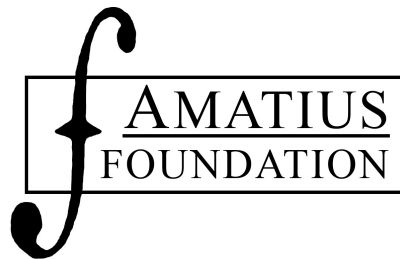


Tree of Life



Commissioned
by



music by Sam Lipman
words by Zenon Neumark

Tree of Life commemorates the victims of the shootings at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Synagogue in 2018. This barbaric act was a morbid reminder of the horrific acts of last century, and our capacity to carry such hatred. *Tree of Life* speaks of both our goodness as humans as well as our penchant for horror, and leaves us with the difficult question, 'how can such hatred be defeated?' In search of text for such a work, my cousin came to mind, a Polish Jew who escaped a WWII Nazi Labor camp, and has written much on the subject. Together we shaped the following text:

Since the beginning of time,
we've shown our bright and darker sides.
And there were good and notable creations,
but also terrible horrors.

There were brave acts of kindness.
Always greatness, nobility and love,
but also suffering.

So much hatred!
Nienawidzic! (hatred)
So much poison!
Strach i zdrada! (fear and betrayal)

Where does such hatred come from?
How can such hatred be defeated?
Our prayers have gone unanswered,
our love is unrequited.

Since the beginning of time,
might there be love,
could there be love and understanding?
Until the end of time.

Much of my cousin Zenon Neumark's work goes toward acknowledging the many brave families who helped him escape horrific calamities in Europe. You can read about it in his best-selling memoir *Hiding in the Open*. It is with his spirit of working together, with all walks of society, that we come together to cast light upon this scourge of shootings that has befallen our United States. Our text points to the plight of Jewish people throughout history, but just as readily speaks for anyone who feels slighted, rejected or hated. We invite you to share in Zenon's story, as we bring love and healing to the suffering.

Tree of Life

Words by Zenon Neumark

In memory of the victims of Pittsburgh's Synagogue Shooting

Music by Sam Lipman

Adagio misterioso ♩ = 60

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

Piano

4

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno.

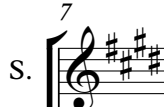
Since the be - gin - ning of time

Ooh the be - gin - ning of time

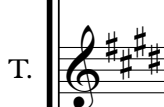
Ooh the be - gin - ning of time

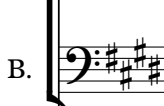
Ooh the be - gin - ning of time

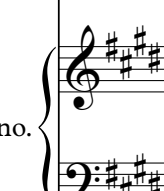
7

S. 

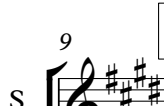
A. 

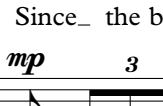
T. 

B. 

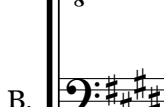
Pno. 

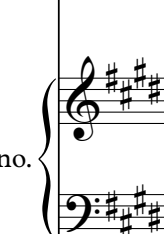
9 **A**

S. *mp*  Since the be-gin-ning,  the be - gin-ning of time we've shown our

A. *mp*  Since the be-gin-ning,  the be - gin-ning of time we've shown our

T. 

B. 

Pno. 

11

S. *bright and dark sides*

A. *bright and dark sides*

T. *8*

B.

Pno.

13

S. *mp* *since the be - gin - ning, since the be - gin -*

A. *mp* *since the be - gin - ning, since the be - gin -*

T. *mp* *since the be - gin - ning, since the be - gin -*

B. *mp* *since the be - gin - ning, since the be - gin -*

Pno.

15

S. ring, since the be - gin - ning of time, since the be - gin - ning of

A. — since the be - gin - ning of time, since the be - gin - ning of

T. — since the be - gin - ning of time, of time of

B. ning, since the be - gin - ning of time, since the be - gin - ning of

Pno. *mp*

18

S. *f* time, we've shown our bright sides, we've shown our

A. *f* time, we've shown our bright sides

T. *f* time, we've shown our bright sides

B. *f* time, bright sides

Pno. *f*

20

S. *p*
bright and dark sides.

A. *p*
we've shown our bright and dark sides.

T. *p*
bright and dark sides.

B. *p*
bright and dark sides.

Pno.

