be ordered from Schatzie Music Publishers, [smp@davidgompper.com](mailto:smp@davidgompper.com). Pricing of scores is determined by the current cost of reproduction. Allow 3 weeks for handling and delivery.

### CHORAL

**An Elm We Lost**, for hp, pno, 2 perc, T & B solo, SATB chorus and strings [2002] **11:45** – 48 p. *cond.* + parts  
**Caedmon's Hymn** (a cappella chorus) [1986] **8'** – 32 p. *octavo*  
**Lament for Bosnia** (chorus and orchestra) [1998] **16'** – 76 p. *cond score + parts*  
**Mandatum Magnum**, for soprano solo, SATB chorus and organ [1980] – 16 p. *organ* + 20 p. *octavo*  
**i am a little church** (SATB chorus, piano and soli for soprano and violin) – 24 p. *octavo* + parts  
**Psalm 131** (SATB chorus and piano) – 12 p. *octavo*

### LIGHT VOCAL

**Who What When Where Why** (two voices, two pianos), M. Bell [1994] **3:45** – 16 p. *concert*  
**You're Not Dead Yet!** (vocal quartet) words by M. Bell [1998] **5'** – 24 p. *concert*

### VOCAL

**Do Not Go Gentle** (soprano, piano and percussion ensemble) [1989] – 36 p. *11x14*  
**Light Poem** (mezzo-soprano and harp) [1997] **4'** – 12 p. *concert*  
**Love's Philosophy**, for baritone and piano (Shelley) [2003] **3:15** – 8 p. *concert*  
**Poetry for A Midsummer's Night**, a setting of two poems for mezzo-soprano, double bass and piano [2000] **8:15** – 16 p. *concert*  
**Shades of Love**, four songs on the poetry of Constantin Cavafy [2003] **8:40** – 20 p. *concert*  
**Three Poems** (tenor and ensemble), poem by Auden [1992] – *not yet published*  
**White Glass** (mezzo-soprano and piano), poem by Marvin Bell [1992] **5:30** – *not yet published*

### SOLO/DUO INSTRUMENTAL

**Anon** (oboe and piano) [1984] **7'** – 16 p. *concert + part*  
**Finnegan's Wake** (duo for violin and piano) [1997] **7:45** – 20 p. *concert + part*  
**Hommage a W. A.** (William Albright) for piano solo [2001] **7:45** – 16 p. *concert*  
**Meditation** (piano) [1999] **7:30** – 12 p. *concert*  
**Shadows** (organ and computer) [1996] **9:30** – 20 p. *14x11*  
**Tempest Suite** (piano duet) [1991] **13:10** – 20 p. *duet concert*  
**Three Preludes** (organ) [1996] **11'** – 10 p. *17x11 fold-out*

### SMALL-MEDIUM ENSEMBLE

**Butterfly Dance**, for clarinet, violin, viola, cello, piano [2001] **9:15** – 40 p. *concert + parts*  
**Crossed**, for violin, alto saxophone and piano [2003] **8:20** – 24 p. *concert + parts*  
**Crossings**, for violin, piano and saxophone quartet [2002] **7:05** – 28 p. *concert + parts*  
**Do Not Go Gentle** (soprano, piano and percussion ensemble) [1989] – 36 p. *11x14 + parts*  
**Don't Go There** (va, db, hn, bsn, pno, harp, perc) [1998] **7'** – 60 p. *concert + parts*  
**Flip** (17 strings) [1993] **10'** – 48 p. *concert + parts*  
**Kuta Muela III**, for bassoon, flute, piano, and percussion [2003] **13:50** – 50 p. *concert + parts*  
**Quartet** (piano and strings) [1996] **11:25** – 36 p. *concert + parts*  
**Ribbons** (woodwind and string quartets, harp, harpsichord) [1993] **10:05** – *not yet published*  
**Shadows II** (piano, percussion and brass quintet) [2000] **12:10** – 60 p. *concert + parts*  
**The Way**, for violin and ensemble [2003] **11:45** – 50 p. *concert + parts*  
**Trio** (flute, violin and cello) [1989] **10:10** – *not yet published*

### LARGE ENSEMBLE

**Balloons** (orchestra) [1991] **14:40** – *not yet published*  
**Chamber Symphony No. 1** (orchestra) [1979] – *not yet published*  
**Symphony No. 2** (full orchestra) [1988] – *not yet published*  
**Transitus** (wind ensemble) [1992] **10:15** – *not yet published*