Dido's Lament

From Henry Purcell's Dido & Aeneas

For Wind Ensemble

2018

Charles D. Norris

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Instrumentation

Libretto

Thy hand, Belinda, darkness shades me, On thy bosom let me rest, More I would, but Death invades me; Death is now a welcome guest.

When I am laid, am laid in earth,May my wrongs createNo trouble, no trouble in thy breast;Remember me, remember me, but ah! forget my fate.Remember me, but ah! forget my fate.

Flute 1 Flute 2 Oboe Bassoon Bb Clarinet 1 Bb Clarinet 2 Bb Clarinet 3 Bass Clarinet Contrabass Clarinet Alto Saxophone Tenor Saxophone Baritone Saxophone Bb Trumpet 1 Bb Trumpet 2

Bb Trumpet 1 Bb Trumpet 2 Bb Trumpet 3 Horn in F 1 Horn in F 2 Trombone 1 Trombone 2 Bass Trombone Euphonium Tuba

String Bass

Timpani Glockenspiel

Program Notes

During the course of my undergraduate education at Oklahoma State University, I encountered a musical composition that left an everlasting impression on me and forever altered my perception of music. The vibrant aria written by Henry Purcell's genius culminated in one of the most exquisite and nuanced masterpieces I have ever heard: the beautifully haunting aria of *Dido's Lament* from the opera *Dido & Aeneas*.

Although this composition traces its origins back to 1689, its emotive resonance has the ability to stir my soul and bring me to tears with its combination of vibrancy and melancholy in the present day. The aria's libretto delves even deeper into the realm of heartache as it portrays Dido's agonizing struggle with the choice between life and death. Her ultimate sacrifice is nothing short of heart-wrenching and tragic.

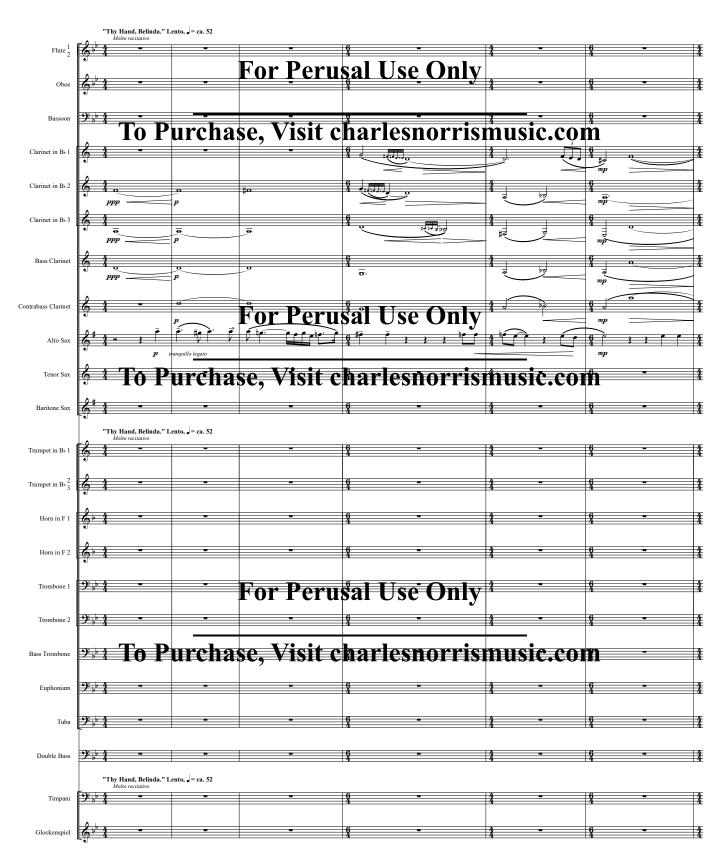
What further elevates the significance of this composition is its incorporation into the commemorations of the Stonewall massacre, a tragic chapter in the history of human rights and civil liberties. The loss of precious lives and the systemic brutality faced by the LGBTQ+ community serve as stark reminders of a void in the collective conscience of humanity, a void that must be filled with love if we are to progress as a species. The aria, though tragic and mournful, offers a glimmer of hope as Dido sings "Remember me, but ah! forget my fate."