23 **B**

S. *mp*
And there were good and no-table cre - a - tions,

A. *mp*
And there were good cre - a - tions, such

T. *mp* *bring out*
And there were good cre - a - tions, and there were

B. *mp*
And there were good cre - a - tions, such

Pno. *mp*

26

S. *mf*
and there were good, and there were no - ta - ble, such no - ta - ble cre -

A. *mf*
good and no - ta - ble cre - a - tions, and there were no - ta - ble cre -

T. *mf*
good and no - ta - ble cre - a - tions such no - ta - ble cre -

B. *mf*
good and no - ta - ble cre - a -

Pno. *f*

29

S. *mp*
a - tions, but al-so ter - ri - ble hor - rors.

A. *mp*
a - tions, but al - so ter - ri - ble hor - rors.

T. *p*
a - tions, ter - ri - ble hor - rors.

B. *p*
- tions, ter - ri - ble hor - rors.

Pno. *p*

poco accel. piu mosso

7

33 **C**

S. *f* *mp*
There were brave acts of kind - ness, — al-ways

A. *f* *mp*
There were brave acts of kind - ness, — al-ways

T. *f* *mp*
There were brave acts of kind - ness, — al-ways

B. *f* *mp*
There were brave acts of kind - ness,

Pno. *f* *p*

36 *f*

S. *f*
great - ness, no - bi - li - ty, and love!

A. *f* *f*
great - ness, no - bi - li - ty, and love! But al - so

T. *f*
great - ness, no - bi - li - ty, and love!

B. *f*
great - ness, no - bi - li - ty, and love!

Pno. *f*

39 *mf* **accel.**

S. But al - so su - ffer ing and al - ways suf - fer-ing, such

A. su - ffer-ing, and so much su - ffer - ing, yes al - ways

T. *f* But al - so suff - er - ing and al - ways su - ffer-ing, such

B. *mf* Suff - er - ing suff - e - ring, yes al - ways

Pno. *mf*

41 **Tempo I**

S. *ff* su - ffer-ing! *f* So much ha-tred! //

A. *ff* su - ffer-ing! *f* So much ha-tred! //

T. *ff* su - ffer-ing! *p* Nien - a-wid-zic! //

B. *ff* su - ffer-ing! *p* Nien - a-wid-zic! //

Pno. *f* *p*

44

senza vibrato **E** **Molto rubato** Soloist *mf*

S. Solo

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno.

Where does such

So much poi - son! Strach i zdra - da. ooh

So much poi - son! Strach i zdra - da. Ooh

So much poi - son! Strach i zdra - da. ooh

So much poi - son! Strach i zdra - da.

Soloist

47

S. Solo

ha - tred come from? How can such ha - tred be de - fea - ted?

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno.

51

T.

mp

Our prayers have gone un -

B.

mp

Our prayers have gone un -

Pno.

53

S. Solo *f* Our love is un - re - qui - ted

T. 8 ans - wered,

B. ans - wered,

Pno.

56 rit. **F** Tempo I

S.

A.

T. 8

B.

Pno. *p*

59 *mp* **rit.** . . . **a tempo**

S. Since the be - gin - ning, might there be

A. *mp* Since the be - gin - ning of time might there be

T. *mp* Since the be - gin - ning, might there be

B. *mp* Since the be - gin - ning,

Pno.

62 *mp*

S. love? and und - er - stand - ing? un-til the

A. could there be love? *mp* un-til the

T. *f* love, could there be love un-til the *mp*

B. *f* could there be love? *mp* un-til the *mp*

Pno.

65

S. end of time? the

A. end of time? the

T. end of time? the

B. end of time? the

Pno.

68 **molto rit.** **a tempo** **rit.**

S. end of time (m).

A. end of time (m).

T. end of time (m).

B. end of time (m).

Pno.