

Winner of the 2012 San Francisco Conservatory of Music Bi-annual Choral Composition Competition, David Conte, director
Premièred by the International Orange Chorale, Zane Fiala, director

We Sat Down and Wept

Lord Byron (1815)
Psalm 137:1

for SATB chorus a cappella with divisi

Elliott James Encarnación (2012)
dur. approx. 3'30"

I.
We sat down and wept by the waters
Of Babel, and thought of the day
When our foe, in the hue of his slaughters,
Made Salem's high places his prey;
And ye, oh her desolate daughters!
Were scattered all weeping away.

*super flumina Babylonis ibi sedimus et
flevimus cum recordaremur Sion*

II.
While sadly we gazed on the river
Which rolled on in freedom below,
They demanded the song; but, oh never
That triumph the stranger shall know!
May this right hand be withered for ever,
Ere it string our high harp for the foe!

*By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down,
yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.*

III.
On the willow that harp is suspended,
Oh Salem! its sound should be free;
And the hour when thy glories were ended
But left me that token of thee:
And ne'er shall its soft tones be blended
With the voice of the spoiler by me!

Languid ♩ = 48

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

Piano Reduction

quasi chant *pp* *div.* *mp* *pp*

quasi chant *pp* *div.* *mp* *pp*

su - per flu-mi-na Ba - by - lo - nis, Ba - - -

su - per flu-mi-na Ba - by - lo - nis, Ba - - -

still *poco* *mf* *wailing and rhythmic*

the wil-low, that harp is sus-pend ed, Oh Sa-lem! its

still *mf* *wailing and rhythmic*

the wil-low, that har

still *mf* *wailing and rhythmic*

On the wil-low, that har (p)... Oh

still

On the wil-low, that har

Detailed description: This system contains the first four staves of the musical score. The top staff is a vocal line in 4/4 time, starting with a triplet of eighth notes. It includes dynamic markings like *still*, *poco*, and *mf*, and performance instructions like *wailing and rhythmic*. The lyrics are "the wil-low, that harp is sus-pend ed, Oh Sa-lem! its". The second staff is another vocal line, also in 4/4 time, with lyrics "the wil-low, that har". The third staff is a vocal line in 8/8 time, with lyrics "On the wil-low, that har (p)... Oh". The fourth staff is a bass line in 4/4 time, with lyrics "On the wil-low, that har". The piano accompaniment is shown in the bottom two staves, with a treble and bass clef. It features a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand.

sound should be free, free;

mf *wailing and rhythmic*

(p)... Oh Sa-lem! its sound should be free;

Sa-lem! its sound should be free, free;

mf *wailing and rhythmic*

(p)... Oh Sa-lem! its sound

Detailed description: This system contains the next four staves of the musical score. The top staff is a vocal line in 4/4 time, with lyrics "sound should be free, free;". The second staff is a vocal line in 4/4 time, with lyrics "(p)... Oh Sa-lem! its sound should be free;". The third staff is a vocal line in 8/8 time, with lyrics "Sa-lem! its sound should be free, free;". The fourth staff is a bass line in 4/4 time, with lyrics "(p)... Oh Sa-lem! its sound". The piano accompaniment is shown in the bottom two staves, with a treble and bass clef. It features a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand.