

Tara Mack

Dona Nobis Pacem

for SATB unison, unaccompanied

# Dona Nobis Pacem

**SATB unison, unaccompanied**

## **Programme note**

When I thought about setting this short phrase, which has been set so many times before, I wanted to approach it in a way that resonates with our current moment. I believe people in many countries around the world, and across the political spectrum, share a sense of feeling unheard, feeling that the governments that are supposed to represent our interests simply aren't listening and aren't responsive. So rather than a calm meditation on peace, I wanted to write something that sounded like an urgent and frustrated cry. A unison piece sung by choirs from different countries seemed like the perfect context in which to explore this shared sentiment.

This Dona Nobis Pacem opens with a plea that echoes into an empty void. The phrase then cycles through various emotions—urgent demand, fractured disorientation, frenzied desperation, weary disappointment (including a dark spin on the well-known Dona Nobis Pacem round).

Yet underneath all this chaos remains a stubbornly persistent yearning for a life of safety, justice, joy and peace.

## **Performance note**

For the first section of the piece (measures 1-55), I took the phrase Dona Nobis Pacem and split it into all its component vowel and consonant sounds, setting them all separately. All the vowels should be pronounced as they would in that phrase. The "ch" represents the "c" sound in "pacem." The "ə" is a schwa sound.

# Dona Nobis Pacem

*Commissioned by the 7th International Choral Competition Ave Verum, 2026*

Tara Mack

**With urgency** ♩ = c. 82

(Like an echo)

With urgency ♩ = c. 82

(Like an echo)

*mp* *p* *mp* *p*

Soprano

*mf* *p* *mf*

Alto

*mf* *p*

Tenor

Bass

o-a-o o-a-o o-a-o i

o-a-o o-a-o i o-a-

Də də də də də də də də də də Nə nə

Də də də də də də də də də də Nə nə

4

S. *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *pp* *mf*  
o-a-o o-a-o o-a-o i o-a o-i o-a o-i a-e

A. *mp* *p* *pp* *mf*  
o o-a-o i o-a o-i o-a o-i a-e

T. *pp*  
nə nə nə nə nə nə nə nə o-a o-i

B. *pp*  
nə nə nə nə nə nə nə nə o-a o-i

[illegible]

