

# Kurt Mortensen

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## *Dona Nobis Pacem*

For SATB Choir & Strings  
(or SATB Choir & String Quintet)

*Full Score*

## ***Dona Nobis Pacem***

Duration: ca. 7 minutes

First performance:

This piece has yet to be performed.

for more information about Kurt Mortensen's music visit:  
<http://kurtmortensen.org>

## **Program Notes By The Composer**

*Dona Nobis Pacem* was written in response to “an invitation to all composers to create music on peace texts” from the Carlton Savage Endowment for International Relations and Peace for their “Waging Peace Through Singing” Campaign. “The purpose of the program is to encourage the creation and dissemination of an international repertoire of choral music on peace-related texts.”

Although I had received a post card announcing this call for scores in August of 2001, I did not begin composing the work until November later that year. During that time, I periodically searched for texts which I thought I might use. Then in the middle of my search came the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Since that time, I, like so many other Americans, have had such a different perspective of the world we live in and am just more aware of all the unrest there is on this planet. Suddenly, the composing of this piece became more relevant than I had expected it would be. By the end of my search for texts, it seemed that they all had a particular agenda and I did not want this piece to be about any one issue, September 11 included. In the end, I chose to use the minimalist but classic “Dona Nobis Pacem” (Give Us Peace).

The work is rather simple. The main melodic line generates much of the musical gestures in the piece. The two most recognizable melodies in the whole work are in actuality, the same line, one being the retrograde of the other, with slight note duration modifications. Other lines are derived from the harmonization of the melodies. The piece also explores the use of mensural relationships between melodic fragments as well as a process I call macro-melodic interpolation (the stretching of a melody over time as a structural foundation and inserting freely composed material in between).

In some ways, typical choral voice leading is employed, but many “rules” are broken as well. In some cases voices do cross, and there are some unusual chordal resolutions. Due to the paucity of the text, I wanted to have instrumental parts to keep the piece interesting. However, I also intended the work to be somewhat flexible in its performing forces. I love the combination of voices and strings and *Dona Nobis Pacem* was written to be performed by either a chamber choir and string section or a smaller chamber choir and string quintet. There is only two part divisi in the upper voices at the end of the piece and there is no divisi in the strings.

# Dona Nobis Pacem

for SATB Choir & Strings

$\downarrow = 100$

Kurt Mortensen  
2001-2002

The musical score consists of two systems of music. The first system, starting at measure 1, features the SATB choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in treble clef and the strings (Violins I & II, Viola, Violoncello, Contrabass) in bass clef. The second system, starting at measure 11, introduces melodic lines for the violins and viola, while the bassoon continues its rhythmic pattern. Dynamic markings include *p* (piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and a dynamic range from *p* to *mf*.

**Measure 1:** SATB choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in treble clef. The strings (Violins I & II, Viola, Violoncello, Contrabass) in bass clef.

**Measure 11:** Melodic lines for Violins I & II and Viola. The bassoon continues its rhythmic pattern.

**Measure 16:** Melodic lines for Violins I & II and Viola. The bassoon continues its rhythmic pattern.

S 9  
 A 9  
 T 9  
 B 9

I 9  
 Vls. I 9  
 II 9  
 Vla. 9  
 Vc. 9  
 Cb. 9

S 17  
 A 17  
 T 17  
 B 17

I Vls. 17  
 II Vla. 17  
 Vc. 17  
 Cb. 17

A

25 *mp*

S Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

25 *mp*

A Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

25

T

8

25 *mp*

B Do - na no - bis pa - cem,

I

Vls.

II

25

Vla.

25

Vc.

25

Cb.

33

S

A

Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

T

Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

B

Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

I

Vls.

II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

B

Soprano (S) 41

Alto (A) 41

Tenor (T) 41

Bass (B) 41

Vln I 41

*f*

Vln II 41

*f*

Vla. 41

*f*

Vcl 41

*f*

Cello (Cb.) 41

*f*

C

49

S

A

T

B

I

Vls.

II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Do - na no - bis pa - cem,

do - na no - bis pa - cem.

Do - na no - bis pa - cem,

do - na no - bis pa - cem.

49 *pizz.*

*mp*

*mf*

S 57 **f**  
 A 57 **f**  
 T 57 **f**  
 B 57 **f**  
 I Vls. 57 **f**  
 II Vla. 57 **f**  
 Vc. Cb. 57 **f**

Soprano: Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.  
 Alto: Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.  
 Tenor: Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.  
 Bass: Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem.  
 Violin I: Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem.  
 Violin II: Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem.  
 Cello: Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem.  
 Double Bass: Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem.

