

# **THE LAMENT OF GILGAMESH**

**For SATB Chorus and Piano**

**Music by  
BRUCE TRINKLEY**

**Lyrics by  
JASON CHARNESKY**

## **THE LAMENT OF GILGAMESH**

For almost three thousand years, the epic Gilgamesh was celebrated throughout the Middle East. The deeds of Gilgamesh were sung in many languages and across a dozen ancient cultures. As the story begins, Gilgamesh is an arrogant king whom the gods decide to punish. They create a wild man, Enkidu, who is almost more animal than human and who lives in the fields with the lions and gazelles. The civilized king Gilgamesh and the wild man Enkidu meet and fight, and by the end of their fight they become best friends for each recognizes in the other his own equal and double. The two friends join together in many heroic quests. Tragically Enkidu, in the prime of his youth, grows ill and dies. For the first time in his life, King Gilgamesh is confronted with the reality of death, and he sings this lament over the body of his friend.

This English text is a free translation of the Akkadian cuneiform version of the epic (written between 1300 and 1000 BCE).

# The Lament of Gilgamesh

For SATB Chorus and Piano

Lyrics by J. Jason Charnesky

Music by Bruce Trinkley

**Mesto** ♩ = 100

*p*

Sop/Alto

Ten/Bass

Piano

*p*

*con pedale*

Not by the

Not

*mp*

*cresc.*

boar, not mauled by the wild boar, not

by the boar, not mauled by the wild boar,

*simile*

*mp*

9

pierced, not by the wild boar's tusk, \_\_\_\_\_ but *p*

pierced, not by the wild boar's tusk, \_\_\_\_\_

*cresc.* not pierced, not by the wild boar's tusk, \_\_\_\_\_

*cresc.* not pierced, not by the wild boar's tusk, \_\_\_\_\_ but *p*

9

*cresc.* *f* *ff*

13

*mf* on - ly the earth \_\_\_\_\_ swal-lowed him.

*p* but on - ly the earth \_\_\_\_\_ swal-lowed him.

*p* but on - ly the earth swal-lowed him.

*mf* on - ly the earth \_\_\_\_\_ swal-lowed him.

13

*p* *f*

19 *mp* Not by the sword, not cut by the sword, *mf* nor vi - per bite,

*mp* not by the sword, not cut by the sword, *mf* nor vi - per bite,

*mf* nor vi - per

19 *mp* *mf*

22 *mp* not poi - soned by asp, *rit.* nor best - ed by war - rior,

*mp* not poi - soned by asp, nor best - ed by war - rior,

bite, not poi - soned by asp, nor best - ed by war - rior,

*mp* not poi - soned by asp, nor best - ed, nor best - ed by war - rior,

22 *mp* *rit.*

**Poco meno mosso** ♩ = 96

26 *p cresc.* *mf* *sub. pp*

not by the rasp edged sword, but on - ly the

*p cresc.* *mf* *pp*

not by the rasp edged sword, but

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

not by the rasp edged sword, but on - ly the

26 *p cresc.* *pp*

30

earth.

on - ly the earth.

*pp*

but on - ly the earth.

earth.

30 *ff*

The musical score is written for a vocal ensemble and piano. It begins with a tempo marking of 'Poco meno mosso' and a quarter note equal to 96 beats. The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains measures 26 through 29, and the second system contains measures 30 through 33. The vocal parts are written in treble and bass staves, while the piano accompaniment is in grand staff (treble and bass). Dynamics include piano (p), crescendo (cresc.), mezzo-forte (mf), and pianissimo (pp), with a fortissimo (ff) marking at the end. The lyrics are: 'not by the rasp edged sword, but on - ly the earth.' The piano part features arpeggiated chords and a final fortissimo chord.

34 *f* *piu f*

E - a! pierce a hole in - to the earth, E - a!

E - a! pierce a hole in - to the earth, E - a!

E - a! pierce a hole in - to the earth, E - a!

E - a! pierce a hole in - to the earth, E - a!

38

pierce a hole, a hole in the earth

pierce a hole, a hole in the earth through which

pierce a hole, a hole in the earth through which

pierce a hole, a hole in the earth

38

sub. *p*

sub. *p*

sub. *p*

41 *mp cresc.* *f* *dim.*

through which his soul may rise, through which

*cresc.* *f* *dim.*

his soul may rise, through which his soul.

*cresc.* *f* *dim.*

his soul may rise, through which his soul.

*mp cresc.* *f* *dim.*

through which his soul, through which his soul.

41 *cresc.* *mp* *f* *dim.*

47 *allarg.* **Con moto** ♩ = 128

his soul.

47 *mp* *f* *ff* *mf cresc.*

*allarg.*



54 *ff* It was no fe - ver pulled him down, *f* no

*ff* It was no fe - ver pulled him down, *f* no

*ff* It was no fe - ver pulled him

*ff* It was no fe - ver pulled him down, pulled him

54 *ff* *dim. poco a poco*

60 *dim.* chill, no poi - son - ous fruit, *dim.*

*dim.* chill, no poi - son - ous fruit, *mf dim.*

down, no chill, no poi - son - ous fruit, *mp*

down, no chill, no poi - son - ous

60 *mp*

66

fruit, \_\_\_\_\_

66

*p*

**Tempo primo** ♩ = 100

73 *pp* *cresc.* *ff*

but on - ly the earth. E - a!

73 *pp* *cresc.* *ff*

but on - ly the earth. E - a!

