

# The Church Floore

George Herbert 1593-1633

Mark you the floore? that square of speckled stone,  
Which looks so firm and strong,

*Is Patience:*

And th'other black and grave, where with each one  
Is checker'd all along,

*Humilitie:*

The gentle rising, which on either hand  
Leads to the Quire above,

*Is Confidence:*

But the sweet cement, which in one sure band  
Ties the whole frame, is

*Love and Charitie:*

[Hither sometimes Sinne steals, and stains  
The marbles neat and curious veins:

But all is cleansed when the marble weeps.  
Sometomes Death, puffing at the Doore,

Blows all the dust about the floore:  
But while he thinks to spoil the room, he sweeps.]

Blest be the *Architect*, whose art  
Could build so strong in a weak heart.

For John Casken, who introduced me to the text, and inspired the setting

# The Church Floore

George Herbert (1593 - 1633)

Jonathan Lane

c. ♩ = 80  
mp

S. Mark, mark you the floore? that square of speck-led stone, which

S. Mark, mark, that square of speck-led stone, which

A. Mark, mark mark you the floore? that square of speck-led stone, which

T. Mark, mark, that square of speck-led stone, which

B. that square of speck-led stone, which

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of the musical score. It features five staves: Soprano (S.), Alto (A.), Tenor (T.), and Bass (B.). The music is written in treble clef for the vocal parts and bass clef for the bass part. The tempo is marked 'c. ♩ = 80' and the dynamic is 'mp'. The time signature changes from 3/2 to 4/4, then to 3/2, and back to 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Mark, mark you the floore? that square of speck-led stone, which'. The Soprano and Alto parts have a 'mf' dynamic for the second half of the phrase. The Tenor part has an '8' below the first measure. The Bass part has a '4' below the first measure.

6

S. looks so firm andstrong. Is Pa-tience: Pa- tience: Black, and

S. looks so firm andstrong. Is Pa-tience: Pa - tience: Black, grave

A. looks so firm andstrong. Is Pa-tience: Pa - tience: Black, grave

T. looks so firm andstrong. Is Pa-tience: Pa - tience:

B. looks so firm andstrong. Is Pa- tience: Pa - tience:

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of the musical score, starting at measure 6. It features five staves: Soprano (S.), Alto (A.), Tenor (T.), and Bass (B.). The music is written in treble clef for the vocal parts and bass clef for the bass part. The dynamic is 'mf' for the first part and 'mp' for the second part. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/2 and back to 4/4. The lyrics are: 'looks so firm andstrong. Is Pa-tience: Pa- tience: Black, and' for Soprano and Alto; 'looks so firm andstrong. Is Pa-tience: Pa - tience:' for Tenor; and 'looks so firm andstrong. Is Pa- tience: Pa - tience:' for Bass. The Soprano and Alto parts have a '4' below the final measure. The Bass part has a '4' below the final measure.

12

S. *mf* th'oth - er black, \_\_\_\_\_ where with each one is check-er'd all a -

S. *mf* \_\_\_\_\_ where with each one is check-er'd all a -

A. *mf* \_\_\_\_\_ where with each one is chec - er'd all a -

T. *mf* \_\_\_\_\_ where with each one is check-er'd all a -

B. *mf* black \_\_\_\_\_ and grave, **tutti** \_\_\_\_\_ where with each one is check-er'd all a -

16

S. *p* long, Hu - mi - li - tie, \_\_\_\_\_ *dim.* Hu - mi - li - tie: which *mf*

S. *p* long, Hu - mi - li - tie, \_\_\_\_\_ *dim.* Hu - mi - li - tie: which *mf*

A. *p* long, Hu - mi - li - tie, \_\_\_\_\_ *dim.* Hu - mi - li - tie: The gen - tle ri - sing *mf*

T. *p* long, Hu - mi - li - tie, \_\_\_\_\_ *dim.* Hu - mi - li - tie: The gen - tle ri - sing *mf*

B. *div. p* long, Hu - mi - li - tie, \_\_\_\_\_ *dim.* Hu - mi - li - tie: \_\_\_\_\_

**♩=60 Animando**



31 *f* *no dim.* *pp*

S. Ties the whole frame, is Love and Cha - ri - tie.

S. Ties the whole frame, is Love and Cha - ri - tie.

A. Ties the whole frame, Love and Cha - ri - tie.

T. Ties the frame, Love and Cha - ri - tie.

Bar. Ties the frame, Love and Cha - ri - tie.

B. Ties the frame, Love and Cha - ri - tie.

**Faster, risoluto**

$\text{♩} = 68$

35 *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *div.*

S. Blest be the Ar - chi - tect whose art could build so strong, —

S. Blest be the Ar - chi - tect, whose art could build so strong, —

A. Blest be the ar - chi - tect, whose art could build so strong, —

T. Blest be the Ar - chi - tect whose art could build so strong, —

Bar. whose art could build so strong, —

B. whose art could build so strong, —

6 39

*rit.*

S. weak heart.

S. weak heart.

A. weak heart.

T. *f* in a weak heart. *mf* Blest be the

T. *f* in a weak heart. *mf* Blest be the

Bar. in a weak heart. *mf* Blest be the

B. *f* in a weak heart. *mf* Blest be the

42

S. *mf cresc.* whose art could build so strong

S. *mf cresc.* whose art could build so strong,

A. *mf cresc.* whose art could build so strong,

T. *cresc.* ar - chi - tect whose art, whose art could build so strong, *f* tutti

T. *cresc.* ar - chi - tect, whose art, whose art could build so strong, *f*

Bar. *cresc.* ar - chi - tect, whose art, whose art could build so strong, *f*

B. *cresc.* ar - chi - tect, whose art, whose art could build so strong, in a

45

S. *mf* strong, build so *p* strong. *mp* that

S. *mf* strong, *p* that

A. *mf* strong, *p* Mark you the Floore that *mp* **div.**

T. *mf* strong, *p* Mark you the Floore that *mp* **tutti**

Bar. *mf* strong, *p*

B. *mf* weak heart. *p*

49

S. *f* square of speck-led stone, *f* firm and strong, *mf* so firm and strong, *f* could

S. *f* square of speck-led stone, *f* firm and strong, *mf* so firm and strong, *f* could

A. *f* **tutti** square of speck-led stone, *f* firm and strong, *mf* so firm and strong, *f* could **div.**

T. *mp* square of speck-led stone, *f* firm and strong, *mf* so firm and strong, *f* could

Bar. *f* which looks so firm and strong, *mf* so firm and strong, *f* could

B. *f* which looks so firm and strong, *mf* so firm and strong, *f* could

52

S. 1  
build so, build so strong. Could build so, build so strong.

S. 2  
build so, build so strong. Could build so, build so strong.

A.  
build so, build so strong. Could build so, build so strong.

T.  
build so, build so strong. Could build so, build so strong.

Bar.  
build so, build so strong. build so, build so strong.

B.  
build so, build so strong. build so, build so strong.