\ **mp**  
\ **mp**

D

S      65

A      65

T      65

B      65

I      Vls.      65

II      65

Vla.      65

Vc.      65 arco

Cb.      65

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

Musical score for SATB (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and orchestra (Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Vcl, Cb). The score consists of two systems of music.

**System 1 (Measures 1-6):**

- Soprano (S):** Notes at measure 1, rests from measure 2 to 6.
- Alto (A):** Rests from measure 1 to 6.
- Tenor (T):** Notes at measure 1, rests from measure 2 to 6.
- Bass (B):** Rests from measure 1 to 6.
- Vln I:** Notes at measure 1, rests from measure 2 to 6.
- Vln II:** Notes at measure 1, rests from measure 2 to 6.
- Vla:** Notes at measure 1, rests from measure 2 to 6.
- Vcl:** Notes at measure 1, rests from measure 2 to 6.
- Cb:** Notes at measure 1, rests from measure 2 to 6.

**System 2 (Measures 7-12):**

- Soprano (S):** Rests from measure 1 to 6, notes from measure 7 to 12.
- Alto (A):** Rests from measure 1 to 6, notes from measure 7 to 12.
- Tenor (T):** Rests from measure 1 to 6, notes from measure 7 to 12.
- Bass (B):** Rests from measure 1 to 6, notes from measure 7 to 12.
- Vln I:** Notes from measure 7 to 12.
- Vln II:** Notes from measure 7 to 12.
- Vla:** Notes from measure 7 to 12.
- Vcl:** Notes from measure 7 to 12.
- Cb:** Notes from measure 7 to 12.

Musical score for SATB (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and orchestra (Vls I & II, Vla, Vc, Cb). The score consists of two systems of music.

**System 1 (Measures 79-80):**

- Soprano (S):** Rests throughout.
- Alto (A):** Rests throughout.
- Tenor (T):** Notes at measure 79, rests thereafter.
- Bass (B):** Notes at measure 79, rests thereafter.

**System 2 (Measures 81-82):**

- Vls I:** Notes at measure 81, rests thereafter.
- Vls II:** Notes at measure 81, rests thereafter.
- Vla:** Notes at measure 81, rests thereafter.
- Vc:** Notes at measure 81, rests thereafter.
- Cb:** Notes at measure 81, rests thereafter.

S 86  
 A 86  
 T 86  
 B 86

I Vls. 86  
 II 86  
 Vla. 86  
 Vc. 86  
 Cb. 86

E

91 ***f***

S Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

A Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

T Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

B Do - na no - bis pa - cem,

I

Vls. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

***mf***

Detailed description: The musical score consists of two systems. The top system features four vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and includes lyrics. The vocal parts are in soprano, alto, tenor, and bass clef respectively. Measure 91 starts with dynamic ***f***. The lyrics are: Soprano: Do - na no - bis pa - cem, Alto: Do - na no - bis pa - cem, Tenor: Do - na no - bis pa - cem, Bass: Do - na no - bis pa - cem. The vocal parts then have a short休止符 (rest). The dynamic changes to ***mf***. The lyrics continue: Soprano: Do - na no - bis pa - cem, Alto: Do - na no - bis pa - cem, Tenor: Do - na no - bis pa - cem, Bass: Do - na no - bis pa - cem. The bottom system shows six instrumental parts (I, II, Vla., Vc., Cb.) playing eighth-note patterns. The dynamic for the instruments is ***mf***.

S    *mf*  
 A    *mf*  
 T    *mf*  
 B    *mf*

I  
 Vls.  
 II  
 Vla.  
 Vc.  
 Cb.

The musical score consists of two systems of music. The top system features four vocal parts: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The vocal parts sing the Latin hymn 'Dona nobis pacem'. The first system starts with dynamic *mp* and transitions to *mf*. The second system continues with *mf*. The bottom system features the orchestra with parts for Violins I (I), Violins II (II), Viola (Vla.), Cello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Cb.). The orchestra provides harmonic support with sustained notes and rhythmic patterns. Measure numbers 99 are indicated above the staves.

