

The Death of Goliath

Opus 17

**A Dramatic Cantata
for Soprano, Alto and Baritone Soloists
& Piano**

by

ANDREW DOWNES

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The Death of Goliath

Libretto by Cynthia and Andrew Downes

Music by ANDREW DOWNES

This Cantata was written in the Summer of 1978 to be performed as part of the 200th anniversary festival of St. Paul's Church, Hockley, Birmingham. The performance was broadcast on BBC Radio in 1979.

The work is designed to be performed semi-dramatically, as a Cantata in costume.

There are 3 characters, accompanied by piano:

Goliath - baritone

Goliath's wife - soprano

David - high counter-tenor/mezzo soprano

At the premiere the soloists were: Catherine James (soprano), Michael Dowding (baritone), and Andrew Downes himself (counter-tenor). The pianist was Malcolm Wilson.

For the programme note to the first performance Andrew Downes wrote:

"My subject comes from the story in the First Book of Samuel, but I have chosen to treat it from an unusual angle, looking at the situation from the point of view of Goliath, and more particularly, from that of his wife. The latter is a completely fictitious character, but there is nothing in the Bible to suggest that Goliath was not a married man. I have introduced her in order to add an emotional dimension to a story which is given only a factual account in the Biblical text."

Press comment:-

This is a work of consequence, strongly dramatic in content and constructed with an admirable economy which in no way detracts from its emotional impact."

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The Death of Goliath

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Solemn ($\text{♩} = 60$) Legato

PIANO

mp *mp*

PED

cresc *f*

(ENTER GOLIATH)

dim *Tenderly*

GOLIATH (Baritone)

mp

My name is Gol-i-ath,

mp

GOLIATH

I am said to be strong, the strongest man alive. But

mf

now I am past my prime, the strength leaves my limbs every day.

cresc molto

ff

p

molto legato

mp

PED

mp
Oh God my

p

pp
God, give me courage to face my future. Give me

p

p
courage for my people are de - pen - dant on me. I am their

pp (Legato)

GOLIATH

Champion, but with each day I wonder more if my former strength is not

PP

PED.

Detailed description: This system contains the first two lines of music. The top line is a vocal line in bass clef with lyrics. The piano accompaniment consists of two staves: the right hand in treble clef and the left hand in bass clef. The piano part begins with a piano (pp) dynamic. The music is in a key with two flats and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "Champion, but with each day I wonder more if my former strength is not".

dwindling a way

pppp

(PED)

Detailed description: This system contains the third line of music. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "dwindling a way". The piano accompaniment continues with the same texture as the first system. A dynamic marking of pppp is present. A blue watermark "Preview Flip Only" is overlaid on the page. The system concludes with a pedal point (PED) marking.

(Rapid, spoken rhythm)

Each day I go out and challenge the Jews to find an opponent for me,

F

PED

Detailed description: This system contains the fourth line of music. The vocal line features a rapid, spoken rhythm with the lyrics "Each day I go out and challenge the Jews to find an opponent for me,". The piano accompaniment is characterized by a series of rapid eighth notes in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand. A forte (f) dynamic marking is used. The system concludes with a pedal point (PED) marking.

to find a champion worthy to fight me ,

PED

a champion capable of killing me .

PED

Each day they produce one , no one to challenge my

(strict time)

PED

fff **Legato**

BALIAH

Strength. mp And yet, oh

ff **mp** **A niente**

God, my strength is fail-ing. If the ene-my knew they would

surely find someone to kill me. **Legato**

P

PED

(ENTER BOLIATH'S WIFE (G.W.))

The first system of the score shows the piano accompaniment. It consists of a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The right hand features a complex melodic line with numerous triplets and slurs. The left hand provides a steady accompaniment with repeated eighth-note patterns. A dynamic marking of *eserc* (crescendo) is placed below the right hand in the third measure.

The second system of the score includes the vocal line for G.W. Soprano and the piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a dynamic marking of *p* (piano) and includes the lyrics "Go". The piano accompaniment continues with triplets and slurs, featuring a dynamic marking of *f* (forte) in the second measure and *p* (piano) in the fourth measure.

The third system of the score shows the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line contains the lyrics: "I - aith, out here al - ene? talking to your self? looking so sad -". The piano accompaniment continues with a simple harmonic accompaniment, with chord numbers 2/4 and 6/4 indicated below the notes.

