

Prayer

RICKY IAN GORDON

SATB Voices with Keyboard

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Prayer

Why are we here,
but to inspire?
To brave the burning flames
and then help others through the fire.
Oh, Universe
take away the fear
that keeps me separate and apart.
Open up my heart.

Why are we here
but to spread hope,
To those who shudder blindly
in the darkness, where they grope.
Oh, Universe
take away the pain
that makes me tremble in the night.
Lead me to the light.

Why are we here,
but to evolve?
To trust that every problem
is a puzzle we can solve.
Oh, Universe
take away the rage
that tells me I am always right.
Teach me not to fight.

Why are we here,
but to be brave?
To save another's life
as though it's yours you wish to save.
Oh, Universe
take away the doubt
that makes the questions never cease.
Help me walk in peace.

Why are we here,
but to be kind?
For surely all that matters
is the love you leave behind.
Oh, Universe
take away disdain
that makes me flee from those in need.
A garden gone to seed,
with your gentle fingers
weed me. Weed me.
Keep me pure in deed.

Take away the wish
to be the brightest and the best.
Take away desire
that leads me desperately astray.
Why are we here,
but to be like a River,
running clear...
or birds, at break of day?
Help me find the way.
Help me find the way.

Why are we here,
but to create?
For each of us has something
of themselves to dedicate.
Oh, Universe
take away the lie
that there is nothing I can give.
Show me how to live.

—*Ricky Ian Gordon*

Prayer

for Four-part Mixed Voices with Keyboard

RICKY IAN GORDON

Slow, Contemplative ♩ = 66

Keyboard

Keyboard accompaniment for the first system. The music is in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The tempo is Slow, Contemplative, with a quarter note equal to 66 beats per minute. The piece begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The right hand features a steady eighth-note accompaniment, while the left hand plays a more active bass line with eighth and sixteenth notes.

Vocal staves for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The lyrics are: "Why are we here but to in - spire? _____ To". The music is in D major and 4/4 time. The tempo is Slow, Contemplative. The dynamics are piano (*p*) for the first half and mezzo-piano (*mp*) for the second half. The Soprano staff begins with a measure rest marked with a '5'. The Alto, Tenor, and Bass staves begin with a measure rest marked with an '8'. The vocal lines are harmonized in four parts, with the Soprano and Alto parts having a melodic line and the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support.

Keyboard accompaniment for the second system. The music continues from the first system. The dynamics are mezzo-piano (*mp*) for the first half and piano (*p*) for the second half. The right hand continues with the eighth-note accompaniment, and the left hand continues with the active bass line.

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9

brave the bur-ning flames and then help o-thers through the fire.

brave the bur-ning flames and then help o-thers through the fire.

To brave the bur-ning flames and then help o-thers through the fire.

To brave the bur-ning flames and then help o-thers through the fire.

9

cresc.

12

Oh, u-ni-verse take a-way the fear

Oh, u-ni-verse take a-way the

Oh, u-ni-verse take a-way the fear

Oh, u-ni-verse take a-way the

12

15

that keeps me sep'-rate and a - part. _____ O pen up my heart.

fear _____ a - part. _____ O pen up my heart.

that keeps me sep'-rate and a - part. _____ O pen up my heart.

fear _____ a - part. _____ O-pen up my heart.

15

p

8 *vb*

19

p *mp* *mp*

Why are we here but to spread hope? _____ To

p *mp* *mp*

Why are we here but to spread hope? _____ To

p *mp*

Why are we here but to spread hope? _____

p *mp*

Why are we here but to spread hope? _____

19

mp

23

those who shud-der blind - ly in the dark-ness where they grope. _____

those who shud-der blind - ly in the dark-ness where they grope. _____

To those who shud-der blind ly in the dark-ness where they grope. _____

To those who shud-der blind-ly in the dark-ness where they grope. _____

23

26

Oh, u-ni-verse take a - way the pain

Oh, u - ni - verse take a - way the

Oh, u-ni-verse take a - way the pain

Oh, u - ni - verse take a - way the

26

29

that makes me trem-ble in the night lead me to the light.

pain the night lead me to the light.

that makes me trem-ble in the night lead me to the light.

pain the night lead me to the light.

