JESSE PREIS

"I Am In Tears"

from

Ancient Epitaphs for Humanity's Best Friend

for

SSAATTBB (& Piano for Rehearsal Only)

raindrop NEW MUSIC

Performance Note:

This is the first movement in a larger choral work entitled *Ancient Epitaphs for Humanity's Best Friend*. I composed this piece in response to my dog Zinnia's passing in April, 2025. She was only a four year old dog and her death broke my heart and my spouse's heart. The work's text is taken from epitaphs that were written by people who had lost their pets in Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, and Ancient Egypt.
The loss of a beloved pet is such a universal experience that, upon research, I couldn't believe how little music had been composed on the topic. This is my addition to that body of literature.
I hope that with it, other people who struggle with the loss of their beloved pet, whether dog, cat, parrot, hamster, horse, or any other, can find some peace and solace knowing that they were/are happy and they are resting peacefully without pain.

Text:

I am in tears
While carrying you to your last resting place
As much as I rejoiced when bringing you home
In my own hands fifteen years ago.
I am in tears.
Rest.

raindrop NEW MUSIC

"I Am In Tears"

JESSE PREIS

Largo (♩ = 52)

SOPRANO: *p* — I am in tears I am in tears I am in tears ah

ALTO: *p* — I am in tears I am in tears I am in tears

TENOR: *p* — I am in tears I am in tears I am in tears

BASS: *p* — I am in tears I am in tears I am in tears

Piano (Rehearsal Only)

Largo (♩ = 52)

7

S.: *p* — while carr - - - y - ing you you — *mp*

A.: *mf* *p* — while carr - y carr - y - ing you you — *mp*

T.: *mf* *p* — while carr - - y - ing you you — *mp*

B.: *mf* *p* — while carr - y carr - y - ing you you — *mp*

Pno.: *mf* *p* *mp*

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Adagio (♩. = 72)

14

S. *sub. p* *cresc.* *mf*

I am in tears while carr - y - ing you to your fi - nal rest - ing place I am in

A. *sub. p* *cresc.* *mf* *cresc.*

I am in tears I am in tears while

T.

I am in tears while carr - y - ing you to your fi - nal rest - ing place

B.

I am in tears I am in tears while

Pno.

Adagio (♩. = 72)

sub. p *cresc.* *mf* *cresc.*

19

S. *mf* *cresc.* *f* **rit.**

I am in tears while carr - y - ing you to your last rest - ing place

A. *mf* *cresc.* *f*

I am in tears while carr - y - ing you to your fi - nal rest - ing place

T. *cresc.* *f*

tears while carr - y - ing you to your fi - nal rest - ing place

B. *f*

carr - y - ing you to your fi - - nal rest - ing place

Pno. *f* **rit.**

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Adagio (♩. = 72)

23

mf

rit.

S. As much as I re-joiced when bring-ing you_ home in my__ own hands_

A. Bring - ing you____ home In__ my own hands fif-teen years a - go____

T. As much as I re-joiced when bring-ing you_ home in my own____ hands_

B. Bring - ing you_____ home In__ my own hands_____

Pno. **Adagio** (♩. = 72) **rit.**

a tempo

28

p

S. I am in tears I am in tears I am in tears while

A. I am in tears I am in tears I am in tears while

T. I am in tears I am in tears I am in tears while

B. I am in tears I am in tears I am in tears while

Pno. **a tempo**

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Slower (♩ = 62)

rit.

34

S. carr - - - y - ing you you

A. carr - y carr - y - ing you you

T. carr - - - y - ing you you

B. carr - y carr - y - ing you you

Pno. Slower (♩ = 62) rit.

Largo (♩ = 52)

40

S. I am in tears I am in tears I am in tears

A. I am in tears I am in tears I am in tears

T. I am in tears I am in tears I am in tears

B. I am in tears I am in tears I am in tears

Pno. Largo (♩ = 52)

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46

S. *p* Rest Rest Rest Rest

A. *p* Rest Rest Rest Rest

T. *p* Rest Rest Rest Rest Rest

B. *p* Rest Rest Rest Rest Rest

Pno. *p*

51

S.

A.

T. Rest Rest Rest

B. Rest Rest Rest Rest *pp* Rest

Pno. *pp*

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