

THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY

**Dramatic Cantata for Choir
inspired by Oscar Wilde's novel**

**Music & Libretto
mmel & Paul McGrath**

**For Choir SATB
Celtic Harp & Electric Piano**



THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY

Dramatic Cantata for Choir

Contents

1. PRAY, DORIAN, PRAY P.2
2. IT WILL MOCK ME! P.32
3. ALL THE HEROINES OF THE WORLD IN ONE P.50
4. IN HER GARDEN OF MINT AND MARIGOLD P.80
5. BLACKMAIL, CHEMICALS AND OPIUM P.92
6. LOATHSOME OF VISAGE P.102

Notes

There is a short text to be read between movements by a narrator

The Choir is SATB throughout, with the exception of -
2. IT WILL MOCK ME! which is SSAATTBB, divided as Choir 1 and Choir 2

The Electric Piano part uses the Electric Piano, Strings and Grand Piano settings

The Celtic Harp plays in the key of D, C and G

THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY

OSCAR WILDE

Choir SATB

Celtic Harp

Electric Piano

Music & Libretto

mmel & Paul McGrath

1. PRAY, DORIAN, PRAY

Dorian murders the painter, Basil Hallward

Dorian moved slowly towards the knife, then rushed at him
and dug the knife into the great vein behind the ear,
crushing the man's head down on the table and stabbing again and again!

The picture of Dorian Gray

Sin is a thing that writes itself across a man's face.

It cannot be concealed.

People talk sometimes of secret vices

There are no such things.

If a wretched man has a vice, it shows itself in the lines of his mouth,
the droop of his eyelids, the moulding of his hands.

Sin is a thing that writes itself across a man's face.

I shall show you my soul.

You shall see the thing that you fancy only God can see.

Pray, Dorian, pray.

Each of us has heaven and hell in him.

Pray, Dorian, pray.

What is it that one was taught to say in one's boyhood?

"Lead us not into temptation.

Forgive us our sins.

Wash away our iniquities"

It is never too late, Dorian.

Let us kneel down and try if we cannot remember a prayer.

Isn't there a verse somewhere?

"Though your sins be as scarlet yet I will make them as white as snow."

Those words mean nothing to me now.

Hush! My God!

Don't you see that accursed picture leering at us?

Dorian glanced wildly around.

Something glimmered on the top of the chest.

His eye fell on it. He knew what it was.

It was a knife!

Dorian moved slowly towards the knife, then rushed at him
and dug the knife into the great vein behind the ear,
crushing the man's head down on the table, and stabbing again and again!

Nothing but the drip, drip

There was a stifled groan,

and the horrible sound of someone choking with blood.

Drip, drip.

1. PRAY, DORIAN, PRAY

Dorian murders the painter, Basil Hallward

*Dedicated to the Carlow Choral Society
in celebration of their 60th anniversary year
and their tour to France in 2025*

Paul McGrath
mmel
© March 2025

Lento e pesante

♩ = 76

Do - ri - an moved slow - ly to -

f *p*

Elec. Piano

f sfz *p*

8^{vb} *sfz*

wards the knife then rushed at him and dug the knife in-to the great

mf *mf*

8^{vb} *sfz*

10 *ff* 3

ear head, and

vein be-hind the ear, crush-ing the man's head down on the tab-le and stab - -

ear head, and *ff*

vein be-hind the ear, crush-ing the man's head down on the tab-le and stab - -

sfz *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *ff*

8^{vb}

15

- bing, stab - - - bing a - gain and a -

- bing, stab - - - bing a - gain and a -

sfz *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

20

gain! _____

gain! _____

ff The pic-ture of Do-ri-an Gray

ff The pic-ture of Do-ri-an Gray

sfz

Allegro moderato

♩ = 96

26

mf Sin is a thing that writes it -

mf Sin is a thing that writes it -

ff 6 6 6 6 *mf* 6 6 6 6

ff 6 6 6 6 *mf* 6 6 6 6

Ped.

