

I Am - Stanley M. Hoffman
SATB Chorus unaccompanied

I Am

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

in loving memory of my mother, Rita Hoffman

I Am

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Mary Elizabeth Frye

Stanley M. Hoffman

♩ = 88

pp , < *p* , < *mp* , <

Soprano
Do not stand at my grave and weep, I am not there; I do not sleep. I

pp , < *p* , < *mp* , <

Alto
Do not stand at my grave and weep, I am not there; I do not sleep. I

pp , < *p* , < *mp* , <

Tenor
Do not stand at my grave and weep, I am not there; I do not sleep. I

pp *div. unis.* , < *p* , < *mp* , <

Bass
Do not stand at my grave and weep, I am not there; I do not sleep. I

Keyboard
(for rehearsal only)

poco rit. breve a tempo

5 *mf* *mp* *p* *molto*

am a thou - sand winds that blow, I am the dia - mond glints on snow, I am the

mf *mp* *p* *molto*

am a thou - sand winds that blow, I am the dia - mond glints on snow, I am the

mf *mp* *p* *molto*

am a thou - sand winds that blow, I am the dia - mond glints on snow, I am the

mf *mp* *p* *molto*

am a thou - sand winds that blow, I am the dia - mond glints on snow, I am the

poco rit. *breve a tempo*

10 *f* *dim. poco a poco*

sun on rip - ened grain, I am the gen - - tle au - tumn

f *dim. poco a poco*

sun, I am the sun on rip - ened grain, on rip - ended grain, I am the, I am the gen - tle au - tumn

f *dim. poco a poco*

sun, I am the sun on rip - ened grain, on rip - ened grain, I am the, I am the gen - tle au - tumn

f *dim. poco a poco*

sun on rip - ened grain, I am the gen - - tle au - tumn

poco rit. (dim.) **pp** *Slower* ♩ = 84 *accel. poco a poco* **p** **mp** **> p** **mp** **< mf**

13 rain. _____ When you a - wak-en in the morn - ing's hush (sh) I am the swift up - lift - ing

(dim.) **pp** **p** **mp** **> p** **mp** **< mf**

rain. _____ When you a - wak-en in the morn - ing's hush (sh) I am the swift up - lift - ing

(dim.) **pp** **p** **mp** **> p** **mp** **< mf**

rain. _____ When you a - wak-en in the morn - ing's hush (sh) I am the swift up - lift - ing

(dim.) **pp** **p** **mp** **> p** **mp** **< mf**

rain. _____ When you a - wak-en in the morn - ing's hush (sh) I am the swift up - lift - ing

poco rit.

18 (accel.) **mp** *♩ = 112* **p sempre**

rush (sh) Of qui-et birds _____ in cir - cling flight. _____ I am the

mp **p sempre**

rush (sh) Of qui-et birds, of qui-et birds in cir - cling flight, in cir - cling flight. I am the

mp **p sempre**

rush (sh) Of qui-et birds, of qui-et birds in cir - cling flight, in cir - cling flight. I am the

mp **p sempre**

rush (sh) Of qui-et birds _____ in cir - cling flight. _____ I am the

21 *molto rit.* *lunga*

soft star - shine at night.

soft star - shine at night, star - shine at night.

soft star - shine at night, star - shine at night. *div. unis.*

soft star - shine at night.

molto rit. *lunga*

24 **Tempo primo** ♩ = 88

pp , < *p* , < *mp*

Do not stand at my grave and cry, I am not there; I did not

pp , < *p* , < *mp*

Do not stand at my grave and cry, I am not there; I did not

pp , < *p* , < *mp*

Do not stand at my grave and cry, I am not there; I did not

pp unis. *div. unis.* , < *p* , < *mp*

Do not stand at my grave and cry, I am not there; I did not

Tempo primo ♩ = 88

28 *lunga* **Allargando** ♩ = 76, *rit al fine*

die, I did not die.

die, I did not die.

die, I did not die.

die, I did not die.

lunga **Allargando** ♩ = 76, *rit al fine*

ca. 2:20

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