For Mark Sosnowchik

Score

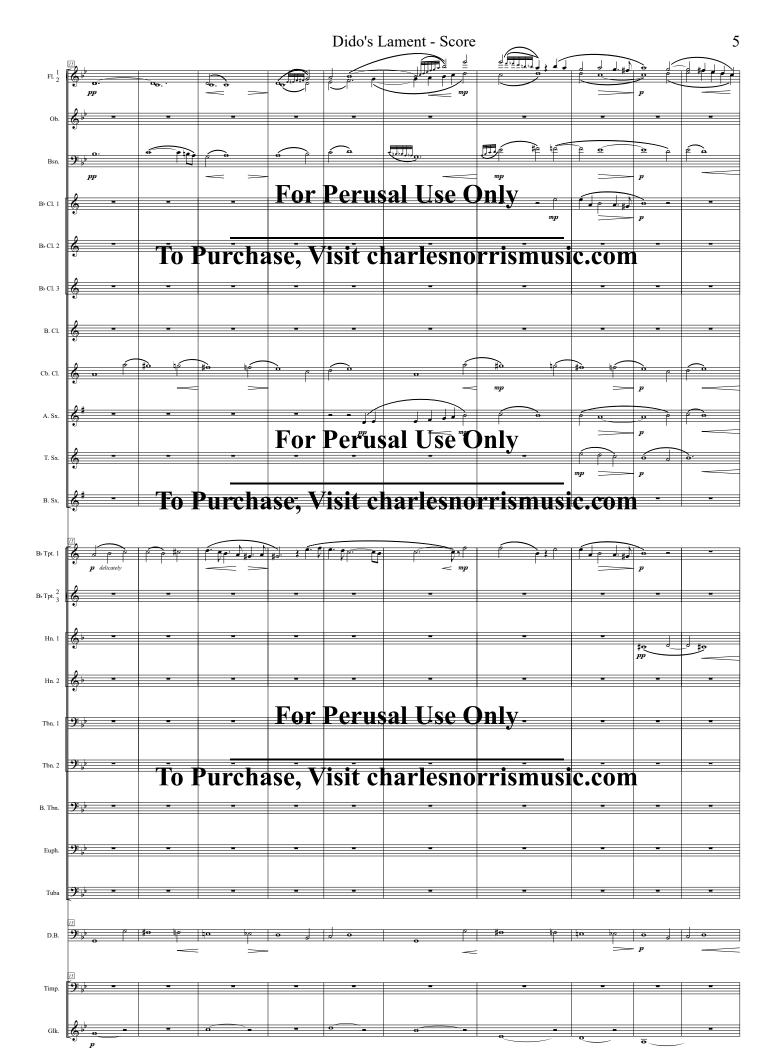
From Henry Purcell's Dido and Aeneas

arr. Charles D. Norris



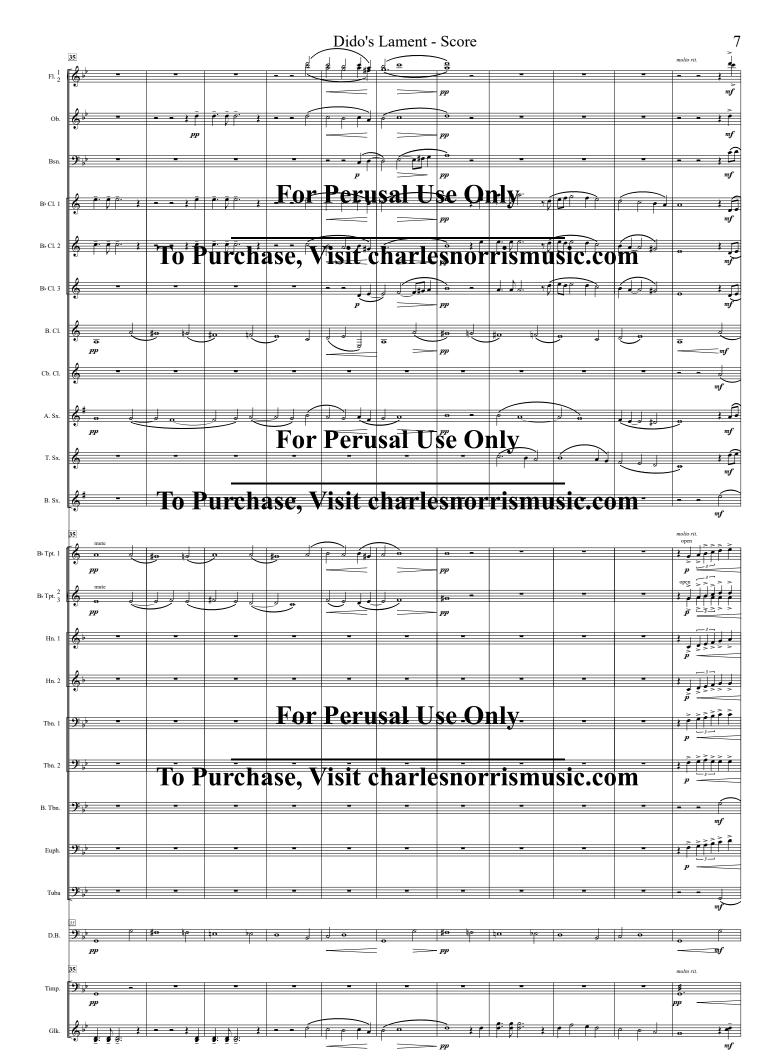
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