28

self a-cross a man's face. _____

self a-cross a man's face. _____

It can - not be con -

It can - not be con -

6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

Ped. *Ped.*

30

cealed. _____ Peo - ple talk some - times_

cealed. _____ Peo - ple talk some - times_

6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____

32

of sec - ret vi - ces There are no_

of sec - ret vi - ces There are no_

6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____

34

such things. If a wret - ched

such things. If a wret - ched

6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____



40

eye - lids, the moul - ding of his

eye - lids, the moul - ding of his

6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

42

The second system of the musical score, measures 42-45. It features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal staves are in treble clef with a key signature of two flats. The piano accompaniment is in bass clef. The vocal parts have lyrics: 'hands.' and 'Sin,'. The piano part includes a 'cantabile' marking and a 'Ped.' (pedal) marking. The piano accompaniment consists of a continuous eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

hands.

cantabile

hands.

Sin,

hands.

Sin,

cantabile

hands.

Sin,

Ped.



44 [Alto]

is a

[Bass]

is a

6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

Ped. Ped.

48

The musical score for page 48 of 'The Lord's Prayer' is presented in five systems. The first four systems are vocal parts: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The fifth system is the Piano (P) accompaniment. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are 'sin is a thing, sin is a thing, is a'. The vocal parts feature long, flowing lines with many ties, indicating a slow tempo. The piano accompaniment consists of continuous sixteenth-note patterns in both hands, with the left hand often playing octaves. The page number '48' is located at the top left.

S
sin is a thing, sin is a thing,

A
is a

T
sin is a thing, sin is a thing,

B
is a

P
Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

50

that writes it - self, _____

thing _____ ac - -

that writes it - self, _____

thing _____ ac -

Ped. Ped. Ped.



52

that writes it - self _____ ac - ross a man's face, _____

- ross a

that writes it - self _____ ac - ross a man's face, _____

- - - - - ross a

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

10

54

ac - ross a man's face.

man's face.

ac - ross a man's face.

man's face.

cresc.

Ped.



56

ff I shall show you my soul.

ff I shall show you my soul,

ff I shall show you my soul.

ff I shall show you my soul.

ff

3

3

Adagio

♩ = 48

[Alto]

62

mf my soul.

Harp *mf*



64

mf You shall see the thing that you fan - cy

mf You shall see the thing that you fan - cy

mf 8 You shall see the thing that you fan - cy

mf You shall see

12

66

on - ly God can see.

on - ly God can see.

on - ly God can see.

On - - - ly God can see.



68

Pray, pray, Do-ri-an, pray.

Pray, pray, Do-ri-an, pray, Do - ri - an, pray.

Pray, pray, Do-ri-an, pray.

Pray, pray, Do-ri-an, pray.

Strings

75 *mf* pray. *mf* Each of us has hea - v'n and

mf Each of us has hea - v'n and

mf Each of us has hea - v'n and

mf Hea - - - v'n and

Harp *mf*



78 hell in him. Each of us has hea - v'n and hell in him.

hell in him. Each of us has hea - v'n and hell in him.

hell in him. Each of us has hea - v'n and hell, and hell in him.

hell, in him Hea - - - v'n and hell, and hell in him

14

81 [Alto]

Pray, Do - ri - an, pray, — what is it that one was taught to say in one's

[Bass]

Pray, Do - ri - an, pray, — what is it that one was taught to say in one's

Harp

mf

Elec. Piano

mf



83

"Lead_ us not in - to temp - ta - tion. For - give us our_ sins.

boy-hood? "Lead_ us not in - to temp - ta - tion. For - give us our sins.

"Lead_ us not in - to temp - ta - tion. For - give us our sins.

boy-hood? "Lead_ us not in - to temp - ta - tion. For - give us our sins.