F

Soprano (S) vocal line:

107  
Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis

Alto (A) vocal line:

107  
Do - na no - bis pa -

Tenor (T) vocal line:

107  
Do - na no - bis pa -

Bass (B) vocal line:

107  
Do - na no - bis pa -

Violin I (I) instrumental line:

107

Violin II (II) instrumental line:

107

Violoncello (Vla.) instrumental line:

107

Cello (Vc.) instrumental line:

107

CDouble Bass (Cb.) instrumental line:

107

Soprano (S) vocal line with lyrics: cem., Do - na no - bis pa -  
 Alto (A) vocal line with lyrics: cem. Do - na no - bis pa -  
 Tenor (T) vocal line with lyrics: cem.  
 Bass (B) vocal line with lyrics: pa - cem. Do - na no - bis  
 Violin I (I Vls.)  
 Violin II (II Vls.)  
 Cello (C. Vla.)  
 Double Bass (Vc.)  
 Double Bass (Cb.)  
 Dynamics: **mf**

Soprano (S) vocal line with lyrics: cem., Do na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa -  
 Alto (A) vocal line with lyrics: cem., Do na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa -  
 Tenor (T) vocal line with lyrics: Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa -  
 Bass (B) vocal line with lyrics: pa - cem.  
  
 Violin I (Vls. I) and Violin II (Vls. II) play eighth-note patterns.  
 Cello (Cb.) plays sustained notes with dynamics *mf*.  
 Double Bass (Vcl.) plays eighth-note patterns with dynamics *mf*.  
 Bassoon (Vla.) plays sustained notes with dynamics *mf*.

129

S      pa - cem.

129

A      pa - cem.

129

T      cem. **f**

8

B      Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa -

129

**f**

I

Vls.

II

129

Vla.

129

Vc.

129

Cb.

S 137 **f**  
 A 137 **f**  
 T 137  
 B 137

Do - na      no - bis      pa -      cem,      do - na      no - bis      pa - cem.  
 Do - na      no - bis      pa -      cem,      do - na      no - bis      pa - cem.  
 cem.  
 cem.

I  
 Vls.  
 II  
 Vla.  
 Vc.  
 Cb.

S 144  
 A  
 T 144 *f*.  
 B 8 Do na no bis pa  
 Vls. I  
 Vls. II  
 Vla.  
 Vc.  
 Cb.

The musical score consists of two systems of music. The first system, on the left, includes vocal parts: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The vocal parts are marked with '144' above them. The lyrics 'Do na no bis pa' are written below the vocal lines. The second system, on the right, includes woodwind parts (Vls. I and Vls. II), string parts (Vla., Vc.), and a bassoon part (Cb.). All parts in both systems are also marked with '144'.

S 150  
 A 150  
 T 150  
 B 150  
 cem.  
 rit.  
 I Vls. 150 f 3  
 II 150 p.  
 Vla. 150  
 Vc. 150  
 Cb. 150

S 153  
 A 153  
 T 153  
 B 153

I Vls. 153  
 II 153  
 Vla. 153  
 Vc. 153  
 Cb. 153

G *a tempo*

156 *mf*

Soprano (S) vocal line:

Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

156 *mf*

Alto (A) vocal line:

Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

156 *mf*

Tenor (T) vocal line:

Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

156 *mf*

Bass (B) vocal line:

Do - na no - bis pa - cem,

Vibrato markings are present under the notes in the vocal parts.

156

Violin I (Vls. I) vocal line:

- - - - -

156

Violin II (Vls. II) vocal line:

- - - - -

156

Cello (Cb.) vocal line:

- - - - -

156

Cello (Cb.) vocal line:

- - - - -

156

Cello (Cb.) vocal line:

- - - - -

156

Cello (Cb.) vocal line:

- - - - -

*mf*

156

Cello (Cb.) vocal line:

- - - - -

*mp*

156

Cello (Cb.) vocal line:

- - - - -

*mp*

Soprano (S) vocal line with lyrics: Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem. Dynamics: *f*, *ff*. Articulation marks: slurs, grace notes.

Alto (A) vocal line with lyrics: Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Dynamics: *f*, *ff*.

Tenor (T) vocal line with lyrics: Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Dynamics: *f*, *ff*.

Bass (B) vocal line with lyrics: Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Dynamics: *f*, *ff*.

Violin I (I Vls.) vocal line with lyrics: Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Dynamics: *f*, *ff*.

Violin II (II Vls.) vocal line with lyrics: Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Dynamics: *f*, *ff*.

Cello (C. Vla.) vocal line with lyrics: Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Dynamics: *f*, *ff*.

Double Bass (Cb. Vc.) vocal line with lyrics: Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Dynamics: *f*, *ff*.

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