29

p

33

mp

Why are we here, but to e - volve? To

mp

Why are we here, but to e - volve? To

33

mp

8va

36

trust that ev'-ry prob-lem is a puz zle we can solve.

trust that ev'-ry prob-lem is a puz zle we can solve.

39

Oh, u-ni-verse take a - way the rage that tells me I am al-ways right.

Oh, u-ni-verse take a - way the rage that tells me I am al-ways right.

Oh, u-ni-verse take a-way the rage right.

39

8vb

8vb

8vb

42 *mp*

right. — Teach me not to fight.

mp

— Teach me not to fight.

8 *mp*

right. — Teach me not to fight.

mp

— Teach me not to fight.

42

45 *mp* *mf*

Why are we here, but to be brave? — To

mp *mf*

Why — are we — here, but to be brave? — To

45 *mp*

8^{vb}

48

save a-no-ther life as though it's yours you wish to save.

mf *mp*

51

f *ff*

Oh, u-ni-verse take a-way the doubt that makes the ques-tions ne-ver

Oh, u-ni verse take a-way the doubt cease

Oh, u-ni-verse take a-way the doubt that makes the ques-tions ne-ver

Oh, u-ni verse take a-way the doubt cease

f

54 *p* *rit.*

cease — Help me walk in peace.

— Help me walk in peace.

cease — Help me walk in peace.

— Help me walk in peace.

54 *p* *rit.*

8vb — — —

Slower, Graceful ♩ = 63

Tempo I (♩ = 66)

58 *mp*

Why are we here, but to be kind? For

mp

Why are we — here, but to be kind? For

mp

Why are we here, but to be kind? — For

mp

Why are we — here, but to be kind? For

Slower, Graceful ♩ = 63

Tempo I (♩ = 66)

58 *mp*

8vb — — —

61 *rit.* *mf* **Allargando**

sure-ly all that mat-ters is the love we leave be -

sure-ly all that mat-ters is the love we leave be -

sure-ly all that mat-ters is the love we leave be -

sure-ly all that mat-ters is the love we leave be -

61 *rit.* *mf* **Allargando**

l.h.

8^{vb}

64 **Tempo I** (♩ = 66)

hind. Oh u-ni-verse take a-way dis-dain

hind. Oh u-ni-verse take a-way dis-dain

hind. Oh u-ni-verse take a-way dis-dain

hind. Oh u-ni-verse take a-way dis-dain

64 **Tempo I** (♩ = 66)

mf

Allargando

67

mp

that makes me flee from those _____ in need. _____ A gar-den gone to

mp

that makes me flee from those _____ in need. _____ A gar-den gone to

mp

that makes me flee from those _____ in need. _____ A gar-den gone to

mp

that makes me flee from those _____ in need. _____ A gar-den gone to

Allargando

67

cresc.

Tempo I (♩ = 66)

70

*mf**f*

seed. With your gen-tle fin-gers _____ weed _____ me,

*mf**f*

seed. With your gen-tle fin-gers _____ weed _____ me,

*mf**f*

seed. With your gen-tle fin-gers _____ weed _____ me,

*mf**f*

seed. With your gen-tle fin-gers _____ weed _____ me,

Tempo I (♩ = 66)

70

f *mf* *f* *ova*

73

ossia (♩)

weed me. _____ Keep me pure in-

weed me. _____ Keep me pure in-

ossia (♩)

weed me. _____ Keep me pure in-

8

weed me. _____ Keep me pure in-

8va - - - - -

73

(8va) - - - - -

ff

76

p

deed. _____ Take a - way the wish to be the brigh -

mp

p

deed. _____ Take a - way the wish to be the brigh -

mp

p

deed. _____ Take a - way the wish to be the brigh -

mp

8

deed. _____ Take a - way the wish to be the brigh -

p

mp

76

p

mp

79



- test and the best. ____ Take a-way de-sire ____ that leads me des - perate-ly a-stray. ____

- test and the best. ____ Take a-way de-sire ____ that leads me des - perate-ly a-stray. ____

