

# Canticle III

## Still falls the Rain

The Raids, 1940. Night and Dawn

\* Words by  
EDITH SITWELL

Music by  
BENJAMIN BRITTEN  
Op. 55

### THEME Horn in F

Slow and distant (♩ = 48)

Piano  
(Actual pitch)

*ppp* *pp heavily* *cresc.* *mf*

*pp* *cresc.* *mf*

*pp* *mf* *etc.*

*dim.* *pp* *pp*

### VERSE I

Free recitative (Horn Tacet)

*p* Tenor (Actual notes)

Still falls ..... the..... Rain — Dark..... as the world of..... man, black.... as our loss —

*with force* *dim.* *louder*

Blind..... as the nine-teen hun-dred and for-ty nails Up - on the Cross.....

\*Poem from "The Canticle of the Rose" by courtesy of the publishers, Macmillan & Co. Ltd.

All rights reserved

# Horn in F

## VARIATION I

Gently moving (♩ = 68)

Piano *pp* *cresc.* (*p*)  
*pp* *etc.*

*mf* *pp dim.* *pp* 2

## VERSE II

Free recitative (Horn Tacet)

*p* Tenor  
 Still falls ..... the ..... Rain ..... With a sound like the pulse of the

(with piano) (recit.) (with piano)  
 heart that is changed.... to the ham-mer-beat In.... the Pot - ter's Field,

*dim.* Piano  
 and the sound of the im - pious feet.....

## VARIATION II

Moderately quick (♩ = 104)

Piano Tenor *pp* *very smooth* *pp*  
*pp* On ..... the Tomb:.....

*cresc.*

*f* *pp dim.* Piano *pp*

VERSE III

Free recitative (Horn Tacet)

*p* Tenor (with piano) (recit.)  
Still falls..... the..... Rain..... In the Field of Blood.....

(recit.) (with piano)  
..... where the small hopes breed.....

(recit.) (with piano) *p*  
and the hu - man brain Nur - - tures its greed,.....

(recit.) (with piano) *pp*  
that worm..... with the brow of Cain.....

VARIATION III

Lively (♩ = 152)

*pp* Piano *pp* *pp*  
etc.

*pp* *pp cresc.*

*f dim.* Piano *pp*

# Horn in F

## VERSE IV

Free recitative (Horn Tacet)

*p* Tenor (with piano) (recit.)

Still falls ..... the..... Rain.....

Impassioned (♩ = 60)

At the feet of the Starved Man hung up - on the Cross. Christ

that each day, each night, nails there, have mer

*p* *p*

- cy on ..... us - On Di - ves and on La - za - rus:.....

Free recitative

2 *p*

Un-der the Rain the sore and the gold..... are.... as one.....

## VARIATION IV

Quick and agitated (♩ = 112)

Piano (trem.) *f* (brassed until ⊕) *f* 5 *f* 5 *f* 5

*fp*

*p* cresc. *ff* < *sf* > *f* *dim.* rall. ⊕

## VERSE V

Free recitative (Horn Tacet)

*p* Tenor (with piano) (recit.)

Still falls ..... the..... Rain - Still ..... falls.....

(with piano) (recit.)

the..... Blood..... from the Starved Man's woun - ded Side:

Agitated (imitate Var. IV)

*mf* cresc.

He bears in His Heart all wounds, - those of the light that died, The

last faint spark In the self-murdered heart, the wounds of the sad un-com-pre-hend-ing

dark, The wounds of the bait-ed bear —..... The blind and weep-ing bear

whom the keep-ers beat On his help-less flesh... the tears of the hun-ted hare.

VARIATION V  
March-like (♩ = 108)

*ff heavy*  
Piano *etc.*

*ff* *f cresc.*

*dim.*  
Piano

VERSE VI  
Free recitative (Horn Tacet)

*p* Tenor  
Still falls..... the..... Rain —..... Then —

*ff declaimed*  
O He leape up to my God: who pulles me doune —

See, see where Christ's blood streames in the firm - a - ment:

## Horn in F

(with piano) 1 (recit.) *pp* (sung) (with piano) 1

It flows from the Brow we nailed up - on the tree

(recit.) *pp*

Deep..... to the dy - ing,..... to the thirst - ing heart..... That

(with piano) (recit.) 1 (*pp*)

holds the fires.... of the world - dark - smirched... with pain .....

(with piano) (recit.)

..... As Cae - sar's lau - rel crown.....

Piano *rall.* - - - - - 8 - - - - - long pause

*ppp*

## VARIATION VI

Slowly as at the start (♩ = 48)

*muted*

Tenor *p* *simply*

Then sounds the voice of One who like the heart of

man Was once a child who a - mong beasts has lain -

(*p*) *clearly* (always *p*)

'Still do I love, still shed my in - no - cent light, my Blood, for thee!