## FRAGMENTS FOR PEACE

for six treble voices

Amy D. Rubin

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### commissioned by the Slovak Republic DNI Europy Festival

#### BACKGROUND:

FRAGMENTS FOR PEACE was commissioned by the renowned Slovak soprano and producer Eva Blahova for the DNI Europy ("Days of Peace") Festival, held in the Slovak Republic in May 1997. The work was composed for two groups of singers, one performing in Vel'ky evanjelicky, a prominent church in Bratislava, and the other performing a few hundred miles away in an abandoned synagogue in Liptovsky Mikulas. These two performance sites were linked through audio technology enabling the groups to sing with and against each other, as if they were in the same room.

FRAGMENTS FOR PEACE is dedicated with love and gratitude to the fine singers who premiered it: Lada Birjukova (Moldavia), Margaret Adjowa Ferguson (Ghana), Kate Lawson (USA), Magda Rodriguez Lupeschi (Puerto Rico), Anna Mailian (Armenia), and Alina Mnushkina (Ukraine); to Eva Blahova (Slovak Republic), who provided this musical and humanitarian opportunity; to Laura Kaminsky (USA) for her editing of the score, and to Kerstin Meyer (Sweden), whose coaching helped to bring the piece to life.

#### **ABOUT THE TEXT:**

The text is drawn from fragments from a number of languages, all expressing the importance of and need for universal peace, love, faith and mutual respect. All of the vocal lines are originally composed and do not quote or refer to any traditional or authentic melodies initially associated with these words. The textual fragments are translated as follows:

Buddhist: Om - I am one with the universe

Shanti - Peace

Om mane padme hum - God resides in the lotus of my heart

Buddham sara nam - I take refuge in the Buddha

Judeo-Christian: Allelujah - Praise the Lord

Pygmy: Eewa beleyo - untranslated nature call

Hebrew: Heenay mah tov umah naim, shevet achim gam yachad -

How good and pleasant it is for all beings to dwell together

in harmony

<u>Latin:</u> Dona nobis pacem - Give us peace

#### REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE NOTES

FRAGMENTS FOR PEACE was originally composed for six sopranos, one on a part. It can, however, be performed by larger groups, and by mixed chorus. In the case of the former, each performance line should be assigned to a section of singers; in the case of the latter, parts can be transposed by octaves to suit the registers of tenor and bass singers.

Solo lines can include ad lib embellishments, either predetermined or improvised extemporaneously by the performer; these can be created by the use of half-step ornaments above or below principal melodic notes, melismatic turns or any other melodic, rhythmic, or timbral variation which the performer chooses to employ.

All measures which are unmetered should be sung with rhythmic freedom; the entire opening of the piece through page 5 of the score is unmetered.

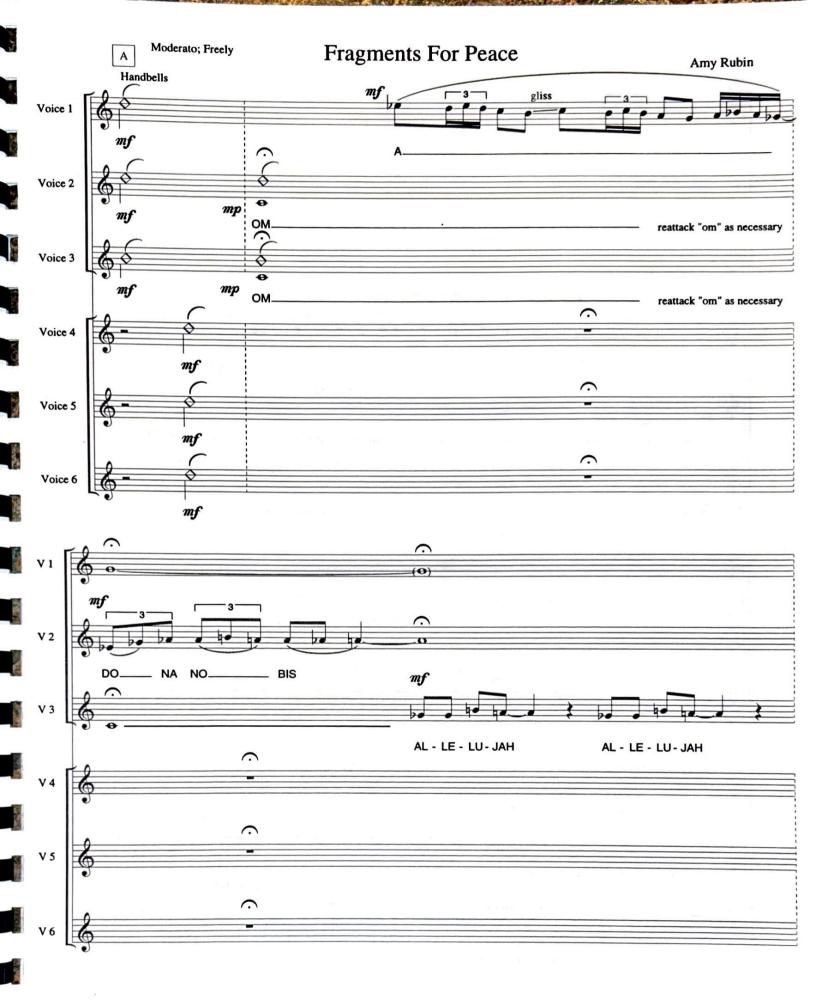
In section "A," the groups should not line up measure for measure; rather, the beginnings and endings of each group section should coincide. Section "A" should last between 45 and 90 seconds.