12

S. *p* *mp con spirito*  
 ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch o-a o - i

A. *p* *mp con spirito*  
 ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch o-a o - i

T. *p*  
 o - i a - e o-a o - i a - e ch ch ch ch ch ch

B. *p*  
 o - i a - e o-a o - i a - e ch ch ch ch ch ch

17

S. *mp*  
 a - e o-a o - i a - e

A. *mp*  
 a - e o-a o - i a - e

T. *mp*  
 ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch o-a o - i a - e o-a

B. *mp*  
 ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch

22

S. *mp*  
 o - a o - i a - e, a - e

A. *mp* *mf*  
 o - a o - i a - e, a - e o - a o - i

T. *mp*  
 o - i a - e o-a o - i

B. *mf*  
 o - i a - e o-a o - i o-a o - i a - e

28 *mf*

S. a - e a - e

A. a - e, a - e

T. *mf* a - e a - e o - a o - i a - e

B. o - a o - i a - e o - a o - i o - a o - i a - e

34 *f*

S. o - a o - i o - a o - i a - e o - a o - i

A. o - a o - i o - a o - i a - e

T. o - a o - i a - e o - a o - i

B. o - a o - i a - e

40

S. o - a o - i a - e a - e, a - e a - e, a - e

A. o - a o - i o - a o - i a - e hm hm, hm

T. o - a o - i a - e a - e, a - e a - e, a - e

B. o - a o - i o - a o - i a - e hm hm, hm

45 *rit.* *p*

S. o - a o - i, o - a o - i o - a o - i o - a o - i o - a

A. o - a o - i o - a o - i o - a o - i o - a

T. o - a o - i o - a o - i o - a o - i a - e

B. o - a o - i o - a o - i o - a o - i a - e

51  $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 96$

S. o, o - a o o - a o, o - a o, o - a o - i a - e - mm

A. o, o - a o o - a o, o - a o, o - a o - i a - e - mm

T. a - e a - e - mm

B. a - e a - e - mm

56 (Like an echo) *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

S. Do-na no, do-na no do-na no - bis

A. *mf* Do-na no, do-na no - bis Do-na

T. *mf* *p* Do do do do do do do do do do No no

B. *mf* *p* Do do do do do do do do do do No no

59

S. *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mf* *mp*  
Do-na no, do-na no, do-na no - bis Do-na no-bis, do-na no-bis Do-na

A. *mp* *p* *mf* *mp*  
no, do-na no - bis Do-na no-bis, do-na no-bis Do-na

T. *mf*  
no no no no no no no no, do-na no-bis do-na no-bis

B. *mf*  
no no no no no no no no, do-na no-bis do-na no-bis

62 Stamp feet:

Perc.  $\frac{2}{4}$   $\frac{2}{8}$   $\frac{2}{4}$   $\frac{3}{8}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{2}{8}$   $\frac{3}{8}$

S. *mf* *f*  
no-bis pa cem Do-na no-bis pa cem Do-na no - bi - s pa-cem

A. *mf* *f*  
no-bis pa cem Do-na no-bis pa cem Do-na no - bi - s pa-cem

T. *f*  
pa-cem

B. *f*  
pa-cem

[illegible]

73

Perc.  $\text{H}$   $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{3}{4}$   $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$

S.  $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{3}{4}$   $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$   
*p* *mp*  
 pa-cem pa-cem

A.  $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{3}{4}$   $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$   
*p con spirito*  
 Do-na no-bis pa cem, pa-cem

T.  $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{3}{4}$   $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$   
*p* *mp*  
 pa-cem pa-cem

B.  $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{3}{4}$   $\frac{6}{8}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$   
*mp*  
 no-bis pa-cem Do-na no-bis pa-cem Do-na

79

Perc.

S. *mf*  
Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem

A. *mf*  
Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem

T. *mf*  
do - na no - bis pa - cem

B. *mf*  
no - bis, do - na no - bis pa - cem

83

Perc.

S. *f* *ff*  
pa - - - cem Do - na

A. *f* *f* *ff*  
pa - - - cem Do - na no - bis, Do - na

T. *f* *ff*  
Do - na no - bis Do - na

B. *f* *f* *ff*  
Do - na no - bis Do - na no - bis, Do - na

87 *Clap:* *Stamp:*

Perc.

S. no - bis pa - cem Do - na no - bis, do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem

A. no - bis pa - cem Do - na no - bis, do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem

T. no - bis pa - cem Do - na no - bis, do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem

B. no - bis pa - cem Do - na no - bis, do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem

92 *molto rit.* . . . .

Perc.

S. pa - cem, pa - cem do - na, do - na\_ no - bis,\_

A. pa - cem, pa - cem Do - na no - bis, do - na, do - na\_ no - bis,\_

T. pa - cem, pa - cem Do - na no - bis, do - na, do - na\_ no - bis,\_

B. pa - cem, pa - cem Do - na no - bis, do - na, do - na\_ no - bis,\_

96  $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 76$  rit.  $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 96$   
*Stamp:*

Perc.

S. *p* *pp* *f*  
do - na\_ no - bis\_ pa - cem do-na no-bis pa - cem Do-na no-bis pa - cem

A. *p* *pp* *f*  
do - na\_ no - bis\_ Do-na no, do-na no-bis pa - cem Do-na no-bis pa - cem

T. *p* *pp* *f*  
do - na\_ no - bis\_ bis pa - cem Do-na no-bis pa - cem

B. *p* *pp* *f*  
do - na\_ no - bis\_ bis pa - cem Do-na no-bis pa - cem