85

Wash a - way our in - i - qui - ties"

Wash a - way our in - i - qui - ties"

Wash a - way our in - i - qui - ties"

Wash a - way our in - i - qui - ties"

86

Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion. For-give us our

Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion. For-give us our

Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion. For-give us our

Temp - - - - - ta - tion. For-give us our

Harp

mf

16

88

sins. Wash a - way our in - i - qui - ties.

sins. Wash a - way our in - i - qui - ties.

sins. Wash a - way, wash a-way our in - i - qui - ties.

sins. Wash a-way our in - i - qui - ties.



90

Do - ri - an.

It is ne - ver too late, Do - ri - an. Let us kneel down and try if we

Do - ri - an.

It is ne - ver too late, Do - ri - an. Let us kneel down and try if we

Elec. Piano

mf

92 [Alto]

can-not re-mem ber a prayer. Is - n't there a verse some- where?

[Bass]

can-not re-mem ber a prayer. Is - n't there a verse some- where?

Harp

mf

94

Though your sins be as scar - let

Though your sins be as scar - let

Though your sins be as scar - let

Sins be as scar - let

Harp

mf

8^{vb}

18

96

yet I will make them as white as snow,

yet I will make them as white as snow,

yet I will make them as white as snow,

yet I as white as snow,

99

as white, as white as snow. Those

as white, as white as snow. Those

as white, as white as snow. Those

as white, as white as snow. Those

Elec. Piano *mf*

ff

102

words mean no-thing to me now.

words mean no-thing to me now.

words mean no-thing to me now.

words mean no-thing to me now.



105

p Hush! My God! that ac -

p Hush! My God! see that ac -

p Don't you see that ac -

p Hush! My God! see

Strings

109

cur - sed pic - ture__ lee - ring at us?

cur - sed pic - ture__ lee - ring at us, lee - ring at us?

cur - sed pic - ture__ lee - ring at us?

lee - ring at us?

ff

**Allegro moderato**

♩ = 96

[Sop.]

112

dim.

Elec. Piano

p

Ped.

114

p

Alto Do - ri-an glanced wild - ly a - - round

Do - ri-an glanced wild - ly a - - round

Harp *p*

Ped.



118

Some - - thing glim - mered on the

Some - - thing glim - mered on the

6 6 6 6

Ped. Ped.

120

top of the chest. His eye

top of the chest. His eye

Red. _____



123

fell on it. He knew what it was.

fell on it. He knew what it was.

Red. _____

126

It was a

It was a

cresc.

cresc.

mf

6 cresc.

6

6

6

Red.

128

knife, a

knife, a

ff

ff

f

ff

6

6

6

6

6

6

6

6

ff

6

6

Red.

PRAY, DORIAN, PRAY

[illegible]

132

subito mf

subito mf

8^{vb}

134

mf

Do - - - - - ri - an

mf

Do - - - - - ri - an

8vb

138

p

moved slow - ly to - wards the knife

p

moved slow - ly to - wards the knife

8vb

26

142

then, _____ ear _____

then rushed at him and dug the knife in - to the great vein be - hind the ear, _____

mf

then, _____ ear _____

then rushed at him and dug the knife in - to the great vein be - hind the ear, _____

mf

mf

mf

8^{vb}

146

head, _____ and *ff*

crush-ing the man's head down on the ta - ble and stab - -

head, _____ and *ff*

crush-ing the man's head down on the ta - ble and stab - -

ff

ff

8^{vb}

150

bing, stab - - - bing, stab - - - bing,

bing, stab - - - bing, stab - - - bing,



155

stab - - - bing a - gain and a - gain

stab - - - bing a - gain and a - gain

8^{vb}

sfz

sfz

sfz

160

and a - gain and a - gain!

sfz *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

165

mf *dim.*
No - - - thing but

subito mf

subito mf *8vb*

171

the drip, drip, drip,

the drip, There was a stif-led groan, drip, drip, and the

p

p

8vb



175

drip, drip, drip,

hor-ri-ble sound, drip, of some-one cho-king with blood drip, drip, cho-king with

Harp

p

30

179

drip, drip, drip

blood drip, blood drip, drip,

183

drip drip, drip, drip, drip,

drip, drip, drip, drip, drip,

188

drip.

drip.

Strings