73 *pp* *cresc.* *ff*

but on - ly the earth. E - a! E - a! \_\_\_\_\_

73 *pp* *cresc.* *ff*

but on - ly the earth. E - a! E - a! \_\_\_\_\_

73

78 *ff*

E - a! \_\_\_\_\_ pierce a hole in - to the

E - a! \_\_\_\_\_ pierce a hole in - to the

8 \_\_\_\_\_ E - a! pierce a hole in - to the

- E - a! pierce a hole in - to the

81 *f* *dim.* *p*

earth. \_\_\_\_\_ He was sent down, \_\_\_\_\_ my lov - er, my friend, \_\_\_\_\_

earth. \_\_\_\_\_ He was sent down, \_\_\_\_\_ my lov - er, my

8 earth. \_\_\_\_\_ He was sent down, \_\_\_\_\_ my

earth. \_\_\_\_\_ He was sent down, \_\_\_\_\_

81 *f* *dim.*

84

my lov - er, my friend.

friend, my lov - er, my friend.

lov - er, my friend,

my lov - er, my friend,

89

### Quasi recitativo

*mp* *mf poco marcato*

He was sent down in-to the halls, in-to the

in-to the halls, in-to the

in-to the halls,

*mf poco marcato*

94

dark halls, \_\_\_\_\_

dark halls, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ in - to the dark halls, he was sent down to the dark queen

*mf poco marcato* in - to the dark halls, to the

94

**Misterioso** ♩ = 108

99

*mp* where \_\_\_\_\_ is no wine but tears, \_\_\_\_\_ where is \_\_\_\_\_

*mp* where \_\_\_\_\_ is no wine but tears,

*mp* where is no \_\_\_\_\_ wine but \_\_\_\_\_ tears, \_\_\_\_\_ where

*mp* dark queen \_\_\_\_\_ where is no \_\_\_\_\_ wine but \_\_\_\_\_ tears,

99

*mp* *p*

105 *poco rit.*

no meat but down in - to the dark halls

*p*

where is no meat but down in - to the dark halls

is no meat but down in - to the dark halls

*p*

where is no meat but down in - to the dark

105 *poco rit.*

109 **Meno mosso** ♩ = 96 *dim.* *cantando mp*

of the grim queen. My

*dim.*

of the grim queen.

*dim.*

of the grim queen, of the grim queen.

*dim.*

halls of the grim queen.

109 *cantando*

*con pedale*

114

lov - er, my friend,

*p cantando*

My lov - er,

*p cantando*

My lov - er, my

*mp cantando*

My lov - er, my friend,

114

My lov - er, my friend,

My lov - er, my friend,

My lov - er, my friend,

My lov - er, my friend,

119

*p* murmured

for no sin nor age,

*p* murmured

my friend, for no sin nor mal - a -

friend, for no sin nor age

*p* murmured

for no sin

119

*p*

124

*pp calmato*

but on - ly the earth, but

*pp*

dy, ah!

*pp calmato*

nor mal - a - dy, but on - ly the

*pp*

nor mal - a - dy, ah!

124

*pp calmato*

129 *dim.* *rit.* **Allegro appassionato** ♩ = 144 *mp*

on - ly, on - ly, ah! En - lil!

*dim.* *mp cresc.*

En - lil!

*dim.* *p cresc.*

earth, on - ly, En - lil!

*dim.* *p cresc.*

En - lil!

129 *rit.* *p cresc.* *mp*



135 *f* *dim.*

ah! \_\_\_\_\_ En - lil! \_\_\_\_\_

ah! \_\_\_\_\_ En - lil! \_\_\_\_\_

*ff* *con forza* *mf* *dim.*

8 pierce a hold in - to the earth. En - lil! \_\_\_\_\_

ah! \_\_\_\_\_ En - lil! \_\_\_\_\_

135 *f* *dim.*

139 *p* *ff* *con forza* *p*

pierce a hole, \_\_\_\_\_ a hole in the

pierce a hole, \_\_\_\_\_ a hole in the

pierce a hole, En-lil! pierce the earth, \_\_\_\_\_ a hole \_\_\_\_\_ in the

pierce a hole, \_\_\_\_\_ a hole in the

139 *p* *ff* *p*

144 *pp*

earth \_\_\_\_\_ through which \_\_\_\_\_ my love may \_\_\_\_\_ speak. \_\_\_\_\_

*pp*

earth. \_\_\_\_\_ through which \_\_\_\_\_ my love may \_\_\_\_\_

*f* *pp*

8 earth, En-lil, pierce the earth. Through which my love may

*pp*

earth \_\_\_\_\_ through which \_\_\_\_\_ my love may \_\_\_\_\_

144 *pp* *sonore*

*f* *p*

149 *morendo poco a poco*

\_\_\_\_\_ A hole in the earth through

*morendo poco a poco*

\_\_\_\_\_ speak. \_\_\_\_\_ A hole in the earth through

*morendo poco a poco*

8 speak, \_\_\_\_\_ A hole in the earth through

*morendo poco a poco*

\_\_\_\_\_ speak. \_\_\_\_\_ A hole in the earth through

149 *morendo poco a poco*

154

which may speak my love, \_\_\_\_\_ through which I may, \_\_\_\_\_

which may speak my love, \_\_\_\_\_ through which I may, \_\_\_\_\_

which may speak my love, \_\_\_\_\_ through which I may, \_\_\_\_\_

which may speak my love, \_\_\_\_\_ through which I may, \_\_\_\_\_

154

160

— may speak my love. \_\_\_\_\_

— may speak \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_ love. \_\_\_\_\_

— may speak \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_ love. \_\_\_\_\_

— may speak \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_ love. \_\_\_\_\_

160

8va — rit. e dim. —