

N° 1116

Eve Beglarian

Armon

for five-part female chorus



EVBVD MUSIC

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Armon is the closing section of a larger piece called **Untitled: Interior**, which was written to accompany a solo dance by Stephanie Nugent. Armon is the name for the plane tree in Hebrew, and the word also means “naked” or “peeling off”.

The piece can be performed by as few as five individual singers, probably altos, or by a chorus doubling the five parts. There is no text, and you are free to use whatever syllables help you shape the music. I have purposely under-notated the phrasing and articulation to indicate that you are free to shape your own performance of the piece.

Armon could possibly be performed by a men’s chorus, (or even a mixed chorus (tenors and altos, say), if the singers are careful to match their timbres with one another,) and you can feel free to transpose the whole piece as necessary. Please transpose so the music falls in a low and even vulnerable register for the singers.

The piano part is optional. If you use it, the piano should play as softly as possible with the sustain pedal held down through the whole piece. Do not release the sustain pedal at the end of the piece until the last resonance has died away on its own.

I have used the octave-shifted treble clef normally used for tenor parts because it is the most practical clef for the range of the piece. If you would prefer a different notation, just let me know.

There is an optional additional spoken part that can be narrated (perhaps by the vox 1 singer) at the beginning of the piece. It is an excerpt of a translation of a prayer of the 8th century female Sufi mystic Rabi’a that goes like this:

if I speak my love to you in fear of hell, incinerate me in it;
if I speak my love to you in hope of heaven, close it in my face.
But if I speak to you simply because you exist, cease
withholding from me...

(translation by Franz Wright)

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$\bullet = 54$

vox 1

vox 2

vox 3

vox 4

vox 5

(opt) pf

pp sempre pedal

p *mp* *p*

p *mp* *p* *mp* simile throughout

8

vox 1

vox 2

vox 3

vox 4

vox 5

pf

p *mp* *p* *mp* simile throughout

mp simile throughout

15

Musical score for measures 15-22. The score consists of six staves: vox 1, vox 2, vox 3, vox 4, vox 5, and pf. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 8/8. Measure 15 starts with a dynamic marking of *p*. Vox 1 has a melodic line with eighth notes and rests. Vox 2 is silent. Vox 3, 4, and 5 have rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and rests. The pf part has a steady accompaniment of chords.

23

Musical score for measures 23-30. The score consists of six staves: vox 1, vox 2, vox 3, vox 4, vox 5, and pf. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 8/8. Measure 23 starts with a dynamic marking of *mp*. Vox 1 has a melodic line with a long note in measure 23 and a melodic phrase in measure 24. Vox 2 has a melodic line with a long note in measure 23 and a melodic phrase in measure 24. Vox 3, 4, and 5 have rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and rests. The pf part has a steady accompaniment of chords.

31

Musical score for measures 31-37. The score consists of six staves: five vocal staves (vox 1 to vox 5) and one piano (pf) staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The vocal parts feature various melodic lines with some phrasing slurs. The piano part provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

38

Musical score for measures 38-44. The score consists of six staves: five vocal staves (vox 1 to vox 5) and one piano (pf) staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The vocal parts continue with their respective melodic lines, including some phrasing slurs. The piano part continues with its harmonic accompaniment.

45

Musical score for measures 45-52. The score consists of six staves: five vocal parts (vox 1 to vox 5) and a piano part (pf). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The vocal parts feature various melodic lines with some phrasing slurs. The piano part provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

53

Musical score for measures 53-60. The score consists of six staves: five vocal parts (vox 1 to vox 5) and a piano part (pf). The key signature is one flat. The vocal parts continue with their melodic lines. The piano part includes dynamic markings: *p* (piano) is written above the staff in measures 54, 55, 56, and 59. Slurs are used to indicate phrasing in the piano part, particularly in measures 57, 58, and 59.