

Piano-Vocal Score

Loretta K. Notareschi
Climate Mass

For Mezzo-Soprano, Tenor, and Baritone Soloists;
SSATB Choir; and Chamber Orchestra or Piano



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Music by Loretta K. Notareschi

Words from the Ordo Missae and by Alyse Knorr

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Duration c. 25 minutes



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About the Music

The *Climate Mass*, a missa brevis commissioned by the Regis University Office of Mission for the Regis University Singers, contains music by Loretta K. Notareschi and text from the traditional Latin mass combined with new poetry by Alyse Knorr. This new text is inspired by Pope Francis's 2015 encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'*. The piece is in the tradition of Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*, Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*, Paul Winter et al.'s *Missa Gaia*, and other works that combine religious/liturgical text with additional language that reflects on the meaning of the liturgical words.

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis implores all people of the world to respond to both the "cry of the Earth" and the "cry of the poor" by implementing policies of environmental and social justice. In the encyclical, Pope Francis analyzes how the degradation of the Earth harms the world's most marginalized peoples. At the same time, he inspires us to work for a better future, when "care for the vulnerable" and care for the Earth are made possible by an "integral ecology" and a mindset of responsible stewardship.

The marking at the beginning of the Kyrie is "Full of foreboding." The music, instigated in the chamber orchestra version by a scrape on the cymbal, proceeds with a sense of the dread we all feel in the face of the climate crisis. In this movement, we witness the suffering not only of the Earth and its animals, but also that of the humans most affected by climate change. The Gloria, in contrast, shows awe at God's creation, and sends praises to the heavens for the beauty and wonder of the world. In the Sanctus, the singers express the holiness of nature in a passage marked "Tenderly." The soloists in this movement invoke their descendants, hoping to bequeath to them "the gift of the world as it was offered to us" by God and their ancestors. In the Agnus Dei, the mood has changed to "Yearning," expressing humanity's hope for a better future. In this movement, the singers beg God to "let us begin again" and to see that--invoking God's own words in Genesis after each act of creation--"we can still be good." After the final "Amen," a scrape on the cymbal (in the chamber orchestra version) and a tritone in the treble register calls to mind the opening of the piece, since it is necessary to remember our "foreboding" if we are to go forth and try to be "good."

With the words and music of the *Climate Mass*, Notareschi and Knorr hope to join the *Laudato Si'* movement in stirring audiences to action for both people and the Earth.

LKN and AK
July 2024

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For Raul Dominguez, the Regis University Singers, and the Regis University Office of Mission

Climate Mass

I. Kyrie

Ordo Missae and
Alyse Knorr (ASCAP)

Loretta K. Notareschi (ASCAP)

♩. = 56
Full of forboding

Soprano Alto *mf*
Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, Ky-ri - e e - lei - son,

Tenor Bass *mf*
Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, Ky-ri - e e - lei - son,

Piano *mf*

4 *cresc.* *f*

S./A. Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, e - lei - son.

T./B. *unis. cresc.* *f*
Ky - ri - e, Ky-ri - e, Ky-ri - e e - lei - son.

Piano *cresc.* *f*

7

A

mp *cresc.*

S./A. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Ky - ri - e e -

T./B. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Ky - ri - e e -

mp *cresc.*

mp *cresc.*

11

mf

S./A. lei - son, Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, Ky-ri - e e - lei - son,

T./B. lei - son, Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, Ky-ri - e e - lei - son,

mf

mf

14 *cresc.* **B** *f*
 S./A. Ky-ri - e, Ky-ri - e e - lei - son.

cresc. *unis.* *f*
 T./B. Ky-ri - e, Ky-ri - e e - lei - son.

17 *sub. p* *mp*

20 *p* **G.P.**

23 **C** $\text{♩} = 84$ *Inexorably* *mp*
 S./A. The gi-rafte's splayed legs form a star on the land. The last

C $\text{♩} = 84$ *Inexorably* *p*

27

S./A. fruit bat shiv-ers in his wings.

T./B. Our chil-dren will nev - er meet the

mp

31

T./B. unis. *poco a poco cresc.*

hon-ey-creep-ers, the gol-den frog, the pad-dle fish, or the gi - ant tor-toise.

poco a poco cresc.

35

D Formidable *f*

S./A. Riv-ers van-ish! Riv-ers flood! Seas rise with plas-tic!_____

T./B. Riv-ers van-ish! Riv-ers flood! Seas rise with plas-tic!_____

f

D Formidable *f*

39 *sub. p* *f*

S./A. Gla-ciers melt!_ Gla-ciers crum-ble_ in - to the o-cean,___ *f*

T./B. *sub. p* *f*

Gla-ciers melt!_ Gla-ciers crum-ble_ in - to the o-cean,___

43 *f* **E**

S./A. in - to the o-cean! Thirst-y ba-bies cry but lack the wa-ter to make tears.

T./B. in - to the o-cean!

47

S./A. An old man full of poi-son dies in a dirt-y bed.

51 *f*

T./B. *f*

Wom-en wade the flood clutch-ing tod-dlers in their arms.

54

T./B.

A young boy wails for a toy that's turned to ash.

57 **F** *mf*

S./A. *mf*

Chri-ste e - lei-son, Chri-ste e - lei-son, Chri-ste e -

T./B. *mf* unis.

Chri-ste e - lei-son, Chri-ste e - lei-son, Chri-ste e -

F *mf*

62 **G** *f* *mf*

S./A. lei - son, e - lei - son, Chri - ste e - lei - son, Chri - ste e -

T./B. lei - son, e - lei - son, Chri - ste e - lei - son, Chri - ste e -

67 *p* *p*

S./A. lei - son, Chri - ste e - lei - son, Chri - ste e - lei - son.

T./B. lei - son, Chri - ste e - lei - son, Chri - ste e - lei - son.

72 **H** *f* *f* *colla voce*

M.-S. Solo For - give us, God for - chok - ing the lungs of our

H *f* *colla voce*

75
M.-S. Solo

moth-er. For-give us for burn-ing up your for-ests, for

79
M.-S. Solo

turn-ing our backs to the poor, to the sick, to the weak, to the hun-gry.

84

sub. p *poco a poco cresc.* *mf*

87

G.P.