Vamp sections give the performers the chance to decide how many times a passage will be repeated before continuing.

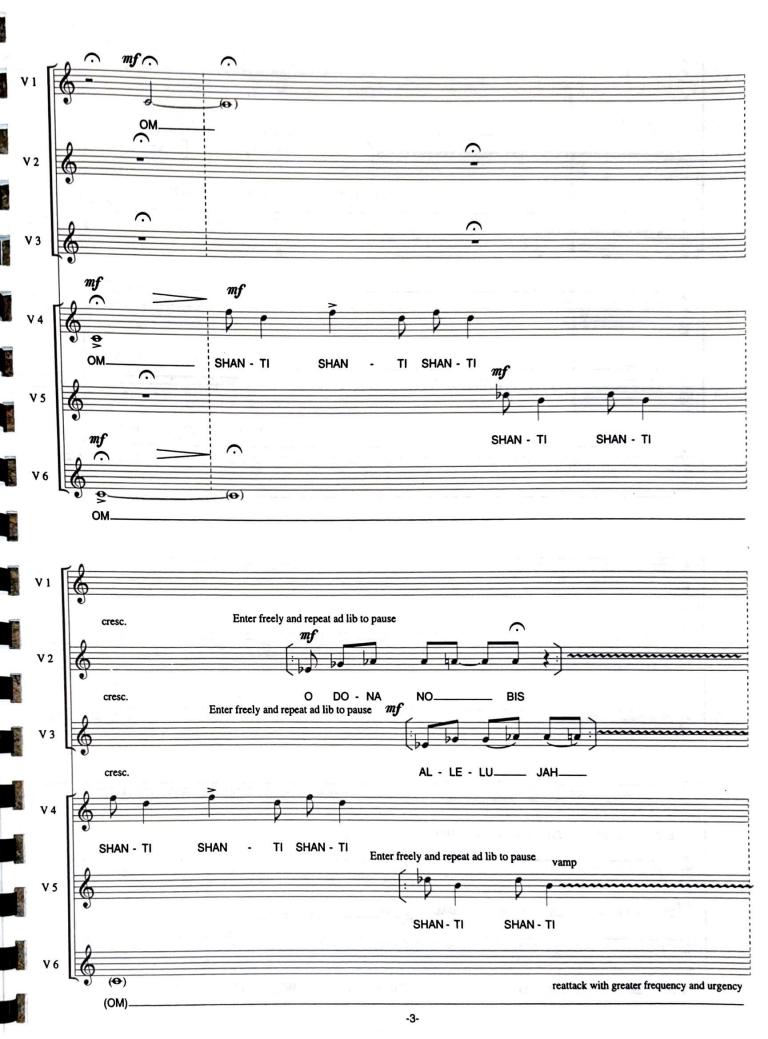
The use of handbells or finger cymbals is notated in the score by diamond-head notes in the staff at the outset, and later by X-shaped noteheads above the staff. The bells selected should be of random pitch and can be selected freely. The bells are meant only to provide a timbral color.

All in all, the performance of FRAGMENTS FOR PEACE should seem free and improvisatory, as if sung or chanted spontaneously and with conviction at a spiritual ceremony.

- AMY D. RUBIN







# PLEASE CONTACT AMY RUBIN FOR SCORE AND PARTS

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