I Am - Stanley M. Hoffman SATB Chorus unaccompanied

IAm

Stanley M. Hoffman

for SATB Chorus unaccompanied

www.stanleymhoffman.com

TEXT AND PROGRAM NOTES

Do not stand at my grave and weep, I am not there; I do not sleep. I am a thousand winds that blow, I am the diamond glints on snow, I am the sun on ripened grain, I am the gentle autumn rain. When you awaken in the morning's hush I am the swift uplifting rush Of quiet birds in circling flight. I am the soft star-shine at night. Do not stand at my grave and cry, I am not there; I did not die. —Mary Elizabeth Frye

The poem above is sometimes called "I Am" due to its repetition of the phrase, hence the title of the present composition. Is the poem inspired? The tetragrammaton Hebrew name for God, which transliterates roughly to YHWH, means "I am that I am." There is something almost mystical about this poem as it was poet's first one. Mary Elizabeth Frye was an orphan who had never received a formal education. In 1932, she and her spouse offered shelter from the Holocaust to a young Jewish woman named Margaret Schwarzkopf. When Margaret received news that her mother had died in Germany, the distressed houseguest told Mary in all hopelessness that she had never had the chance to "stand by my mother's grave and shed a tear." Mary then wrote the poem above on a torn-off section of a brown paper bag. She said the words "just came to her."

Stanley M. Hoffman (b. 1959) For biographical information visit: www.stanleymhoffman.com

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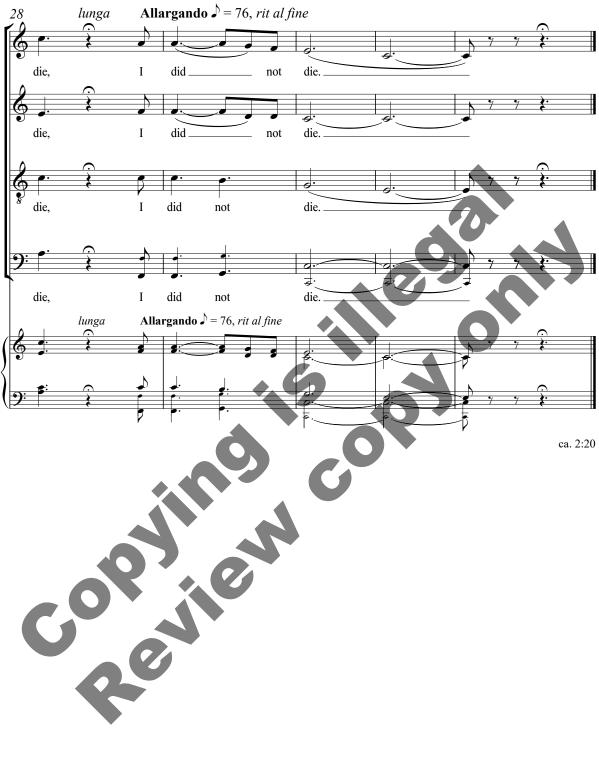
Mary Elizabeth Frye Stanley M. Hoffman h = 88,< *p* pp Soprano Do not stand at my grave and weep, I am _ not there; do __ not sleep. mp pp Alto and weep, Do not stand at my grave I am___ not there; I do __ not sleep. I pp < **p** < mp<Tenor Do not stand at my grave and weep, Ι not there; I do sleep. I am not тp ppdiv. **⊿**unis. **): 6** Bass not there; do not sleep. I Do not stand at my grave_ and weep, I am I Keyboard (for rehearsai only)

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