(THEY MOVE TOWARDS EACH OTHER AND EMBRACE)

A little slower (♩ ≈ 50)

Q.W.

GOLIATH

Molto legato

mp

I was

(Bitterly)

And

thinking to myself, counting my blessings for my lovely wife and family

P (sustained)

Animato

G.W. yet — you only want to go about des-roying that happiness. And

(Rapid gliss)

ff

P (sustained)

yet — you go out every day to face the Jews single handed Oh

ff

P (sustained)

Lento (♩ ≈ 50)

mp

God, my God — is there no-one else?

ff

P (sustained)

p

G.W.

mp p mp p mp p

Tenderly

Oh my love you are no longer

mp P(sustained) mp

young —, you are not in your prime. Yet you gamble your life, that our people be

cresc mf

Saved.

P (sustained)

P mp P mp P

Oh — my

P (sustained)

P mp P (sustained) mp

love — I am sorely af —raid —, i could not bear your

cresc

G.W.

mf *bitterly*

death ———, yet you gamble your life, you

mf *f*

mp *tenderly*

play with your life, and I am left in anguish. Oh my

P (sustained)

pp

husband, do you not see, the pain you are causing me, the pain of

mp *P* *mp* *P* *mp*

aniente

Quite fast ($\text{♩} \approx 132$)

G-W

fear

GOLIATH

you must have confidence in me ;

mp *f*

GOLIATH

put a way these terrors of fear and death.

f *mp*

f

I need your support,

f

mp *crescendo poco a poco*

GOLIATH

for I must go and show these Jews we shall not

mp *crescendo poco a poco*

ff *ff*

be their slaves ! I shall be tri - umph - ant !

R.H.

L.H.

ff *f*

ff

I shall be tri-umph-ant!

R.H.

ff

L.H.

ff

I shall be tri-umph-ant

R.H.

ff

L.H.

slower (♩ ≈ 76)

Musical score for the first system, featuring piano accompaniment. The music is in 4/4 time and includes several triplet markings. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present. The system concludes with a fermata over a whole note chord.

Musical score for the second system, continuing the piano accompaniment. It features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and continues with triplet markings.

Musical score for the third system, including a *(fast trill)* instruction. The piano part features specific fingering (1, 3, 1) and a dynamic accent (>). The system ends with a fermata over a whole note chord.

(DAVID SINGS UNSEEN AT SOME DISTANCE BEHIND)

Musical score for the fourth system, including a vocal line for David (Alto) and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is marked *mp* and includes the lyrics "Go-". The piano accompaniment features a *(fast trill)* instruction and specific fingering (1, 3, 1). The system concludes with a fermata over a whole note chord.

Menacingly

Handwritten musical score for the first system. It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/2 time signature. The lyrics are: "li — am. Go — li — ath, I have". The piano accompaniment is in bass clef and includes a piano (p) dynamic marking.

Handwritten musical score for the second system. It includes a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line lyrics are: "come to accept your challenge. my name is David,". The piano accompaniment includes a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic marking and a section marked "legato mp". At the end of the system, there is a section labeled "(fast trill)" with a "PED." (pedal) instruction.

Handwritten musical score for the third system, featuring two vocal parts: DAVID and GOLIATH. DAVID's part has lyrics: "I am the champion of the Jews." and is marked with fortissimo (ff). GOLIATH's part has the lyric "The" and is also marked with fortissimo (ff). The piano accompaniment includes a section labeled "(fast trill)" with a "PED." instruction.

G.W. *ff*

GOLIATH

Oh my love, I am af-
wait is over at last, I am ready.

(PED)

G.W. *rit.*

GOLIATH

There is nothing to fear.

(PED)

(fast trill)

mf menacingly

DAVID

Go - li - ath, Go -

(fast trill)

mp

J - li - ath

I have come to destroy you,

f

(fast trill)

PED

(SHE POINTS TOWARDS THE BACK OF THE STAGE,
FROM WHERE THE SOUND OF DAVID'S VOICE COMES.)

G.W. *ff*
look, he is young, he will be

DAVID
make ready to die.

(PED) PED

(fast trill)

G.W.
swift and agile, you will surely be slain.

