

Mark Twain
Quotes

**For Two Sopranos and
Piano**

Doug
Harbin

© 2013 Doug Harbin
All Rights Reserved

Mark Twain Quotes was composed while serving an artist residency at the Banff Centre in the fall of 2012. As a compositional exercise, I set a different quote by Mark Twain each day before I allowed myself to eat lunch. This collection is the best of these daily compositions. The complete set is around 9 minutes in duration and is comprised of seven short songs:

1. But Who Prays?
2. Lord Save Us
3. Forgiveness
4. Let Us Not Be Too Particular*
5. Man Was Made
6. No Sinner*
7. The Truth

The songs may be sung in any order or a subset may be chosen for performance.

* Two songs ("Let Us Not Be Too Particular" & "No Sinner") have alternate versions. "Let Us Not Be Too Particular" may be sung in unison or may be split between the two sopranos by systems (see note within this particular movement). "No Sinner" may either be sung by one soprano or may also be split between the two singers (see note within this particular movement).

The cycle is based on a systematic form of composition that I have called the Take-Away System. Each song in the cycle utilizes the system differently. For example, "But Who Prays" uses all twelve pitches while "Lord Save Us" utilizes only five pitches. "No Sinner" organizes a twenty-note chromatic range and "Man Was Made" systematizes both a diatonic seven-pitch set and rhythmic durations.

for Sopran Compagni
made possible by a grant from the Arizona Commission on the Arts

But Who Prays?

But who prays for Satan? Who, in eighteen centuries, has had
the common humanity to pray for the one sinner that needed it most?

Doug Harbin
Words: Mark Twain

Agitato (♩ = c. 80)

1

2

Agitato (♩ = c. 80)

ff

12

f

3

5

pedal ad lib.

3

dramatic
f > *mp sub.* *f* > *mp sub.*

But who prays? Who prays?

dramatic
f > *mp sub.* *f* > *mp sub.*

But who prays? Who prays?

3

p

3

mp

But Who Prays?

10

f *mp sub.* *f* *gliss.*

But who prays? Who prays for Sa-tan?

But who prays? Who Who prays for Sa-tan?

p *3* *ff*

16

mp dolce

Who prays for

mp dolce

Who prays for

16

mp L.H. L.H. *pp* *gva*

21

Sa - tan?

Sa - tan?

21

p *calmly* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *6*