

Sigh No More

for

Mezzo-Soprano, viola and piano

For Don Stevens

Text by
William Shakespeare

Music by
Joe L. Alexander

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Program Notes:

In the fall of 2007, the composer was approached by the director, Don Stevens and asked to compose music for a song to be included in the Louisiana Tech University's production of William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*. The request was for "a song composed a Baroque era setting, or, in the style of Sinatra." *Sigh No More* was premiered on October 31, 2008 with Toni Brown singing alto, Madelyn Hollifield playing viola and Madelyne Godley on piano.

William Shakespeare - *Sigh No More*

Sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more!
Men were deceivers ever,
One foot in sea, and one on shore;
To one thing constant never.
Then sigh not so,
But let them go,
And be you blithe and bonny,
Converting all your sounds of woe
Into Hey nonny, nonny.
Sing no more ditties, sing no moe,
Of dumps so dull and heavy;
The fraud of men was ever so,
Then sigh not so,
But let them go,
And be you blithe and bonny.

Sigh No More

text by William Shakespeare

Joe L. Alexander

Mezzo-Sop.

Viola

Piano

$\bullet = 120$

f

f

5

Sigh no more, la - dies, — sigh no more,

5

mp

5

mp

mp

Sigh No More

2
10

Men were de - cei - vers ever, _____

mf

15

One foot on sea _____ and _____ one _____ on shore, _____

mp *mf*

mp

20

To one thing con - stant _____ ne - ver _____ Then sigh not

p

Sigh No More

25

so, _____ but let them _____ go, _____ And be you blithe _____

25

25

mp *mf* *mp*

30

_____ and bon - - - ny, _____ Con - ver - ting

30

30

f

35

all _____ your sounds _____ of woe in - to _____ Hey non-ny non -

35

35

mp *mf*

Sigh No More

4
40

ny. Sing no more, dit - ties — sing no moe, Of

mf *mf* *mp*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 40 to 44. The vocal line starts with a whole rest in measure 40, followed by a half note 'ny.' in measure 41. Measures 42-44 contain the lyrics 'Sing no more, dit - ties — sing no moe, Of'. The piano accompaniment features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *mf* for the vocal line and *mp* for the piano accompaniment.

45

dumps — so dull — and heavy; — The fraud of

mf

Detailed description: This system covers measures 45 to 49. The vocal line begins with a half note 'dumps —' in measure 45, followed by 'so dull — and heavy; —' in measure 46, and 'The fraud of' in measure 47. The piano accompaniment continues with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A *mf* dynamic marking is present in measure 47.

50

men — was e - - - ver so Then

mp *mf*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 50 to 54. The vocal line starts with a half note 'men —' in measure 50, followed by 'was e - - - ver so' in measure 51, and 'Then' in measure 52. The piano accompaniment features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *mp* for the piano accompaniment and *mf* for the vocal line.

Sigh No More

55

sigh _____ not so, but let them go, And be you

55

55

mp

60

blithe _____ and bon - - - ny. _____

60

60

65

rit.

65

f

rit.

65

f

The composer welcomes any questions concerning *Sigh No More* and would greatly appreciate hearing about performances. Inquires and programs should be sent to:

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Viola

Sigh No More

Joe L. Alexander

♩ = 120

6 *ff*

12 *mp*

19 *mf* *mp*

26 *mf*

34 *mp*

40 *mf*

47 *mp*

54

60 *rit.*

65 *f*