GOLIATH
I am the unconquered champion, *ff*

(PED)

how can he challenge my ex- per- ience and Skill.

ff

(PED)

DAVID

f

(fast trill)

ff Aggressively

Go - li - ath, Go - li - ath,

ff

(fast trill)

ff *crescendo poco a poco*

DAVID

why have you not come, are you af - raid ? Af-raid of my

ff *f*

(fast trill)

PED

cour-age, af-raid for your life ? Rit

cresc molto *fff*

(PED)

A tempo

legato

GW.

(Resigned) *mp* fare-

GOLIATH

mp I must go and fight him.

fff *p* *a niente*

(Fast trill, getting slower)

PED

(AFTER EMBRACING WITH HIS WIFE, GOLIATH

well my love, may God go with you —

fare-well, may God go with you —

mp (legato)

mp (legato)

(PED)

LEAVES THE STAGE IN DAVID'S DIRECTION.)

(AFTER WATCHING HIM GO, HIS WIFE, HEAD BOWED, PP

pp

pp

(STAGE EMPTY FOR BATTLE MUSIC)

LEAVES THE STAGE IN ANOTHER DIRECTION)

Vidently ($\text{♩} = 92$)

ff

ff

(fast trill)

Handwritten musical notation for the first system. It consists of two staves: a piano (left) and a treble (right). The piano staff is in 2/4 time, and the treble staff is in 3/4 time. The music includes eighth notes, quarter notes, and triplets. There are accents (>) and slurs over several notes.

Handwritten musical notation for the second system. It continues the piano and treble parts from the first system. It features similar rhythmic patterns, including triplets and slurs, with accents (>) and slurs over notes.

Handwritten musical notation for the third system. It includes dynamic markings such as "8ve" (octave), "Loco." (loco), and "ff Loco." (fortissimo loco). Performance instructions include "(fast tremolo)" and "PED" (pedal). The system features complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and slurs, with accents (>) and slurs over notes.

Handwritten musical notation for the fourth system. It consists of two staves: a piano (left) and a treble (right). The piano staff is in 4/4 time, and the treble staff is in 3/4 time. The music includes eighth notes, quarter notes, and triplets. There are accents (>) and slurs over several notes.

Handwritten musical notation for the first system. It consists of two staves. The left staff is in bass clef and the right staff is in treble clef. The time signature is 4/4. The music features a series of chords and melodic lines with accents. A dynamic marking of **ff** (fortissimo) is present in the second measure.

Handwritten musical notation for the second system. It consists of two staves. The left staff is in bass clef and the right staff is in treble clef. The time signature is 4/4. The music features triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes) and various rhythmic patterns.

Handwritten musical notation for the third system. It consists of two staves. The left staff is in bass clef and the right staff is in treble clef. The time signature is 4/4. The music features triplet markings and a section with a wavy line indicating a tremolo. Markings include **8ve** (8va), **loco**, and **ff** (fortissimo). A **PED** (pedal) marking is present at the bottom of the system.

Handwritten musical notation for the fourth system. It consists of two staves. The left staff is in bass clef and the right staff is in treble clef. The time signature is 4/4. The music features triplet markings and various rhythmic patterns.

Piano accompaniment for the first system, featuring a treble and bass clef with various chords and triplets.

Piano accompaniment for the second system, continuing the musical notation with triplets and chords.

Piano accompaniment for the third system, including a "fast tremolo" section and a "fast trill" section.

(OFFSTAGE)

DAVID *ff*

I am vic-tor-ious!

Piano accompaniment for the fourth system, including a "fast trill" section.

ff

I have destroyed the champion of the Philistines -

ff

I shall

cut off his head, that his people may see that

mf But with just one stone in my sling

(PED)

I showed up his im-per-tin-ence.

(PED)

DAVID

ff

The Philistines will take up their rightful place,

R.H.

ff

L.H.

ff

(PED)

they shall be our slaves

no-one of them will dare to re-

R.H.

ff

L.H.

ff

(PED)

-ful to our authori-ty. For I shall pur-ge this people,

R.H.

L.H.

(PED)

Handwritten musical score for the first system. It consists of four staves: a vocal line at the top, a right-hand piano (R.H.) staff, a left-hand piano (L.H.) staff, and a pedal (PED) staff. The vocal line is in 7/8 time and has the lyrics "-ful to our authori-ty. For I shall pur-ge this people,". The piano accompaniment is also in 7/8 time. The R.H. staff has dynamic markings of *ff* and *fp*. The L.H. staff has dynamic markings of *fp*. The PED staff shows a sustained pedal point.