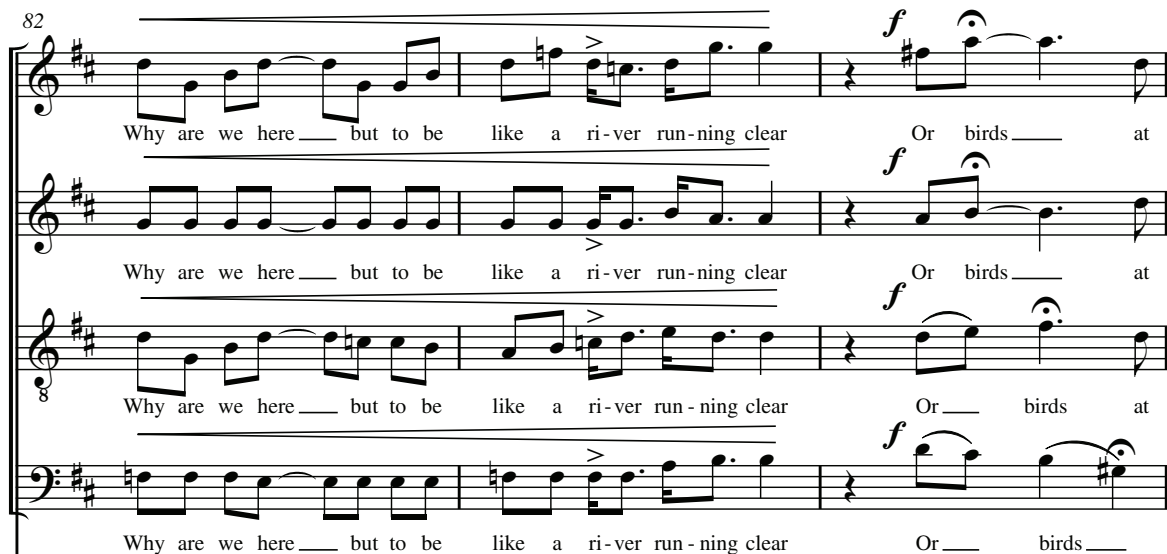
- test and the best. ____ Take a-way de-sire ____ that leads me des - perate-ly a-stray. ____

- test and the best. ____ Take a-way de-sire ____ that leads me des - perate-ly a-stray. ____

79



82



Why are we here ____ but to be like a ri-ver run-ning clear Or birds ____ at

Why are we here ____ but to be like a ri-ver run-ning clear Or birds ____ at

Why are we here ____ but to be like a ri-ver run-ning clear Or ____ birds at

Why are we here ____ but to be like a ri-ver run-ning clear Or ____ birds ____

82



85

break of day? Help me find the way.

break of day? Help me find the way.

break of day? Help me find the way.

break of day? Help me find the way.

85

mp *mp*

88

Help me find the way. *mf* *mp* *rit.*

Help me find the way. *mf* *mp*

Help me find the way. *mf* *mp*

Help me find the way. *mf* *mp*

88

mf *mp* *mf* *rit.*

91 **Maestoso** ♩ = 60

8va ----- *loco* *rit.* -----

95 **Tempo I** (♩ = 66)

p

99 *mp* *f*

Why ____ are we ____ here but ____ to ____ cre - ate ____ Oh ____

mp

Why ____ are we ____ here but ____ to ____ cre - ate ____

mp

Why ____ are we ____ here but ____ to ____ cre - ate ____

mp

Why ____ are we ____ here but ____ to ____ cre - ate ____

99 *mp*

102

mf

— for each of us has some - thing — of them - selves to ded-i cate?

— for each of us has some - thing of them - selves — to ded-i - cate? —

— for each of us has some - thing — of them - selves to ded-i cate?

— for each of us has some - thing of them - selves — to ded-icate?

102

106

Oh — u-ni-verse — take a - way the lie

Oh — u-ni-verse — take a-way the

Oh — u-ni-verse — take a - way the lie

Oh — u - ni-verse — take a-way the

106

109

that there is no-thing I can give. Show me how to live.

lie can give. Show me how to live.

that there is no-thing I can give. Show me how to live. Show me how to

lie can give. Show me how to live.

109

113

*rit.**mp*

Show me how to live.

Show me how to live.

live. Show me how to live.

Show me how to live.

113

*rit.**p*

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