I shall de-vas-tate their na-tion. My vic-tory shall be re-mem-bered for the rest of

R.H.

L.H.

(PED)

Handwritten musical score for the second system. It consists of four staves: a vocal line at the top, a right-hand piano (R.H.) staff, a left-hand piano (L.H.) staff, and a pedal (PED) staff. The vocal line is in 9/8 time and has the lyrics "I shall de-vas-tate their na-tion. My vic-tory shall be re-mem-bered for the rest of". The piano accompaniment is also in 9/8 time. The R.H. staff has dynamic markings of *ff* and *fp*. The L.H. staff has dynamic markings of *fp*. The PED staff shows a sustained pedal point.

(DAVID LEAVES THE STAGE, TRYING TO LOOK TRIUMPHANT.)

DAVID *fff* *time.*

R H *mp* *P* *PP* *a niente*

L H *fff* *mp* *P* *PP* *a niente*

PED PED

Detailed description: This system contains three staves. The top staff is for David, starting with a *fff* dynamic and the instruction "time.". The middle and bottom staves are for the Right Hand (R.H.) and Left Hand (L.H.) respectively. Both hands have *fff* dynamics in the first measure, followed by *mp* in the second, *P* in the third, and *PP* in the fourth. The piece concludes with *a niente* in the final measure. Pedal markings (PED) are present at the beginning and end of the system.

(All notes sustained) (SLOW ENTRANCE OF GOLIATH'S WIDOW)

P Legato

mp Legato

PED

Detailed description: This system features a grand staff with two staves. The upper staff contains a continuous stream of sixteenth notes, marked *P Legato*. The lower staff contains a slower melodic line, marked *mp Legato*. A large blue watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid on the score. A Pedal (PED) marking is at the bottom.

(PED)

Detailed description: This system continues the grand staff from the previous system. It shows the continuation of the sixteenth-note texture in the upper staff and the melodic line in the lower staff. A Pedal (PED) marking is at the bottom.

G.W. *P*

My husband is dead, how can I go on living.

P Legato

(PED)

His life's ended, I

P Legato

(PED)

too must surely die. He sacrificed

mf *mf* *P*

(PED)

G.W.

all that we might live in peace.

p

mp

(PED)

mp

He was so brave, so brave, but now he's gone for

(p)

mp

(PED)

pp

e - ver

pp

mp

(PED)

mf 3 3 3

the hopes of our people have perished with my husband.

mf 3

PED

Detailed description: This system contains the first two measures of the piece. The vocal line is in treble clef, 3/4 time, with lyrics 'the hopes of our people have perished with my husband.' It features three triplet markings over the first six notes. The piano accompaniment consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with chords and moving lines. A 'PED' (pedal) marking is at the end of the system.

mf 3 3

As a nation we are finished, David will come with his army and des -

PED

Detailed description: This system contains the next two measures. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'As a nation we are finished, David will come with his army and des -'. It includes two triplet markings. The piano accompaniment continues with sustained chords and moving lines. A 'PED' marking is at the end of the system.

ff ff (bitterly)

try us for him the future is now assured

ff

PED PED

Detailed description: This system contains the final two measures. The vocal line has lyrics 'try us for him the future is now assured'. It features two triplet markings. The piano accompaniment is marked 'ff' and includes dynamic markings like accents and slurs. Two 'PED' markings are at the end of the system.

G.W.

ff

he will cling to his glory for e-ver

ff

ff

PED.

R.H.

mp

In just a few years the myth will form:

mp

p

L.H.

mp

p

PED.

p

A ten-der child killed a mighty war-rior,

p *Rit* *pp*

an inno-cent youth killed a ne-vil vill-ain: my hus-band, my dar-ling

A little slower *gently-legato* *p*

He was a good and gentle

G.W.

man who only wanted freedom and peace for his peo-ple. He gave his

life, but that will be for - gotten. my only con - so - la - tion the memory of his

(GOLIATH'S WIDOW LEAVES IN A SLOW AND DIGNIFIED MANNER)

love

p

(All notes sustained)

mp (legato)

PED.

(PED)

(PED)

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